



St Mary's Community Sponsorship Group

Community Sponsorship for a refugee family

This is a government scheme which allows community groups to sponsor a refugee family. The sponsored family are chosen from those living in a Refugee Camp who already have refugee status. They are extra to any agreed number that are allowed in by any other way. We will be helped by an umbrella sponsor who gives training and support. In Birmingham, Father Hudson's Care is such a sponsor. The group makes a one-year commitment to help the family settle in.

What is sponsorship?

The group welcomes the refugee family and helps them settle in to the community. The family will be entitled to regular benefits, but the group finds accommodation for them which will then be paid for by their Housing Benefit entitlement. Any children are entitled to schooling and the group helps to find school places. They are entitled to medical care as necessary but may need help understanding how our systems work. More details, including videos, can be found at resetuk.org

Do we need money?

The group has to raise at least £9000 before being accepted to sponsor a family. This is to cover any incidental costs of such things as interpreters, travel, furniture for the home.... Donations can be accepted.

How do we start?

We need a group of about 8 to 10 people who will sort out all the practical details to go on the application form, and who will support the family when we are assigned one. There are already 5 people in this group, but we need:

- * Someone who will help checking out school places
- * Someone who will help checking on ESOL classes locally and maybe arranging conversation practice for the family when they arrive
- * Someone with medical experience who can give details of the health provision locally
- * Someone who will help the family ensure their benefits are claimed correctly

What commitment?

This is flexible as, initially, we simply need to collect information to show how we can welcome a refugee family locally, and list what services are available. If you think you can help, or want to find out more, please contact Cynthia Deeson on:

cyndeeson@aol.com or 07702 747113