



Refugee Welcome

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I donate anything that is gently used?

A: Our goal is to provide these families with dignity, warmth and style with items that are brand new. Each apartment's furnishings will be selected with the specifics of the apartment in mind along with the size of family and the overall cohesive style within the home.

Q: What about clothing for the refugee families?

A: Through Brookside's relationship with Lutheran Family Services, refugee children have been invited to shop at Brookside's Care Center. To drop off your brand new or gently used clothing donations for children ages 0-18 years old, check out our webpage for times and drop off locations - brookside.net/clothing-care-center.

Q: What about toys for the kids?

A: Our expert advisors have told us that refugees are fleeing from countries who are, in essence, like the 1950's when it comes to toys. So our trees are filled with tags for toys that are a little more simple than what American kids would be used to. For example, a refugee child probably would not know what to do with a gaming system or hand-held game. But a soccer ball or stuffed animal - that would be really fun for them and something they are familiar with.

Q: Can I get a tax deduction for my donation?

A: If you give towards the household of furniture or directly through the "give towards refugee family" button, your tax deductible donation will appear on your annual giving statement. If you purchase items from the tree tags and wish to receive a receipt, contact us at lpeters@brookside.net and one will be emailed to you.

Q: When will the refugee families get here?

A: Resettlement agencies are under a considerable strain because of recent events, so they are only able to approximate arrivals. Their information is estimating arrivals within the next 2-3 months. In many cases, they will only receive a 48 hours notice.

Q: How many refugee families will be arriving in Omaha?

A: Currently, there are 54,000 refugees being processed on military bases throughout the United States. 480-500 have been assigned to Omaha by the government and 280 have been assigned to our partner, Lutheran Family Services.

Q: How does the vetting process work for the Afghan families?

A: Refugees first stay at U.S. military bases around the country where they go through an assimilation process, including background checks and vaccinations, before they are assigned to a community. Once they leave the military bases, they are assigned to one of the authorized resettlement agencies, such as Lutheran Family Services.