



# Program Overview

## Good Neighbor Partner(GNP)

## Champions Levels 1 & 2

**Thank you for your interest in partnering with LSSNCA to support a refugee family!**

**Through community partnership, GNP and Champions groups play a valuable role in the resettlement of new refugee families on their path towards self-sufficiency.**

**Below you will find more information about our community partnership**

<b>LSSNCA</b>	<b>GNP or Champions Groups</b>
<p><b>What is our mission?</b> Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSSNCA) accompanies those in need to foster resiliency, self-sufficiency, and access to opportunities by creating, connecting with, and engaging welcoming communities.</p> <p><b>What is our history of resettlement?</b> In the 1940s, LSSNCA was approached to act as the region's resettlement headquarters for refugees fleeing war-torn Europe. Since then, our community has consistently played an integral role in refugee resettlement, from the 1950s when local farmers offered employment to resettling refugees and congregations provided housing to today with growing support for our GNP and Champions Programs. We continue to grow and support those fleeing persecution, civil unrest, and acts of violence.</p> <p><b>Where are refugees resettled?</b> LSSNCA currently serves refugees resettling in Northern VA and MD. Our resettlement sites are located below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☐ Arbutus, Maryland</li> <li>☐ Fairfax, Virginia</li> <li>☐ Frederick, Maryland</li> <li>☐ Greenbelt, Maryland</li> <li>☐ Woodbridge, Virginia</li> </ul>	<p><b>What are these groups?</b> Good Neighbor Partner (GNP) is LSSNCA's community co-sponsorship program that engages congregations to offer core service support and rental assistance as part of resettling newly arrived families. Champions groups also offer core service support within the resettlement process.</p> <p><b>What is the goal of these groups?</b> By co-sponsoring or supporting a refugee family, our partners provide additional support to the family during their initial period of resettlement. The work of our partners helps to promote self-sufficiency and better outcomes for our clients.</p> <p><b>Who can participate?</b> GNP groups consist of local faith congregations (or larger organizations) that are interested in working closely with newly arrived refugee families to provide practical support, including rental assistance. Other community groups are welcome to participate in the Champions Level 1 or Level 2 programs.</p> <p><b>Why participate?</b> Participation in the GNP or Champions programs is a significant commitment. It is also an incredibly rewarding experience. In addition to mutual learning and connection, the programs help to create a more positive narrative around immigration and strengthen the social fabric of our communities.</p>

# How to Help Resettle Refugees

## Champions

 Congregations, groups of friends, college groups, colleagues or individuals

### Level 1

 3-6 Months

-  Set-up a home for an arriving family and provide all of the furnishings and household supplies
-  Support adjustment needs within the first 90 days, like transportation to and from appointments, and ongoing job development support.
-  Provide three (3) additional core areas of support, like school enrollment or applying for Social Security Numbers, in addition to pre- and day-of arrival support

### Level 2

 Pre-Arrival

-  Collect all furnishings and household items for a new home and set-up the home for the family's arrival

## Good Neighbor Partners

 Congregations

 1-year

-  Sets up a home for an arriving family and provides all the furnishings and household supplies
-  Supports adjustment needs within the first 90 days, like transportation to and from appointments, and ongoing job development support.
-  Provide three (3) additional core areas of support, like school enrollment or applying for Social Security Numbers, in addition to pre- and day-of arrival support
-  Pays full rent for 3 months and at least 6 months of partial rental assistance

<b>Good Neighbor Partner (GNP) and Champions Levels 1 &amp; 2</b>		
<b>GNP</b>	<b>1-year Commitment</b>	<b>Home Set-Up + Core Service Support + Rental Assistance</b>
<b>Champions Level 1</b>	<b>3- or 6-month Commitment</b>	<b>Home Set-Up + Core Service Support</b>
<b>Champions Level 2</b>	<b>Pre-Arrival Commitment</b>	<b>Home Set-Up</b>

## FAQs

**What is the typical size of a GNP or Champions group?** Whether a large congregation, medium-sized community group, or network of friends and family, you are welcome to partner with LSSNCA. However, we recommend group sizes of 5-20 people so that the work can be shared but there aren't so many people that some are left with nothing to do.

**What kinds of support or resources are provided?** Once a community group completes the Interest Form (found here: [Good Neighbor Partner and Champions Programs](#)), a Community Engagement Specialist (CES) from LSSNCA will reach out to schedule a general presentation. If the group is still interested in becoming a GNP or Champions group, the CES will then guide the group members through the onboarding process, which involves background checks and 1-2 additional training sessions. Each group will also receive a GNP and Champions Programs Manual that covers expectations, resettlement programs and services, and other guidelines to support partner groups during the lifecycle of their commitment period.

**What are the next steps?** Please complete and submit the Interest Form (found here: [Good Neighbor Partner and Champions Programs](#)). If you have any general questions, please email [gnp@lssnca.org](mailto:gnp@lssnca.org) or [engagement@lssnca.org](mailto:engagement@lssnca.org). Once you have submitted your group's Interest Form, our Community Engagement staff will reach out and schedule a presentation for your group.

