



Community Organisation Refugee Sponsorship in Aotearoa

Sponsor Information Pack

WELCOME

Haere Mai,

As sponsors we have been journeying with 3 refugee families in a pilot scheme. We've also had the privilege of having many conversations with community groups that are interested in sponsorship as well as the other pilot sponsors.

Throughout these conversations we have realised that many of the same questions continue to arise.

So, while we still await a government decision on the future of Community Organisation Refugee Sponsorship (CORS) in New Zealand, we thought we'd put together an information pack with some answers.

We hope that this a useful resource for beginning to think about the practicalities of sponsorship in your context, as well as a tool for conversations. The content is also valuable for exploring how to build better cross-cultural relationships in a broader sense.

We deeply believe in the opportunity that welcoming refugees represents. Throughout the last year and a half, we have seen its transformative power, not just for refugees, but for all of the communities who have taken this journey.

We invite you to participate in this.

+++ SOUTH WEST BAPTIST CHURCH

WHAT IS COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP?

Community sponsorship involves individual people and community organisations taking the lead in directly helping refugees to settle in their communities.

It connects empathetic people, harnesses their networks and skills and empowers them to provide resettlement support to a refugee family.

Community Sponsorship is an opportunity for communities to respond to the global refugee crisis and be part of a journey of hope.

It also can be transformative for the local community. Not only does it humanise wars and crises happening on the other side of the world, it encourages people to connect with others in their community, to utilise and build their networks, and strengthens local relationships by working together on a common project.

Community Sponsorship is based on a highly successful model in Canada which has allowed them to settle 300,000 refugees over the last 40 years in addition to government funded programmes.

Similar to the Canadian programme, the NZ pilot has found that there are a variety of different models for successful community sponsorship. Whilst all community organisations have to meet certain criteria (see more on page 6), there is flexibility as to how they organise themselves. Two of the pilot sponsors were existing groups that met all the criteria by themselves. The other two sponsors saw individuals partner with organisations that possess the necessary structures and resources.

If you are an individual that is interested in Community Sponsorship or are an organisation but are unsure if you meet the criteria, it is still worth getting in touch.

The Need:



1.2 MILLION

Refugees in critical need
of resettlement



25.9 MILLION

Refugees worldwide



75,000

Resettlement places
available

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can a group choose the specific refugee/s they want to sponsor?

Potentially. This process is called 'Naming' or 'Nomination', and can be done on the basis of ethnicity, religion, or personal relationship. However, the Government still has other criteria that must be met, and therefore, not all naming applications are successful. There was only one successful case of naming in the first pilot.

How long do Community Sponsorship groups support the resettled refugees for?

In the pilot programme, sponsors formally committed to 2 years. Throughout that time, they had to perform certain activities to meet government requirements. However, international research shows that many sponsors and refugees build long term relationships that extend well beyond the formal commitment.

How much does it cost the sponsor group?

There are few required costs with community sponsorship so costs vary between groups depending on what each group decides to pay for. The main costs are in the first 3 months and pilot sponsors spent between \$5000 and \$18000 in this time¹. It is worth remembering that the goal of Community Sponsorship is self-sufficiency not dependency.

How is CORS different from other resettlement pathways?

Most refugees in New Zealand are resettled through the government funded programme, with a small amount coming through family reunification or asylum seeking. Community Sponsorship is additional to these pathways and is unique because local communities and people are responsible for the resettlement.

How can I apply to resettle refugees via Community Sponsorship?

At this point in time, there is no Government confirmation of an ongoing programme. We are however, hopeful that it is soon to come. We're inviting groups to register their interest by sending an email to nregnault@swbc.org.nz.

Who is eligible to sponsor?

Internationally there is a huge variety in the kinds of groups that sponsor. This could be a faith-based organisation, sports club, school, trust, community group etc. Page 6 gives more information about sponsorship requirements.

¹<https://www.mbie.govt.nz/assets/d3cedd12c2/community-organisation-refugee-sponsorship-category-pilot-process-evaluation.pdf>

What are the main commitments of being a Refugee Sponsor Group?



Building friendships and connecting refugees into the wider network of a community.



Supporting refugees on their journey towards employment in New Zealand.



Sourcing and assisting in the provision of appropriate housing and household items (including furniture).



Connecting refugees into local services e.g. schools, doctors, language courses.



Updating Immigration New Zealand when required.

“This seems like such a natural model. In terms of having communities of people who are looking out, who run into each other, who support each other... we haven’t just made friends with our (refugee) family, we’ve also deepened our friendships with other people. It’s a real privilege for us, being able to be involved.”

-Miriam Marshall
South West Baptist Church- Pilot Sponsor

“The refugee problem is so huge that many people feel overwhelmed. They really do want to help, but don’t know how. And people from all around our city have put up their hands to help in all sorts of practical ways. So, it’s given people a way of helping that they always wanted, but didn’t know how.”

-Mark Pavelka
Pastor at Gleniti Baptist Church- Pilot Sponsor

THE NEW ZEALAND EXPERIENCE

July
2018

- Refugees from the first pilot arrived in New Zealand. This was 6 families, sponsored by 4 community organisations.

November
2018

- A proposal was presented to the Minister on behalf of a newly formed Core Community Partnership¹, calling for the pilot to be expanded into a permanent programme.
- Amnesty International Aotearoa New Zealand presented the Minister with a campaign signed by 10,000 people showing their support for community sponsorship.

March
2019

- Like many around the world, our hearts broke with the Muslim community after March 15. Two of the families that South West Baptist Church sponsored in the first pilot were badly impacted. This tragedy compelled the public and government to consider how they could better support refugee and migrant communities.

May
2019

- The process evaluation for the first pilot was released by government². It was very positive on the progress so far.
- In a meeting with Minister of Immigration Iain Lees-Galloway, he committed to exploring the potential of extending the programme.

June 2019
- Ongoing

- The Core Community Partnership along with Amnesty International have had conversations and worked with a variety of different groups to look at the future of sponsorship in NZ. These include Government, Refugee Sector Groups, Tangata Whenua, Businesses, Faith Based Groups and more.

May
2020

- Anticipated announcement from Government regarding an expanded programme.

2020-
2021

- Depending on Government decision, potential call for sponsor applications.

¹ The Core Community Partnership is the Anglican, Baptist and Catholic Churches of New Zealand

² <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/assets/d3cedd12c2/community-organisation-refugee-sponsorship-category-pilot-process-evaluation.pdf>

³ Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative (GRSI)

IS MY GROUP ELIGIBLE TO SPONSOR?

This checklist is based off the requirements for the first pilot. It is likely that an expanded programme would still include similar requirements, however it is possible that there will be changes.

- Community Organisation must be a legal entity
- Have previous experience working with refugees and/or vulnerable people
- Financial resources to meet settlement responsibilities
- Willing to enter into a two-year agreement with government

IS MY GROUP READY TO SPONSOR?

A key responsibility within Community Sponsorship is implementing settlement plans. On pages 7 and 8 is a template that we think you might find useful. The template was created using common components from across the New Zealand pilot and international examples of settlement plans. You can use the headings as guiding points for things that are helpful to think about before sponsoring.

Other areas that may be helpful to think about before sponsoring are included below. It is a good idea to work through these with your group, though it requires a high level of trust and honesty.

- **Expectations**
 - What are your unspoken expectations for sponsorship? Are they fair and/or realistic?
- **Motivations**
 - What underpins your 'why' for sponsoring? How might this influence your sponsorship journey positively and negatively?
- **Capacity**
 - What is the realistic capacity of your group? Who is best able to fill certain roles? What gaps in resources or knowledge do you have? Think about the network of people that you know- they also may be able to assist in different ways.
- **Values**
 - What values will inform your actions? E.g. Confidentiality, friendship, empowerment? What scenarios may you need to use these in?

SETTLEMENT PLAN TEMPLATE

Settlement Goals	Family Goals (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Time-Based)	Implementation (who, how etc.)
<i>Housing</i>	Housing secured.	
	Good quality furnishings are provided and will be in the house prior to arrival.	e.g. Wider community to donate high quality household items during month before arrival. Will be stored in office.
	Utilities and Internet connected.	
	House and health & safety information pack provided. Include details like police number etc.	
<i>Participation</i>	Neighbourhood orientation-local shops, mosque/church etc.	
	Connect in to community services and programmes.	e.g. Jane to take Mum and toddler to local kid's music class on Tuesday mornings.
	Welcome at the airport and use of translators in early stages.	
<i>Health and Wellbeing</i>	Connect to GP services.	e.g. Jane (nurse at Christchurch Medical) to accompany family to enrol there- second week post arrival.

	Bank enrolment and WINZ support.	
	Initial assistance- sim card, clothes, groceries.	
<i>Education</i>	Enrolment in English language classes.	
	Children enrolled in local schools.	
<i>Self Sufficiency and Employment</i>	Creation of employment plan. Identify work skills and experience and future goals.	e.g. John Smith will meet with them during month 1.
	Arranging volunteering or training opportunities.	
	Supporting the creation of a NZ appropriate CV.	

FURTHER RESOURCES

South West Baptist Church:

(Reflections on the sponsorship journey)

www.swbc.org.nz/resettlement

I Welcome:

(The advocacy campaign of Amnesty International sharing stories of sponsors)

<https://www.iwelcome.org.nz/>

Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative:

(Global resources and information regarding sponsorship)

<http://refugeesponsorship.org/resources>

This information pack was created with support from:

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



SOUTH WEST BAPTIST CHURCH

anglican+
movement
DIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

baptist
churches of new zealand
te hāhi iriiri o aotearoa

Caritas
AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

