

Dear Refugee Move In Volunteers,

First of all, thank you all for the work you have done in supporting the program through volunteer hours of service, donations, and spreading the word about the opportunities available to show your support for refugees in the Kansas City community. In addition, thank you all for your patience while we work on responding effectively to volunteers and continue to come alongside the families who are here in the middle of a time when many people have questions and concerns.

The following note is from the director of our Refugee programming here at Catholic Charities. If you have any further questions, please reach out to me.

Dear Refugee and Immigration Services Volunteers and Supporters-

I want to take a minute to update everyone on the President's Executive Order that was signed last week regarding the US Refugee Admissions Program. The order will put a pause on the Reception and Placement program for the next 120 days, which is the program that welcomes and serves refugees for their first 90 days in the United States. Reception and Placement is typically where we rely on the most volunteer support- conducting furniture and supply drives, completing moves into apartments, teaching Cultural Orientation.

In response to the order, we have been overwhelmed with volunteer inquiries. This feels really nice and also a bit confusing as our typical pathways for engagement are not needed for the moment. We are currently evaluating the best ways to engage with community supporters during this pause in our regular work, and will be in touch with some new opportunities in the next few weeks. Most of our work continues. There are 100 students here each day for English and Citizenship classes, Case Managers and Employment Staff are busy meeting with families, New Roots farmers are starting seeds in the greenhouse.

Our team is so very thankful for you and your heart for welcoming refugees in our community. We are eagerly looking forward to the reopening of Reception and Placement program in May. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*Rachel Pollock
Director of Refugee and Immigration Programs*

Cara Duncan

Community Engagement and Volunteer Coordination VISTA Refugee Reception and Placement

Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas - <https://www.catholiccharitiesks.org/>

2220 Central Avenue|Kansas City, KS 66102

Office: 913. 621. 1504 x 1114

Cell: 217. 710. 4060

cduncan@catholiccharitiesks.org