

Bloomington Refugee Support Network
SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE FOR IMMIGRANTS

(NOTE: There might be a family to assist, or a couple, or an individual)

COORDINATORS

Volunteers who work in pairs to assist new immigrant households, by contacting other funding sources, and by helping as much as possible with the services below. Usually Coordinators cannot help with all of the household's needs, so volunteers (who have signed up from the list below) are contacted and asked to help the Coordinators.

TRANSLATORS

Spanish (most needed)
Arabic
Various African languages
Mayan dialects

DRIVERS

Around town to the various local resource agencies, to local medical appointments...
Occasionally to Indianapolis (for pro- and low-bono attorney appointments)
Occasionally to Chicago (for federal interviews and hearings)

HOSTS

For a few days to 2 months, while BRSN helps to find housing for them.

FRIENDS AND GUIDES (*The immigrants are generally very frightened and lonely*).

A friend to come by for a visit, or to invite them for a visit.
A friend to have them over for a special event (such as Thanksgiving).
A guide to orient them to the bus system, and to retail shopping practices.
A guide to help them open a checking account or to use a phone card.

EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

Helping person to find employment.
Helping person to compose resume.
Helping person to determine additional credentials necessary for particular certification in U.S.

NETWORKING AND RESOURCE SEARCHES

Seeking resources not listed on our website (www.bloomingtonrefugees.org)

DONATIONS AND FUNDRAISING

Helping to arrange fundraisers (getting word out, food donations, finding site)
Donating to be used for applications, attorney fees, rent, travel to Indy or Chicago. (BRSN helps with funds as much as we can, but usually can help only with partial assistance.)

What It Means to Volunteer – 3 main points:

If contacted to volunteer, you would do so only when your schedule allows.

If you host, or drive, or visit, we would ensure that you are comfortable with the particular immigrants.

You can volunteer as a group for any service (we would contact you and you would see if someone in your group can volunteer for the particular activity).