

CULTURAL COMPANION – Austin/Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas

Goal

Cultural Companions are integral to the mission and vision of World Relief, because we hope to build communities where refugee and immigrant neighbors flourish and find belonging. Volunteers who step into this opportunity meet regularly with refugee individuals and families to walk alongside them and as they integrate into their communities. Navigating a new country and community can be intimidating, so having a trusted companion throughout this process can be pivotal to their success.

Primary Duties and Responsibilities

- Meet 3-4 times a month with the individual or family 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 the individual or family to local resources in their community (such as the bus, visiting a local library, connecting them to a food bank, etc.)
- Provide practical support (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
 - E-Learning – 45 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 & Location

Cultural Companions are asked to meet 3-4 times a month for 6 months with the family or individual they are paired with. Location can be flexible, but it is recommended for volunteers to meet at the refugee's home the first few times. Once relationships and trust have been established, volunteers may explore the community with their partners.

Skill & Qualification Requirements

- Willingness to learn from others and openly share your own life experiences
- 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

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.