

REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP: BECOME A SUPPORT CHURCH



WORKING TOGETHER TO
HELP REFUGEES

(416) 588-1612

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www.auraforrefugees.org

THE GLOBAL NEED:

According to the United Nations (2024), more than 122 million people have been forced to leave their homes because of persecution, conflict, violence, and human rights violations. This number is rising every day. Many of them are refugees whose only option for a safe future is resettlement to a country like Canada. Canada's Private Sponsorship Program allows regular Canadians to help bring refugees to safety.

Has your parish been approached by someone asking for help with Refugee Sponsorship?

Are you looking for new outreach initiatives but have limited resources?

Do you want to welcome refugees and make a positive impact in your community?

While many Anglican parishes have formed sponsor groups, others lack the necessary resources to make this serious commitment on their own. Meanwhile, thousands of family/community groups are desperate to become sponsors but cannot access the program.

Your parish can bridge this gap by becoming a Support Church!

AURA is looking for parishes to become our partners in refugee resettlement. In these partnerships, family or community Co-Sponsor groups provide the funds and hands-on post-arrival support, and your parish becomes the vital link, connecting them to AURA and the sponsorship program. We help facilitate a partnership that aligns with your parish's capacity and walk you through the process.

Even with limited resources and volunteer capacity your parish can be an integral part to refugees finding a safe future in Canada.

AURA has been facilitating successful sponsorships with the Diocese of Toronto for over 30 years.

AURA receives thousands of requests yearly from local families desperate to sponsor loved ones.

The Private Sponsorship Program can only be accessed through organizations like AURA.

AURA needs Support Churches to help us by connecting family and community sponsor groups to the program.

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**A Support Church is an Anglican Parish
partnered with AURA and local Co-Sponsors to
resettle refugees.**



AURA:

AURA will guide you through each step in the process and we're happy to meet with parish representatives as needed to provide information and support.

AURA takes ultimate responsibility for ensuring the program requirements are met.

We would:

- Clarify roles and responsibilities through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at the beginning of the process
- Ensure Co-Sponsors have the necessary capacity and commitment
- Work with Co-Sponsors to prepare and submit the application to Immigration Canada
- Provide information, training and support throughout the process



Your Parish:

Your parish would be the connection that enables AURA to support the Co-Sponsors and enables the Co-Sponsors to access the program.

Your parish would:

- Designate one main contact to communicate with AURA and the Co-Sponsors
- Receive sponsorship funds from Co-Sponsors, hold them while the application is in process, and disburse them post-arrival to the refugee newcomers

There is no obligation to provide support beyond administering the funds, but there is an opportunity to be involved in welcoming the refugee(s) in line with the parish's interest and capacity if you want to. This might include sharing calls for housing, employment etc., or helping collect clothing and furniture.



The Co-Sponsors:

Co-Sponsors might be family groups, community groups or other faith groups who want to sponsor refugees they already know.

In these partnerships, the major responsibilities are fulfilled by the Co-Sponsors.

They would:

- Form a sponsor group
- Raise or provide the required funds to the church before the application is submitted to Immigration Canada
- Be responsible for providing all the required supports to the refugee(s) for one year, including:
 - meeting them at the airport
 - finding or providing housing
 - ensuring their basic needs are met
 - providing care and settlement assistance

**I KNOW FROM FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE THAT RESETTLEMENT
IS NOT ONLY A GIFT TO THE REFUGEES AND THEIR FAMILIES,
BUT ALSO A BLESSING TO THE SPONSORS AND PARISHES THAT
WELCOME THEM.**

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil

Sponsorship funds must be held by the Support Church, and in place before AURA submits an application. So, there is no financial risk for the parish.