

CULTURAL COMPANION – Fort Worth/Dallas, Texas

Goal

Cultural Companions are integral to the mission and vision of World Relief. Volunteers who step into this opportunity meet regularly with newly arrived families and individuals and walk alongside them as they integrate into their communities.

Primary Duties and Responsibilities

- Meet 3-4 times a month with the family or individual you are paired with
- Build friendships through visits with refugees in their homes and around the community
- Engage in English conversation practice to help strengthen their English skills
- Help connect a family or individual to local resources in their community (such as the bus, visiting a local library, connecting them to a food bank, etc.)
- Provide practical advice (basic finances, sorting mail, etc.)
- Learn about another's culture, values, and experience

Secondary Duties and Responsibilities

- Complete all onboarding steps in the Volunteer Portal:
 - Background Check – 5 mins
 - Local Live Orientation – 1.5 hrs
 - E-Learning – 45 mins
 - References – 2 mins
- Review confidentiality statement and policies in the National Volunteer Handbook
- Log hours in the Volunteer Portal
- Report any concerns or conflicts to the Volunteer Coordinator

Time Requirements

Cultural Companions are asked to meet 3-4 times a month for 6 months with the family or individual they are paired with.

Location

Location can be flexible, but it is recommended for volunteers to meet at the refugee's home at least the first few times. Once relationships and trust have been established, volunteers may explore the community with their partners.

Skill & Qualification Requirements

- Sensitivity and openness to persons of culturally diverse backgrounds
- High degree of patience, understanding, and flexibility
- Ability to work with people from different cultures and with limited English proficiency

- Comfortability engaging within local refugee communities

Orientation & Training

Volunteers will be required to complete the E-Learning training Navigating Cultural Differences. Other training and resources will be made available.

Supervision & Support

Cultural Companions will meet independently with the family or individual once all onboarding and training has been completed. The Volunteer Coordinator will help directly support the volunteer and will perform 30, 60, and 90-day check-ins.

How to Apply with Links

You can apply for this role by visiting <https://worldrelief.org/texas/get-involved/volunteer-application/>. For questions about this role, please email volunteertexas@wr.org.

Why Volunteer with Us?

The Impact of the Role

Cultural Companions are integral to World Relief's mission and vision. Volunteers who step into this role have the opportunity to care for refugees and other immigrants who are in vulnerable situations. Newly arrived refugees experience empowerment, friendship, and a smoother transition into their communities when paired with a Cultural Companion. We hope that both newcomers and established community members can experience mutually transformative relationships.

Goals for the Role

- Transformative relationships
- Integration
- Self-sufficiency
- Conversational English
- Empowerment
- Resettlement and integration support

The Benefits Volunteers Will Receive

- Cross-cultural engagement
- Greater understanding of the refugee integration process
- Advocacy
- Familiarity with community resources