

POWR Volunteer Committee Descriptions

PUBLICITY

Chairperson: Amy Doucette

This committee will communicate events, encouragement, needs, good news, and updates via social media, as well as newspapers, cable, and bulletin throughout the whole project.

PRE-ARRIVAL

Giving House

Chairpersons: Joan and Peter Koesterherm

This committee will create a “house” for display in the gathering area of the church which will hold gift tags for parishioners to furnish the home. These would be standard items that every home needs such as kitchenware, cleaning supplies, lamps, furniture, etc. . The committee is also responsible for advertising needs, collecting items, storing and delivering to home. This team would continue to operate at post-arrival, depending on make-up of family to collect items such as clothes, food, and gift certificates.

Furniture

Chairpersons: Bob and Nancy Norbedo

This committee will determine needs, advertise, check condition of furniture to be donated through pictures and arrange to collect items.

Moving and Storage

Chairpersons: Art and Chelle Durkin

This committee will arrange to pick up furniture, store furniture and move furniture into the apartment. They would also assist the Giving House committee in storage and delivery.

Set up

Chairperson: Joe Stewart

This committee will clean the apartment, set up furniture, and all household items needed for the family to prepare for their arrival.

POST-ARRIVAL

Interface to Government Agencies

Chairperson: Marge Murphy

This committee will provide assistance to the refugee family to deal with the various state and federal government agencies once the family has arrived in this country. Catholic Charities and the initial contacts and paperwork with the various agencies will have been done by the Pre-Arrival team. Once the family arrives, help in navigating the various agency requirements and completing the paperwork for each family member will be needed. Interface with key agencies such Catholic Charities, Department of Transitional Assistance, Social Security, and Mass Health to name a few will be required.

Family Educational Needs**Chairpersons: Eric and Colleen Roland and Rachel Margaglione**

This committee will address the educational needs of the family upon arrival. Key assistance may be needed to navigate the local school system if there are children of school age, English as a Second Language, help in obtaining vocational training, tutoring, help in educational paperwork, and advocate for the family when issues arise.

Welcome Home**Chairpersons: Brian and Jean Masterson**

This committee will assist the family in their struggles to adjust to living in a foreign home environment and community. This will involve an on-going orientation to living in a modern home (appliances, cooking, utilities, hair care, household projects, etc.) and living in their new neighborhood and the surrounding towns, including providing instructions on how to shop for their needs.

Financial Needs**Chairperson: Dave Boudreau**

This committee will assist the family in understanding and eventually mastering the typical financial tasks of a family in this country. Key assistance will be given in opening and understanding how to access, manage, and reconcile bank accounts, generating and tracking a budget, bill payments, navigate financial paperwork, and resolve any financial issues that may arise.

Hospitality**Chairperson: Charline Mahoney**

This committee will help the family integrate into the community and provide a sense that they are not alone in their current struggle in their new life. This sub-committee will help with meals and for the first month may provide meals until the family is capable of cooking for themselves. Visits on a regular basis will be needed to provide friendship and check in on how the family is doing. This sub-committee will also plan and take the family on community trips and opportunities to interact with the community as much as possible and to the degree that the family is comfortable.

Social needs**Chairperson: TBD**

This committee will assist the family in becoming familiar with the American culture. This may include but not limited to introducing them to recreation activities in the community, walks in the park, sports attendance and participation, and extra-curricular activities for children as appropriate. In the process, the family will meet the community in social settings and make new friends. If the family has a religious affiliation, the sub-committee members will get them connected to the local religious place of worship. In addition, the volunteers may expand their own horizons with regards to the family's background.

Transportation Needs**Chairpersons: Bob and Carolyn Baker**

This committee will initially provide rides to appointments (bank, medical, government agencies, education, etc.) until the family learns to use the public transportation system where possible. The sub-committee will familiarize themselves with the system to teach the family on how to use it. It is

necessary to set-up a system to organize and communicate the need for a ride on a daily basis. Assistance may be required should the family advance to the point when a drivers license is necessary.

Health and Wellness Needs

Chairperson: Ed and Consuelo Carandang

This committee will assist in navigating through the paperwork required to obtain care and appointments to address health and wellness needs (medical, dental, psychological, etc.). The sub-committee members may but are not necessarily expected to provide the services and will assist in directing the family to the appropriate professional areas and arrange appointments as needed. Per other POWR projects, inadequate wellness care in the refugee camps have resulted in poor health and dental care.

Employment Assistance

Chairperson: Judy Ferres

This committee will assist preparing appropriate family members to get employment as soon as possible as the family is expected to be self-sufficient within 6-8 months. The committee will help determine employment opportunities within/near the community and provide job preparation assistance such as resume writing, interview prep, and job retention advice to supplement the Catholic Charities and Jewish Vocational training for refugees.

Help Team

Chairperson: Ken and Linda Hannan

This committee will be the *GO-TO and 24/7* contact for the family especially for the early months for anything that the family may need such as: how to use anything in the house/neighborhood, etc. that they did not understand or remember from the Welcome Home or Transportation Teams. They will be on-call 24/7 and provide support as needed and may or will involve assigning tasks to other committees.

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