

Montgomery County MD Faith Community Advisory Council's
Welcoming Our New Neighbors Program



The Montgomery County Faith Community is mobilized to “Welcome Our New Neighbors”:

- Over 60 congregations from all faiths are engaged in refugee support efforts.
- Twenty-six congregations and two interfaith networks are sponsoring and providing comprehensive support to 25 refugee families.
- Funds have been raised for rental subsidies and other vital support and thousands of dollars’ worth of goods have been donated.
- Over 330 volunteers have been recruited and are actively involved.
- Volunteers are helping family members find employment, learn English, get certified in technical areas, enroll children in school, and start cottage businesses.

The Welcoming Our New Neighbors Program acts as a **connector** and **resource** to faith communities. We complement and support resettlement agency and faith communities’ work in these areas:

- *Housing*: work with public and private sector to identify affordable housing.
- *Employment*: network with county agencies and businesses to identify employers who will hire refugees; provide job search and educational mentoring, and other support.
- *English as a Second Language*: sponsor tutor training and make referrals to ESL classes, in partnership with the Montgomery Coalition for Adult English Literacy (MCAEL) and Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center.
- *Family mentoring*: partner with Interfaith Works’ Faith in Action program to coach faith communities in proven family mentoring approaches.
- *General support*: provide information and resources on a wide range of refugee resettlement issues.

For more information and resources see:

<http://montgomerycountyinterfaithmd.org/programs/welcoming-our-new-neighbors/>

or contact Patty Larson, Coordinator, at patriciaslarson@gmail.com or 240-355-5140.

