

Montgomery County Welcoming Our New Neighbors Program



Montgomery County Maryland's Faith Community is mobilized to "Welcome Our New Neighbors" with support from the Montgomery County Faith Community Advisory Council.

- Over 60 congregations from many faiths are engaged in refugee support efforts.
- 26 congregations and two interfaith networks are sponsoring and providing comprehensive support to more than 25 refugee families.
- Significant funds have been raised for rental subsidies and other vital support and thousands of dollars' worth of goods have been donated.
- Over 300 volunteers are actively involved, 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 faith communities' work in these areas:

- *Housing:* working with the county and other partners to secure affordable housing;
- *English Tutor Training:* sponsoring tutor training workshops, in partnership with MCAEL and Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center;
- *Family mentoring:* collaborating with Interfaith Works' Faith in Action program to coach faith communities in family mentoring approaches;
- *Employment:* creating partnerships to promote refugee employment and provide job search training for faith communities;
- *General support:* providing information and links to resources on refugee resettlement.

For more information and resources:

<http://montgomerycountyinterfaithmd.org/programs/welcoming-our-new-neighbors/>
or contact Patty Larson, Program Coordinator, at patriciaslarson@gmail.com or 240-355-5140.