



KRM LOUISVILLE: VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

For a volunteer application and the date/time of an upcoming Volunteer Orientation, please go to our website www.kyrm.org or contact the **Volunteer Coordinator** at (502) 479-9180, ext. 585 or at volunteer@kyrm.org.

WEEKLY PROGRAMS – *Set days/times, Consistent Schedule*

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE

Volunteers provide assistance with general office tasks, event publicity, data entry, and many other projects. Support to complete reports, paperwork and proper filing is vital to providing the best service possible to our refugee clients. We ask individuals to commit a minimum of two hours per week in the office. This position requires volunteers to be organized, patient, welcoming, and detail-oriented and at least 18 years of age.

ELDER PROGRAM TUTORS

The Elder Program seeks to help refugee elders learn English, obtain their US citizenship, and become active members of the community. Tutors work under classroom teachers at the Elder Program, helping to facilitate small groups and provide one-on-one assistance. The Elder Program meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30am to 12:00pm. This opportunity requires patient volunteers who enjoy working with elderly people and are 16 years of age or older.

CITIZENSHIP IN-CLASS TUTOR

Volunteers help as teaching assists in KRM's weekly Citizenship Classes. The citizenship classes meet at various locations in Louisville: Monday/Wednesday 6:30-8:30pm (Americana Community Center), Wednesday 10:00am-12:00pm (Americana Community Center), Tuesday/Thursday 6:00-8:00pm (South Central Regional Library), and Thursday 11:00am-1:00pm (Iroquois Library). Volunteers work individually or in small groups with adult students to study material on the civics exam, conduct mock citizenship interviews, and practice speaking, reading, and writing English. Before volunteers begin tutoring, they will receive training on the naturalization process. This opportunity requires volunteers to be 18 years of age or older.

CHILDCARE IN CITIZENSHIP CLASSES

In KRM's Tuesday and Thursday evening Citizenship Classes, volunteers assist with childcare for the children of the citizenship students. Volunteer tasks include playing with, educating and supervising the kids while their parents study for the citizenship exam. There are toys, books, and a playground on site, although volunteers are welcome to bring other games and materials. The Tuesday/Thursday class meets at the South Central Regional Library from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Volunteers must be at least 14 years of age and have previous childcare experience.

DARE TO CARE MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

KRM partners with Dare to Care Food Bank to provide food assistance to families in isolated neighborhoods. The Mobile Food Pantry operates in the KRM parking lot the third Thursday of each month from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm to provide groceries and household items for KRM families. Volunteers assist with set-up, check-in, food distribution, and transport home for some clients from 11:30am to 2:30pm. This opportunity is for individuals 18 years of age or older.

FAMILY CENTER NURSERY

The Family Center is dedicated to providing ESL classes for mothers of preschool children and child care for the children. Volunteers assist with supervision and childcare in the infant, toddler, and preschool classes – playing, learning and educating. The Family Center meets Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 9:30am to 12:15pm. Volunteers must be at least 14 years of age and have previous childcare experience.

SATURDAY CLIENT TRANSPORTATION

Volunteers transport refugee clients to “Super Saturdays” and/or youth soccer games. In KRM’s Super Saturday program, young adult refugees visit local colleges and universities to tour campus and attend an information session. Volunteers take these students to and from the school, picking the clients up from their home and driving them back home at the end of the visit. During the spring and fall, volunteers drive refugee youth from their home to the soccer fields and bring them back home after the game. Volunteers must be willing to use their own vehicle in transporting the clients. This opportunity requires volunteers to be 18 years of age or older, punctual, and have their own form of transportation.

SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM

KRM’s Summer Youth Program is a school readiness program for recently-arrived refugee children and youth, grades K-8, held at KRM in June and July. This six-week summer program offers English as a Second Language, Math, and Science classes, as well as art therapy and educational field trips. Volunteers serve as classroom assistants and field trip chaperones, working directly with the children in the program and building strong relationships with the students over the course of the summer. Volunteer must be 16 years or older and submit an additional application for the Summer Youth Program. 2019 dates: Wednesday, June 12 through Friday, July 19.

MENTORING PROGRAMS – *Flexible days/times, Consistent Schedule*

ADULT CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Volunteers help to enhance KRM’s core services by helping to orient clients to their new community, addressing both logistical and recreational aspects of life. Volunteers are paired with an individual to share their culture and practice English. Volunteers meet 1 hour per week, and are asked to commit for a 4-month mentorship.

CITIZENSHIP TUTOR

Volunteers are paired individually with students of KRM’s citizenship classes to study material for the citizenship exam, conduct mock citizenship interviews, and practice speaking English. Volunteers tend to meet weekly with the client they are matched with, although this schedule is flexible based on the date of the student’s naturalization exam. Before volunteers begin tutoring, they will receive training on the naturalization process. This opportunity requires volunteers to be 18 years of age or older.

ELDER PROGRAM MENTORS

Volunteers are matched with a refugee or Cuban elder to provide ESL and civics tutoring. Mentors meet weekly in the elder client's home to practice English and often take their mentees out into the community to learn more about life in Louisville. Volunteers are welcome to attend monthly community speaker and field trip events. This opportunity requires volunteers who are patient, flexible, and over the age of 18.

RISE UP PROGRAM

Young adult refugees, ages 18-25, arrive in the United States with interrupted education and great academic need due to difficult life circumstances. Through the Rise Up Program, KRM is working together with these young adults to make their educational dreams a reality through increased access to higher education and community engagement. Volunteers 18 and older and who are currently enrolled or have graduated from a higher learning institute (college/university/technical school) are paired with an individual to help guide them through the process of applying and succeeding in higher education. This could include but is not limited to: English practice, researching scholarships, choosing a major, or time management.

YOUTH PROGRAM MENTORS/TUTORS

Through the New Beginnings Program, volunteers are paired with refugee children and youth, assisting in literacy attainment and homework help. They work with students to establish good study skills and support parental involvement in their child's education. Volunteers introduce families to their new community through group discovery field trips. Commitment is at least 1 hour per week for 6 months. Volunteers in high school are encouraged to join this program but must have a parent or guardian present when mentoring. This opportunity requires volunteers to enjoy working with kids, be able to get to the meetings, and have experience in educating youth.

ON-CALL PROGRAMS – *Flexible days/times, Varying Schedule*

AIRPORT WELCOME TEAMS

Airport Welcome Teams provide a warm welcome to newly arriving refugee families. Volunteers bring posters, flowers, smiles and positivity to the arrivals area of the Louisville airport when a family is scheduled to arrive. This greeting is a positive gesture of support and an immediate demonstration to the family that we are happy they are here in Louisville. Volunteers are contacted as arrivals are scheduled; these times vary from day-time, evening, and late at night.

APARTMENT SET-UP AND GROCERY SHOPPING

Volunteers set up apartments before refugees arrive in Louisville. This includes making beds, putting away kitchen and bathroom supplies, and creating a welcoming atmosphere that feels like a home. Volunteers purchase groceries for the newly arriving family, using the refugee's Reception and Placement funds. This opportunity requires a willingness to clean, a sense of the aesthetic, and able to get to the apartment complexes.

DONATIONS TRANSPORT / ORGANIZATION

Volunteers transport donated goods to KRM's off-site warehouse and sort/organize those items. KRM receives a number of donations from community members, such as household items, school supplies, and toys, which we then allocate and distribute to individuals and families. These donations are often dropped off at the KRM office and need to be moved to our off-site warehouse to be sorted and organized. A volunteer can take on this role. KRM then uses those donations in resettlement to supply and furnish a newly arriving refugee family's home. The position allows for flexible time commitment. This opportunity requires a willingness to get dirty, a vehicle for transporting good and organization skills.

MAINTENANCE HELP

Volunteers assist with minor repairs and appliance installation in the homes of clients. Volunteers may be asked to assess a problem or the functionality of an appliance to determine if it is a quick fix or if KRM should contact the landlord. In these instances, volunteers are asked to exercise their own judgment and knowledge. Alternatively, volunteers may be assigned a defined task at a client's home with explicit instructions from staff. This position allows for flexible time commitment. This opportunity requires volunteers to be 18 years of age or older and willing to work on a project with little advance instructions.

OUTREACH TEAM

KRM is frequently invited to have a table or booth at events, fairs and festivals in the community. Outreach Team volunteers represent KRM and answer questions at the tabling events. The volunteers are provided with the informational materials to set up at the table and with answers to FAQs. Tabling events generally last two to three hours and may be in the evening or on a weekend. This position allows for flexible time commitment. Volunteers should be friendly, personable, and excited to share the work of KRM with the community.

SPECIAL EVENTS / FUNDRAISERS

Volunteers help plan and execute various fundraising and special events throughout the year. These include: Global Gourmet, our annual fundraiser; Louisville's WorldFest; World Refugee Day celebration; KRM Thanksgiving; and other seasonal parties. Volunteers helping with special events are required to be flexible, able to take on different tasks, friendly, and at least 16 years of age.

YARDWORK ASSISTANCE

Volunteers mow lawns in the spring, summer, and fall at the homes of refugee families. Many KRM clients are required by landlords to cut their grass and maintain their yards, but do not have the tools to do so. Volunteers can alleviate the responsibility of these clients by completing the task for them. This position allows for flexible time commitment. This opportunity requires that the volunteer owns and is able to transport a lawn mower.

OTHER PROGRAMS – *Intensive Commitment*

CO-SPONSORSHIP

Community groups like congregations, civic organizations, and businesses interested in providing direct assistance to arriving refugees should contact KRM's Sponsorship Developer at cosponsor@kyrm.org or (502) 479-9180 x513.

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE!

Do you have a particular skill or project that you'd like to use to give back to the clients of KRM? Please talk to the Volunteer Coordinator about your idea! Volunteers in the past have done photography projects, hosted musical shows to benefit KRM, made welcome cards and signs for arriving refugees, and much more.

WHAT DO OUR VOLUNTEERS LEARN?

- Problem Solving
- Flexibility
- Resource Management
- Cultural Competency
- Diplomacy
- Applying empathy
- Confidence
- Self-Sufficiency
- Independence
- Refugee Resettlement Process
- US Government & Social Service Systems
- Advocacy