

# scranton refugee friendship network

accompaniment • advocacy • empowerment

## BE A FRIEND/MENTOR TO FAMILIES

**Time Commitment:** 4 months

**Goal:** Provide accompaniment, advocacy, and empowerment for a refugee family to transition to a new life in our region.

**What you will do:** Coordinate with a team, in consultation with Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton, to determine what kind of commitment each member can make, including time, energy, talents, and skills. Discuss experiences, troubleshoot difficulties, and network resources with team leaders and program administrators. Provide support for each other.

### Requirements:

- Complete attached application. (Applications for February teams due 1/9/18. April team applications are due 3/9/18.)
- Complete required clearances and MINORS training through Human Resources. May take 2-4 weeks to get results. Please plan accordingly.
  - PA Criminal Background, Child Abuse, FBI Clearance
  - Online MINORS training takes 10-15min (after other clearances completed)
- Attend a 2-hour team training session.
  - Turn in copies of clearances
  - Meet your team and case worker
  - Receive training and resources on suggestions for activities, community resources, and tips to interact with families and their culture.
  - Schedule a time to meet your family with caseworker
- At least two members of the team should meet with the family *weekly* over a four-month period.
- Check-in with SRFN coordinators and case managers for support and assistance.
- Connect with other SRFN volunteers for information sharing and with the network, including refugee families, for periodic social events as your schedule allows.

### Helpful tips:

- Be flexible and patient, recognizing the significant transition refugee(s) are undergoing and be ready to encounter cultural differences.
- Be a friend, guide, agent of peace and advocate for justice.
- Learn about and respect the home culture of your refugee(s). Take the time to learn key phrases of the primary language of your refugee family.
- Don't try to solve all of the challenges the refugee(s) face; accompany them on their journey!

For more information, please contact Jennifer Schwartz, [Jennifer.schwartz@scranton.edu](mailto:Jennifer.schwartz@scranton.edu), 570-941-4315.



*"...refugees must not only be accepted, but also integrated."*

— POPE FRANCIS

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## Application for Faculty/Staff at The University of Scranton

Please check the team you wish to join:     February 2018     April 2018

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone extension: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Position or title: \_\_\_\_\_ School or Division: \_\_\_\_\_

If participating with you, names/ages of your family members and contact info for adult members if applicable:

\_\_\_\_\_

I have proficiency in a foreign language:  Yes    No   *If yes, which language?* \_\_\_\_\_

I have connections to community resources:  Yes    No   *If yes, please explain* \_\_\_\_\_

Check off areas you are willing to help with:  welcome family/set up apt.     provide transportation

conversation partner     organize outings/social activities     review finances/documents

Note any areas of expertise:  medical/health     sports     law     financial/budgeting     children

education     ESL     Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Note preference for specific people to be on your team (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

What drew you to volunteer with our program? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Availability for one 2 hour training session: (Please check all that apply)  weekdays     evenings     weekends

**Please submit application to Jennifer Schwartz, ELH 524, Department of Physical Therapy.  
Questions? Email [Jennifer.schwartz@scranton.edu](mailto:Jennifer.schwartz@scranton.edu) or call 570-941-4315.**



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