

AGENDA
CULTURAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2016 – 12:00 pm
Dodge City Public Library – 1001N. 2nd Ave.

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF October 14, 2016.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Review of Engage Dodge Program Sessions.
 - City Government (commission, administration, trash/recycle, code enforcement/inspection, Why Not Dodge special projects, transportation, economic development.

 - Public Safety (animal control, fire, police)

 - Ford County Fire & EMS/Sheriff – tour of jail.

 - USD #443 education

 - Heritage Center and Public Library

 - Tourism & Graduation (tour of Boot Hill, ice cream sundae, evaluation)

2. Discussion of a potential tour of ethnic businesses downtown for spring event.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion of December meeting/agenda.
2. Discussion of Garden City mentoring program/International Rescue Committee.
3. Discussion of 2017 calendar of events:

BOARD PROGRAMS/DATES (keep in mind)

1. Community Engagement Partnership Program.
2. Racial Profiling/Bias Based Policing – Board representation.
3. Multicultural Park Festival – partnership with Chamber representative.
4. Welcoming Cities Initiative–
5. Black History Month – February
6. Race Relations Day – February 14
7. April – Celebrate Diversity Month
8. Cinco de Mayo – May 5
9. May 21 is World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development -
Recognizes cultural diversity as a source of innovation, exchange and creativity,
as well as the obligation to create a more peaceful and equitable society based on
mutual respect.
10. June – Immigrant Heritage Month
- 11. WORLD REFUGEE DAY – June 20**
12. National Welcoming Week – September 16-25, 2016
13. National Hispanic Heritage Month begins Sept. 15-Oct. 15
14. Human Rights Day – December 10

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS/STAFF –

ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES
CULTURAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD
Friday, October 14, 2016
Dodge City Public Library

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Greta Clark.

Members present: Greta Clark, Oliver Bland, Debra Muylaert, Lado Ladoka. Staff: Jane Longmeyer; Guest Anushka Raje of International Rescue Committee.
Absent: Sergio Garcia, Melissa Espinoza. Kate Baughman, Mary Marquez, Robert Vinton, Elva Dominguez.

The minutes of the September 9 meeting were reviewed.

It was reported that Melissa Espinoza has moved out-of-town and that the Chamber needs to be contacted for the appointment of a new representative.

It was suggested that a proposed tour of the downtown to learn of the variety of businesses there be rescheduled to April.

Anushka distributed information on the International Rescue Committee. She presented information on the Garden City mentoring program. The program is based out of churches. Seven people are signed up and trained with five currently matched in less than six months. A church in Garden City stores relocation supplies that have been donated. There are costs associated with the mentoring program including background checks for mentors.

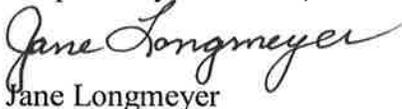
Greta suggested that the Ministerial Alliance would be a good group to take the lead with support from the Cultural Relations Advisory Board. The plants should also be contacted for potential support.

Greta and Jane reported on the Finding Common Ground presentation at the Public Library. He uses stories to tell of people's ethnic accomplishments.

Debra reported on the most recent Bias Based Policing meeting: hired five officers; body worn cameras have cleared up a lot of complaints; clown sightings not resolved; school resource officers gain the trust of students.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


Jane Longmeyer



Millions of Refugees on the Move: IRC Responds



Who we serve

The IRC helps people whose lives and livelihoods are shattered by conflict and disaster to survive, recover, and reclaim control of their future.

Where we work

In 50+ countries, delivering aid to those displaced inside and around crisis areas.
In 26 U.S. cities, welcoming refugees, asylees, and other immigrants.



What we do

The Garden City office serves over 300 refugees annually, providing them with the services they need to begin a new life and work toward self-sufficiency.



How you can help

Volunteer individually or with a group, donate household items, or simply become an advocate.



INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE

302 N. Fleming St., Suite 8E • Garden City, KS 67846 • +1 620 805 5350 • Rescue.org/GardenCity



Millions displaced: The IRC responds

In 2015, a daunting humanitarian crisis gripped the world: The number of people driven from their homes by war and persecution surpassed 60 million. That's 42,500 people on the move every day, more than at any time since World War II. Twelve million are from Syria alone, but conflict, persecution and natural disaster have also impacted South Sudan, Nigeria, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. The



International Rescue Committee is the only international aid organization working on all fronts of the crisis.

What we do

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) helps people whose lives and livelihoods are shattered by conflict and disaster to survive, recover, and reclaim control of their future.

Where we focus

The IRC is in the thick of the action, rapidly delivering lifesaving aid to those displaced inside crisis areas and those who have sought refuge in neighboring countries, Europe, and the U.S. Our

operations in more than 50 countries and 26 U.S. cities continue to restore the *health, safety, education, and economic well-being* of refugees, asylees, victims of human trafficking, and other immigrants.

Our impact

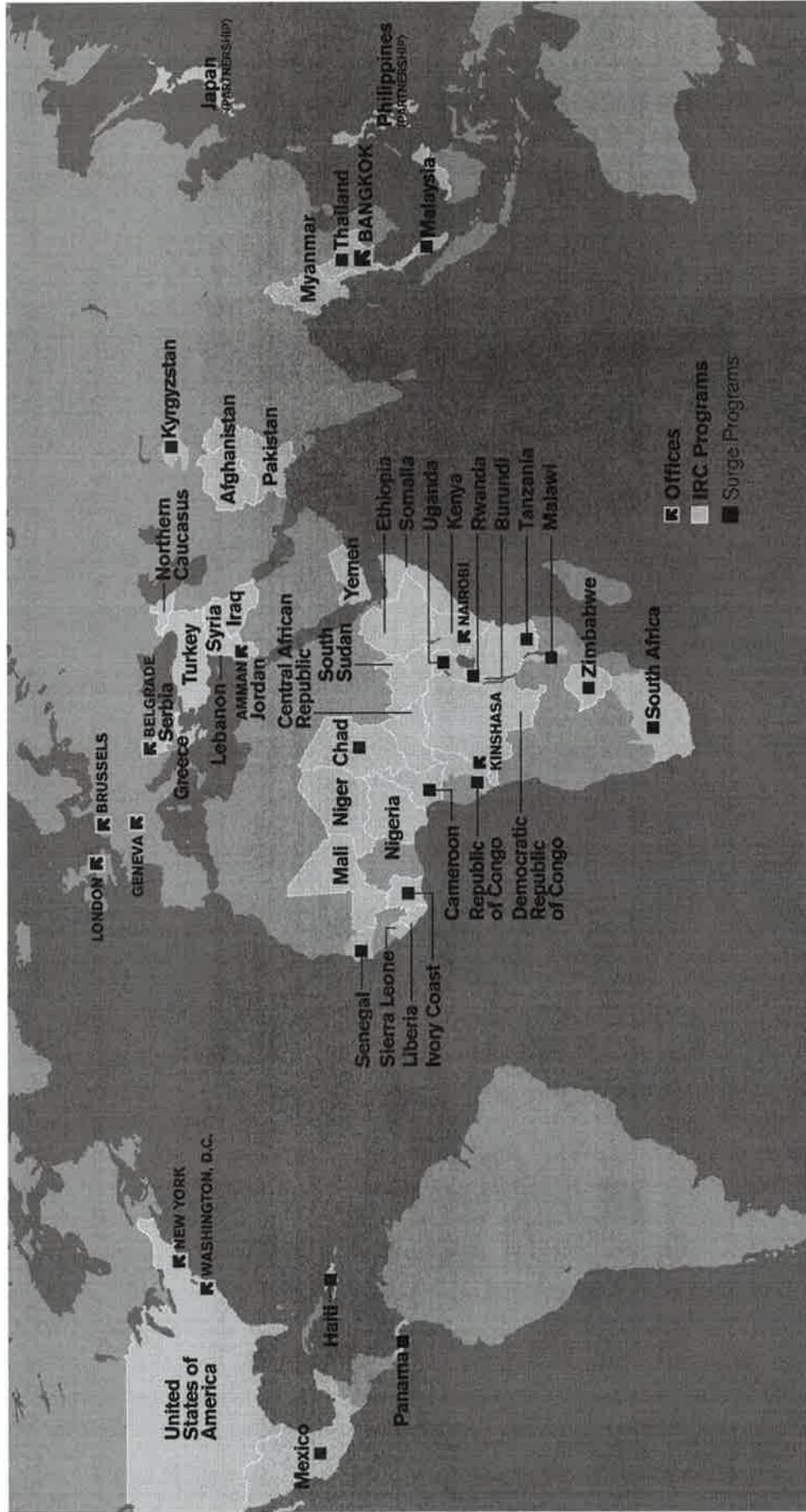
Thanks to the generosity of IRC supporters, more than 23 million people benefited from IRC programs and those of our partner organizations in 2015. Here are some of the year's accomplishments:

- Helped more than **21 million** people gain access to primary and reproductive health care.
- Gave **2.6 million** people access to clean drinking water or sanitation.
- Provided counseling and health, social, and legal services to more than **11,400** survivors of gender based violence.
- Provided schooling and educational opportunities to more than **1.3 million** children; trained more than **54,000** educators and supported **7,959** schools.
- In the United States, helped resettle **9,961** newly arrived refugees.

			
We serve	We work in	We respond	We resettle
people whose lives have been upended by war, conflict and natural disasters	countries where people don't have the support they need to recover from crisis	within 72 hours, staying to help countries stabilize and people rebuild their lives	refugees welcomed by the United States, helping them to succeed and thrive

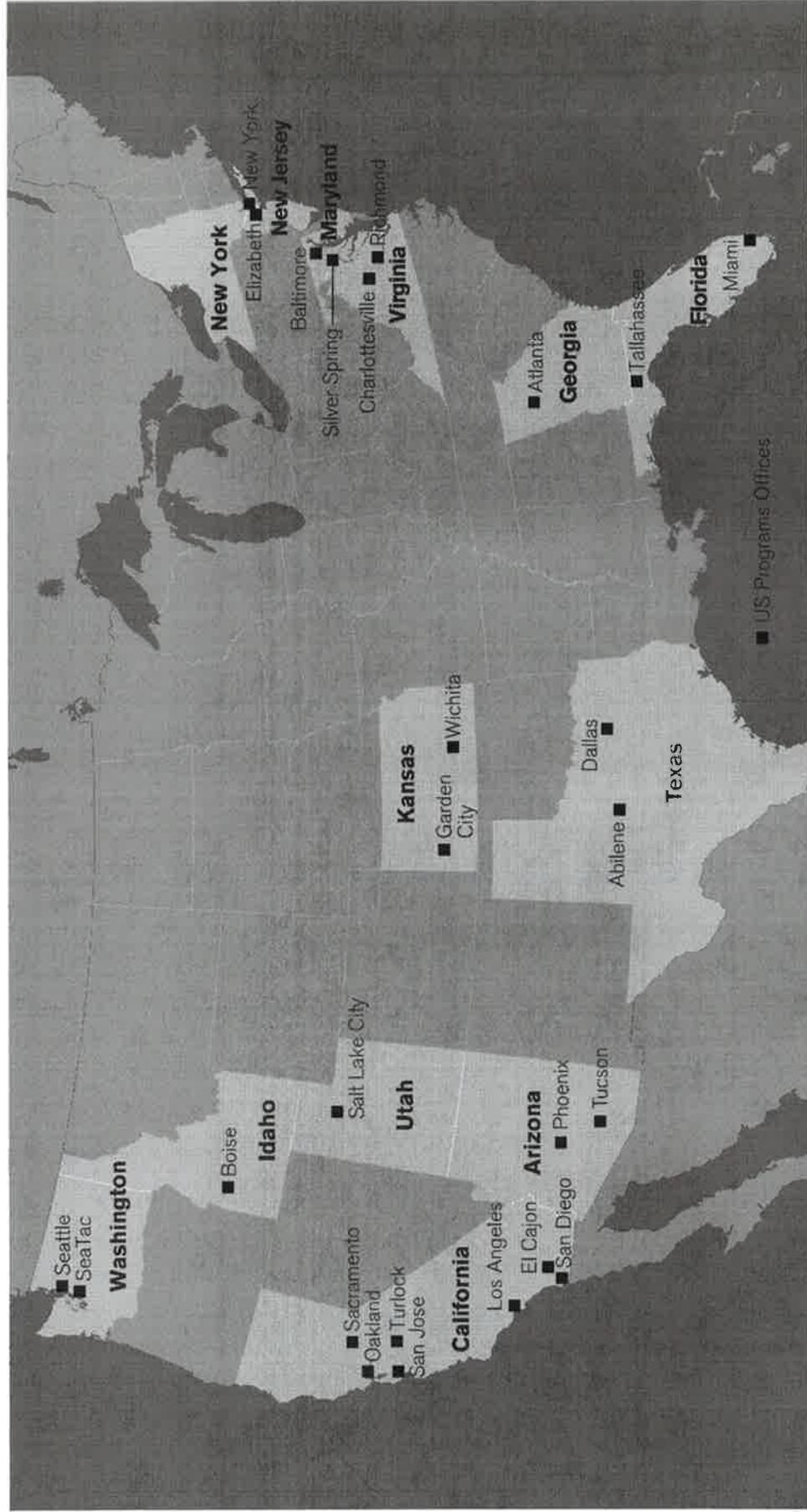


Where we work around the world





Where we work in the United States





Garden City

Since our office opened its doors in January 2015, we have served newly arrived refugee populations in Garden City, Liberal, and Dodge City. So far, we have welcomed approximately 136 refugees. We have served people from many crisis areas including Burma, Somalia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan, and Cuba. Our programs include reception and placement, intensive case management, matching grant, and job development. By helping refugees resettle in their new communities, we aim to restore their sense of dignity and self-reliance.

Resettlement for New Arrivals

Initial Housing, Furnishings, and Food

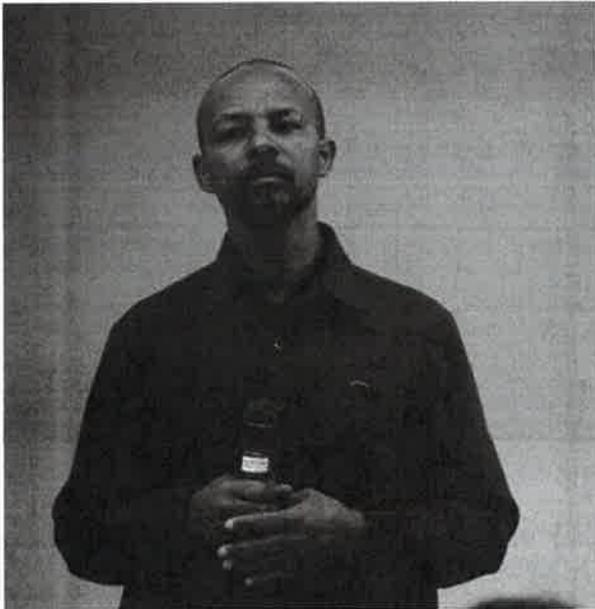
Health Screening

Enrollment in ESL Classes

Application for Benefits

Cultural Orientation

Employment Services



Mahdi Awad is sharing his story at World Refugee Day 2016

Meet Mahdi Awad

In Somalia, Mahdi Awad would have had to kill or be killed. His only viable option involved taking a dangerous escape route. Forced to leave his wife and children behind, he made his way through Djibouti and Eritrea before being abandoned by his traffickers in the Sahara Desert of Sudan. In Libya, the next stop on his journey, Mahdi was imprisoned twice for lacking official documents. While in prison, he and other refugees experienced terrible conditions and abuse. After his release, Mahdi traveled by boat to Malta where he was able to register with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Finally, he was approved to resettle in the United States! Later, he moved to Garden City, Kansas where he was assisted by the IRC. Mahdi feels happy to have the chance to rebuild his life here. Someday soon, he hopes to be reunited with his wife and children.



Follow us on Facebook!

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Frequently Asked Questions about Refugees & Resettlement in the U.S.

What is a refugee?

A refugee is someone who has fled from their country and cannot return due to fear of persecution based on religion, race, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group (United Nations).

What are a refugee's options for resettlement?

- 1) *Voluntary repatriation to home country:* This is only plausible if the conditions in the country of origin become stable
- 2) *Integration into country of first asylum:* Unfortunately, many host countries are unable to accept refugees permanently.
- 3) *Resettlement to a third country (i.e. the United States):* This is the last option, and it is available to only a tiny fraction of the world's refugees.

Did you know? Less than 1% of refugees ever have the opportunity to find safety by resettling in a third country

How many refugees does the U.S. accept for resettlement?

The President, along with Congress, determines a target number each year. Fiscal year 2016 had a ceiling of 85,000.



How does the U.S. determine if the refugee is eligible for resettlement?

They must meet the definition of a "refugee," be among the refugees who are of special humanitarian concern to the U.S., be otherwise admissible under the U.S. law, and not be firmly resettled in any foreign country.

What is the pre-arrival security process like?

Rigorous and long. Potential arrivals go through numerous in-person interviews, health checks, and extensive security checks. Approved refugees go through a cultural orientation while their case is being processed by a receiving organization such as the IRC. The vast majority of refugees are hard-working, law-abiding citizens who want their families to live in safety and peace.

What happens to refugees when they come to the United States?

Upon arrival, refugees receive limited assistance from the U.S. government and non-profit organizations like the IRC. In time, the majority embrace their newly adopted homeland with tremendous energy and success. They go on to work, attend universities, build professions, purchase homes, raise children, and contribute to their communities.



10 Ways to Get Involved

The IRC in Garden City

1. **Volunteer or intern.** We need volunteers in all facets of our work! Community volunteers make the difference between a refugee transitioning from surviving to thriving with the skills and knowledge to be a full participant in their new country. Contact Anushka.Raje@Rescue.org to learn about the many opportunities that exist within the IRC.
2. **Join our apartment set-up/furniture delivery crew.** Can you drive a truck? Help carry furniture? Get your hands dirty cleaning up an apartment? Your assistance with activities such as setting up basic household supplies and putting sheets and blankets on beds can prepare the way for a new refugee family to sleep well their first night here in the United States. Join our e-mail list to receive updates about upcoming needs for families scheduled to travel to the U.S.
3. **Set up a donation drive.** Tell members of your running club, new mom's or play group or church family about refugees; work together to do a donation drive. Ask Connie.Smith@Rescue.org for information on what items will make the biggest differences in refugees' lives.
4. **Hire a refugee.** Do you own a small business or know someone that does? The IRC works hard to help our newest neighbors become employed and support their families. Refugees are authorized for employment the moment they step off the plane in the U.S. with no visa sponsorship required.
5. **Rent to a refugee.** Do you own a rental property or know someone who does? IRC needs partners that will rent properties to newly-arrived refugees in our community.
6. **Make a new friend through our Family Mentorship Program.** The IRC can match you with a newly arrived refugee family so that you can walk alongside them during their first few months in the United States. Take your new family to the zoo, help them practice conversational English, and share cross-cultural experiences.
7. **Donate money.** Donate on our website at Rescue.org/GardenCity or send your donation directly to the office. Local donations allow IRC to meet emergency needs of clients and support our programs in many ways.
8. **Donate goods.** From gently used furniture and household goods that will be used to set up apartments to old computers, bikes or TVs, the IRC seeks to provide refugees with items that will help them get established and rebuild their lives.
9. **Join our Welcome Committee.** Arriving in a new place can be overwhelming. By joining our welcome committee, you can show refugees they are welcome and safe as soon as they step off the plane. Volunteers will be accompanied by a Case Worker at the Garden City Regional Airport.
10. **Like us on Facebook** at "The International Rescue Committee in Garden City." Make sure you are subscribed to our page so that you can receive the latest updates about the IRC's work in our community.



bbb.org/charity



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Volunteer Position Description

Family Mentor

BACKGROUND: Founded in 1933, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) is a voluntary organization providing relief, protection, and resettlement services for refugees and victims of oppression or violent conflict. The IRC assists refugees resettling in the United States by providing basic necessities as well as education, employment, and social services. The IRC branch in Garden City, Kansas opened its doors in January of 2015 and has since guided 138 newly arrived refugees toward self-sufficiency. As a young office with a vision for growth, the IRC Garden City continues to bring refugees from harm to home.

SCOPE OF VOLUNTEER WORK: Family Mentors support newly arrived refugee families in their adaptation to life in the United States. Through participating in a variety of activities, the mentor will act as both a friend and resource to the family with which they are matched. Example activities could include taking the family out for coffee, showing them around the zoo, helping them apply for a library card, and teaching them how to navigate an American grocery store. Mentors may also assist the family in performing household chores, understanding local transportation services, and/or other related activities according to need and interest. The social interaction, cultural guidance, and encouragement a mentor offers can make a positive difference in a refugee family's self-sufficiency and comfort level. Mentors will be required to serve at least four hours a month for a duration of six months.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Effectively build relationships of openness and trust with refugees
- Plan activities to help families acclimate to local community
- Submit timesheets online by last day of each month to log volunteer hours
- Frequently check-in with the Volunteer Coordinator on progress, issues, etc.
- Adhere to confidentiality policies in person and online

REQUIREMENTS:

- Valid driver license, vehicle, auto insurance, and clean driving record
- Ability to communicate clearly and effectively in English; additional fluency in a refugee language beneficial but not required
- Strong interest in learning about the IRC, refugees, and cross-cultural communication
- Must pass a background check

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES:

1. Family Mentors will gain insight about your refugee family's background by sharing photos, meals, and experiences
2. Family Mentors will bridge cultural gaps within the local community

TIME COMMITMENT: Mentors must commit to a minimum of four hours per month for six months, a total of at least 24 hours. Mentors will meet with refugees based on their individual schedules.