

**INTERESTED IN SPONSORING  
A REFUGEE FAMILY?**



Our mission is to encourage churches to consider the needs of refugees and to welcome them to Canada.

## WHO IS CITY OF REFUGE?

- City of Refuge is a Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH), with Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).
- As the SAH, City of Refuge assumes overall responsibility and liability for the management of sponsorships under this agreement.
- Our refugee sponsorship ministry is funded by the Free Reformed Churches of North America.



# **CITY OF REFUGE + CHURCH + REFUGEE = PARTNERSHIP**

We are looking to partner with Christian churches in Canada who feel called by God to show love and compassion to refugees in need of safety.

We have many refugees in our database waiting for a church sponsor to give them the chance to live out their Christian faith safe from persecution.

Many Canadians have not and will never experience the fear, loss, abuse and trauma that many of these refugee families have experienced in their lifetime. It is a privilege and blessing for churches to open their hearts and lives to welcome refugees into their communities.



# WHO IS A REFUGEE?

The United Nations defines a refugee as  
**a person who has a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country.**

- Many people flee their country because of religious persecution. Some countries have severe consequences if you are a Christian. This impacts the person's ability to live out their faith in all aspects of their life.
- Refugees are fleeing from hostile situations and know they cannot return to their country for fear of torture or death.



# WHY SPONSOR?

- City of Refuge bases its mandate to provide assistance to refugees on Galatians 6:10 which reads *“as we have an opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”*

Private sponsorship is a unique opportunity for churches to show Jesus' love by assisting and encouraging refugees.

- We can see in the Bible that our God has a heart for welcoming the foreigner. He calls us to this ministry and here we have the opportunity to display God's love and impact lives with justice and mercy.
- The feedback we have received from previous sponsors has been overwhelmingly positive for both the sponsor and the newcomer often resulting in lasting friendships.



# HOW DOES YOUR CHURCH BEGIN A SPONSORSHIP?

- Contact us at [cityofrefuge.ca](http://cityofrefuge.ca) indicating your church would like to sponsor a refugee.
- We will send you a list of refugees in our database who are waiting for a sponsor.
- Once you have chosen we will estimate the total cost of the sponsorship based on the family size and needs.
- We will guide you through the sponsorship forms and submit the application to the government.
- It takes approximately 2-3 years from the application submission to the refugee arrival in Canada and sometimes longer depending on their country of asylum.



# SPONSOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- The church acts as the official sponsor while a team of members becomes the support network for the newcomer during their resettlement.
- Fundraise the amount needed to support the refugees for the first year they are in Canada.
- Commit to work alongside the refugees in order to ensure they have the necessary support to successfully integrate into Canada.
- Commit to providing basic financial and emotional support for the sponsored refugee for one year of their resettlement.



# **WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!**

We pray your church would consider partnering with City of Refuge to bring more persecuted Christian refugees to freedom.



[cityofrefuge.ca](http://cityofrefuge.ca)

For more information and helpful resources please check out our website.

