

Beyond the Core Group

What people outside of a core private sponsorship group can do to help

Especially during the first few weeks of arrival and before a refugee has had language assessment, they generally have a fair amount of free time. Once language classes start, they may become occupied for at least half days but often appreciate visits and social outings.

Social:

- ✓ Invite the refugee to lunch/dinner
- ✓ Tour the city- especially where they can find used clothing, furniture, etc. and free events
- ✓ Have coffee and find out more about their country, their interests, etc.
- ✓ Get out of the city- Peggy's Cove, hikes, beaches, sightseeing
- ✓ Attend an event, music show, movie, play, or festival happening in Halifax
- ✓ Help the person set up and organize their apartment, assemble furniture, hang pictures, sort clothing, etc.
- ✓ Take the bus together to a destination so the person can experience the transit system
- ✓ Build a rapport! Speak English doing anything that interests them. Get a sense of their employment history and job/ career interests

Financial:

- ✓ Support the core group in their fundraising efforts
- ✓ If needed, put a call out to your contacts for furniture, clothing, personal care products, etc.

Other:

- ✓ Technology- setting up a phone or internet
- ✓ Show the person the best local websites for news, weather, events, etc.
- ✓ Show the person interesting social media in the city to help them get a flavour for the community
- ✓ Ask the person what they would like to do or what they would like help with and assist them or connect them with other friends/family who can help

Referrals:

- ✓ Depending on their interests/needs, you may see an opportunity to provide information or a referral based on their spiritual, emotional, mental, physical, or social needs. Connect with a core group member before doing this to ensure it hasn't already been done and to keep the communication flowing.