



Ongoing Opportunities with the CSPC Refugee Ministry

Trying to find your place to serve? Our refugee ministry would love the opportunity to get you and your family/friends plugged in a cross-cultural ministry right here in our city!

This year, we have the opportunity as a church to **welcome 5 new refugee families** and walk with them! We partner with a small non-profit agency called Bridge Refugee Services that resettles refugees in Knoxville and Chattanooga. According to this agency, Knoxville is expecting around 250 refugees mainly from Africa and Latin America in 2019. We're currently praying for 5 volunteer teams consisting of 5-7 people each that are willing to step out in faith and touch the lives of refugees with the love and mercy of Christ! This will be a great opportunity for families with children to serve together and model what it means to love and serve people that are completely different from us!

Are you from any professional background? **Mentoring refugee professionals** is another area of our ministry outreach where amazing things are happening! This category of refugees are often easier to work with since they speak better English, have their own transportation and can meet you halfway only if you're willing to step out of your comfort zone and share your God-given skills, experiences and social capital with someone desperate. In 2019, we have 12 refugee professionals from computer science, communications, IT, accounting, theology/ministry, agriculture, interior design, and nursing backgrounds that are in need of mentors and connectors. We'd be happy to share our step by step **Mentor Guide** with you and answer any questions that you might have.

Will you consider **serving refugee students with us this summer**? Our 10th Annual ESL Summer Camp for refugee middle and high school age students is coming up on June 18 through July 31! Camp days are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from

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1-4 pm. We're planning to reach at least 50 refugee students and are partnering with the Cansler YMCA (the venue of our camp) to make it fun and educational for our refugee students. Our goal is to help these children practice their English throughout summer and build relationships with them and their families in a loving and nurturing Christian environment. Camp activities include: teaching 1:00 - 2:30; enrichment (Bible storytime, music, cultural orientation, safety instructions, health education, etc) will be at 2:30 - 3:00 and it is different every week. Our snack time is 3:00 - 3:15 and peer mentoring/recreation (swimming, basketball, volleyball, crafts and different games) at 3:15 - 4:00. Transportation will be provided by the church. You can sign up for specific activity and time slot as a lead teacher, assistant teacher, enrichment instructor, peer mentor, recreation leader, crafts leader, etc. We'll have a licensed ESL teacher from the church provide training and lesson plans for each camp day and for each level (beginners, intermediate and advanced). This is another opportunity for you to serve with your family! We ask that our volunteers will sign up for at least one week (3 camp days) or once a week for up to 3 weeks for the sake of consistency and relationship building with our students.

Tutoring and/or mentoring are proven to be great ways to continue to build relationships for those that served with us during the summer ESL Camp or start new relationships for those who didn't have that opportunity. A time commitment of once a week for up to 2 hours goes a long way in building life-giving relationships with refugee children and their families! And this could start during the camp with a student of your choice and could go beyond!

Hospitality is another powerful ministry tool! Besides welcoming refugees at the airport, having them around your kitchen table for casual dinners or a holiday meal or your family events/outings goes a long way in getting to know each other and build trusting relationships. Moreover, we have opportunities for you to visit refugee families with an interpreter and deliver Thanksgiving baskets and/or Christmas gifts during our 2019 holiday outreach season.

To learn more or to sign up to get involved in any of the above opportunities, please contact Almaz (almaz@cspc.net or 291-5282) or Karen (karenvogel@cspc.net or 291-5227).