

FAQs (scroll down for list of needed items)

Where are the families coming from?

The families have been displaced from their original homes in several countries in Africa and the Middle East and are currently living in refugee camps in Kenya, Uganda, Turkey, and other countries.

Are these refugees entering the United States legally?

Yes, they are refugees who have been displaced from their homes due to conflict exacerbated by the effects of climate change and have been cleared to emigrate to the U.S. through an official U.S. Department of State program.

How large are the families?

This varies and may range from a single person to larger possibly multigenerational families with one or more children.

What household items are needed most?

Please see the detailed list (*below*) of the basic needs (furniture, kitchen and other household items, plus cleaning and personal care supplies) provided by Episcopal Migration Ministries.

What about electronics?

Used, functional cell phones are needed. Also smart TVs would be much appreciated (and helpful as the new arrivals develop their English skills).

Do items need to be new, or are used items acceptable?

Things such as toiletries and personal care items should be previously unused. Otherwise, gently used furniture, kitchen and other household items in good condition are welcome. As a rule, ask whether you would want to be the recipient of something in that condition.

What if I want to make a cash donation?

Donations of any amount would be very helpful!

If you choose to make a donation to St. Paul's Cathedral either by check or online to support this effort, please note "RefugeeNet" in the memo line. For an online donation, go to the Cathedral's website, click "Give" at the far right of the blue top bar, select "Other Offering" from the drop down menu (*you'll need to scroll down for this*), and in the Memo space directly below enter "RefugeeNet."

Checks can also be sent directly to RefugeeNet (3725 30th St., San Diego, CA 92104) or made online; go to: <https://www.refugee-net.org/helprefugees> (direct link) or to [Refugee-net.org](https://www.refugee-net.org), click on "GIVE" at bottom of page and select "Refugee Assistance Fund" from the drop down menu.

Where and when can I drop off donations?

We are currently working on lining up storage space for donated items. If you can hold on to your items for a little while longer, that would be helpful. Otherwise, please email or call Joan Reese who will coordinate a drop-off time at the Cathedral with you or make other arrangements. If you have furniture or larger items that will need to be picked up, we will arrange that as well.

Is pickup available?

Yes, we will arrange for pickup of large items such as furniture.

Are donations tax-deductible?

Yes, monetary donations to St. Paul's Cathedral or to RefugeeNet will be acknowledged for tax purposes by either the Cathedral or RefugeeNet as appropriate. Donors of in-kind donations of used or new household and other needed items will receive an acknowledgment from RefugeeNet (unless the donation has been dropped off anonymously).

I have items to donate or would like to discuss a donation.

Wonderful! Please contact or call Joan Reese at jmreese@gmail.com or (858) 663-8828.

Is clothing needed?

Yes, we'll provide information about specific clothing items needed once we know the ages and genders of family members coming through this program.

Will there be opportunities to provide in-person support to the families?

Yes! While RefugeeNet's case workers will be working directly to provide needed support, due to the very compressed time frame and number of individuals expected through this effort, additional personal support from caring community members will be extremely helpful. This can include assistance with transportation to appointments, shopping, etc., and help with language, school enrollment, job searches, and cultural integration. By offering guidance, support, and friendship as these families adjust to their new environment, you'll make a lasting impact in their lives—and possibly yours as well!

I have additional questions.

We would love to hear from you! Please contact Joan Reese at jmreese@gmail.com or call (858) 663-8828.

I would like receive information and updates.

That's great! Please send your name and email address to Joan at jmreese@gmail.com.

What's Needed to Help Us Support New Refugee Families

Note: This is the complete list provided to RefugeeNet by Episcopal Migration Ministries; our priority right now is to assist with acquisition of furniture, kitchen and other household items and supplies, etc. Once we have more information about the composition of "our" family, we will be trying to assist with clothing and baby/child needs, as appropriate. Closer to the date, we can work with RefugeeNet on ensuring food for the first few days. Later there will be opportunities for more personal, hands-on involvement to assist families with acclimation to their new life in San Diego.

Furniture

Mattress and box spring (*per person; only married couples or small children of same gender may be expected to share beds*)

Bed frame (*per bed*)

One set of drawers, shelves, etc. appropriate for storage of clothing (*per bedroom*)

One couch or equivalent seating per family (in addition to kitchen chairs)

One lamp per room, unless installed lighting is present and adequate, and light bulbs as needed

Kitchen Table

Kitchen Chairs

Kitchen Items

One place setting of tableware (fork, knife, spoon) per person

One place setting of dishes (plate, bowl, and cup) per person

Pots and pans: at least one saucepan, one large pot, one frying pan, and one baking dish

Mixing/serving bowls

Kitchen utensils (spatula, wooden spoon, knife, serving utensils, etc.)

Can opener

Linens & Other Household Supplies

One bath towel per person

One set of sheets for each bed

Blanket(s) or comforter(s) for each bed

One pillow & pillowcase for each person

Alarm clock (phone is sufficient)

Paper, pens, and/or pencils

Toiletries (new)

Toilet paper (list number of rolls)

Shampoo

Soap

One toothbrush per person

Toothpaste

Deodorant

Feminine hygiene items

Cleaning Supplies

Dish soap

Bathroom/kitchen cleaner

Laundry detergent

Sponges, cleaning rags, and/or paper towels

Wastebaskets (1 kitchen, 1 per bathroom)

Trash bags (list number of boxes)

Mop or broom

Baby Items (if applicable)

Baby food

Clothing

Diapers

Car seat/booster seat (children under 8 – see state guidelines)

Crib (children under 3)

Baby gate (as applicable)

Other Items and Food

Appropriate seasonal clothing for work, school (uniforms if necessary) and everyday use for each family member:

Clean clothing, in good condition, for all members of the family (including proper footwear)

Food available on arrival:

Culturally appropriate, ready-to-eat food, plus one day's worth of additional food supplies and staples (including baby food, as needed)

Food within one day of arrival:

Food or food allowance at least equivalent to the SNAP/food stamp allocation for that family unit and continued food assistance until receipt of SNAP/food stamps or until individual/ family can provide food for themselves

Additional items appropriate to family size and composition:

For example, large families should receive enough cookware to prepare a meal for all individuals; additional plates and utensils may be appropriate for a single individual.

After Arrival

Transportation to appointments

Offer guidance, support, and friendship as these families adjust to their new environment.

Help with language, job searches, school enrollment, and cultural integration.