CONNECTING WITH U.S. TIES

WHAT IS A US TIE?

Individuals or families resettling to the U.S. can identify friends or relatives already living in the U.S. with whom they wish to be reunited upon arrival. Once identified, those individuals are contacted by WR to confirm if they would like to have the newcomers resettled nearby. If they agree, these individuals are considered US Ties. There is no requirement for refugees to identify any U.S. Ties during overseas case processing, unless they are being processed through a family reunification program. U.S. Ties are not financially nor legally responsible for their newly arriving friends or relatives. However, they can play a helpful role in the resettlement process by supporting the resettlement experience of their friends or relatives in collaboration with the Resettlement Agency and your GNT.

CONNECTING WITH THE US TIE

The individual or family may have a U.S. Tie that, alongside your team, will support the newcomer's resettlement. Before the individual or family arrives, it is important to connect with their U.S. Tie:

- Reach out to WR to find out if the newcomers have a U.S. Tie. If so, ask if you can introduce yourself or provide your contact information to the U.S. Tie.
- Share with the U.S. Tie about the GNT Program, why you wanted to participate in this program, and a little about your team.
- Consider arranging a time for some of the team members to meet the U.S. Tie in their community before the individual or family arrives. Allow them to share what level of involvement they envision having in the newcomer's resettlement.

REMEMBER TO

- Log your volunteer hours on the Volunteer Portal
- Log case notes if required of GNT (Evidence of U.S. Tie coordination is required in case notes)

KEEP IN MIND

Although U.S. Ties may speak both English and the newcomer's language, they cannot be used as interpreters for core services. The one exception to this policy is for the airport pickup. If the U.S. Tie would like to be present at the airport, they can also function as an interpreter.

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