

CULTURAL COMPANIONS

KEEP IN

MIND

Your time and friendship will mean more to your family than anything else you can give.

You are their friend and neighbor, not their Case Manager. Cultural Companions best honor refugees when they come with hands that are both ready to serve and open to receive. Continually ask yourself, “Would I do this for a friend, or not?”

Work With, Don't Do For. In all situations, remember that the family you are partnered with are resilient and intelligent. They want to become self-sustainable and learn how to live life in America. When they come across a problem, empower them to reach out to their Case Manager, figure out how to solve it, or work through it *with* them, making sure to show/talk through every step of the process.

Avoid Assumptions. With only a small amount of biographical information on the refugees, it is important that you avoid making assumptions about the family you are going to welcome. Be ready to love and support whoever steps off the airplane as you fulfill the role God has called you to play in the refugee family's life. Additionally, we are not privy to the specific reasons why the family you are partnered with became refugees. This story may come up in conversations, however we don't recommend that the topic is pushed. Be sensitive and allow your relationship to develop and dictate the pace of disclosure.

Take time to breathe and pray. The journey of a Cultural Companion can be challenging, but God has a plan for you and for this family. There will be bumps in the road, but we promise this adventure will be a rewarding one that will leave you with an abundance of stories and memories.

You are not alone in this. The staff at World Relief are here to facilitate the adjustment of the families, and are here to support your team to make sure your questions and concerns are addressed. At the end of the day, we all are learning from and teaching one another.