Circle of Welcome Make Up, Commitments, Expectations

Circle of Welcome Make-Up:

6-10/15 people, 2 leaders need to be responsible for all communication, rallying the team, responding to and updating LSC staff (mainly the Outreach Coordinator)

2 leaders need to complete LSC paperwork packet and background checks and vet their team members

2 leaders and the group members need to complete LSC training session (usually offered online, around 1.5 hr time commitment)

2 leaders are responsible to track/turn in a monthly log of the hours that the group spends working with /helping the clients every month, since this is considered a donation and needs to be reported.

Commitment:

As a Circle of Welcome, your team commits to walk with this family in friendship and assisting with (and in some cases, completing) the **core services** for 6 months to one year. Your team leaders commit to engaging in regular, timely communication with LSC staff/the Outreach Coordinator to make sure that services are covered and not duplicated. Your team commits to partnering with LSC staff to assist this family in self-sufficiency. Your team commits to follow LSC lead on the timeline and priorities of the needs and services, respecting the role of the case manager, and taking a “crew mindset” into all interactions. Your team commits to dealing with the unexpected nature of refugee services (including the language barriers) with flexibility and resilience. Your team commits to a “marathon mindset.”

There is no specific requirement for financial contributions, but there is a heavy expectation of time and mileage, and an expectation of a few particular items to be donated/purchased throughout the Circle of Welcome commitment:

---The Circle of Welcome should be prepared to provide a two-time gift of groceries, for the clients when they move into permanent housing, and before they arrive to temporary housing from the airport.

---The Circle should be prepared to purchase the culturally appropriate meal for the clients when they arrive from the airport.

---The Circle should be prepared to assist with the move to temporary housing, as well as helping source donated furniture/household items for the housing set-up.

---The Circle should be prepared to assist with transport to medical appointments and grocery shopping, when the client is in the first few months of arrival to the US (R&P program).

---The Circle should be prepared to assist with the core services and commit to completing 8 of the core services. LSC staff will direct the timeline and communicate needs, so the Circle does not have to feel like they will be jumping in without clear direction. Core services include: transport to health screenings, the move to permanent housing, providing the culturally appropriate meal on arrival, assisting with job applications, assisting with SSA appointments, enrolling the clients in ESL class, helping with bus training, etc.

---The Circle should be prepared, at the appropriate time (and at LSC’s direction), to step back from an intense support role into a relationship-only role, encouraging the clients in self-sufficiency