Youth Mentoring Program

What? Build a relationship and meet regularly with a newly arrived refugee youth (age 6-18). Assist with homework, learning English, adapting to the United States, and growing up into a healthy young adult!

When? Meet for at least two hours per session with at least two sessions per month. Since our youth are in school, sessions are typically in the evenings or on weekends.

Where? Most of our mentees live in the neighborhoods of West Ridge, Rogers Park, or Uptown. Mentors typically meet at the mentee’s house, and sometimes take trips for recreational or educational activities.

Requirements:
- Must commit to mentoring for at least one full year, which starts when you are matched with your mentee.
- Must meet with your mentee at least twice a month for at least four hours per month and communicate all mentoring activities with Heartland staff.
- Must complete fingerprinting for an Illinois State Police and FBI background checks. The cost for this is roughly $65 and must be covered by the mentor.
- Must be screened through the National Sex Offenders Public Website and the Illinois Child Abuse & Neglect Tracking System.
- Must complete an online training on recognizing and reporting child abuse.

Early Childhood Education Program (Female-Identified Volunteers Only)

What? Work side-by-side with Heartland staff to provide supervision and age-appropriate academic activities (such as singing, games, and language practice) to 2-5 year-old refugee children while their parents attend English classes in our main office.

When? Pick one day a week and come in from 8:45am-1:00pm.

Where? At our office: 4419 N Ravenswood, Chicago, IL 60640. We also take field trips to a nearby park and library.

Requirements:
- Pass an online criminal history background check. The cost is $15.95 and must be covered by the volunteer.
- Complete a trial day after which you will debrief with Heartland staff to discuss your experience and decide whether or not you want to commit to the program.

After School Program

What? Work side-by-side with Heartland staff to help run an after school program for refugee youth. Provide one-on-one homework help and participate in life skills activities.
**When?** Program takes place from 4:00-6:00pm Monday through Thursday. Pick one day a week and come every week.

**Where?** Mondays and Wednesdays are in the West Ridge neighborhood, Tuesdays and Thursdays are in Rogers Park.

**Requirements:**
- Pass an online criminal history background check. The cost is $15.95 and must be covered by the volunteer.
- Commit to volunteering at least once per week (outside of vacation/illness) for at least four months (or one semester).

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**Women’s Empowerment Program (Female-Identified Volunteers Only)**

**What?** Pair up with an incredible and resilient refugee woman to help her learn about her new community, become less isolated, practice her English skills, become more self-sufficient and develop independent living skills in her new environment!

**When?** Once per week for an hour or two.

**Where?** The refugee’s home (typically Rogers Park or West Ridge).

**Requirements:**
- Pass an online criminal history background check. The cost is $15.95 and must be covered by the volunteer.
- Commit to volunteering at least once per week (outside of vacation/illness) for at least six months.

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**Housing and Donations Volunteer**

**What?** Be an integral part of creating a warm, welcoming environment for refugees by helping to prepare their first apartment in Chicago! Drive out to donation sites to load up our van with household goods, purchase furniture and household items with agency funds, and help set up brand new apartments for refugees.

**When?** Because you will work closely with our Housing Coordinator, Ryan, you must be available to help out during weekdays between 9-5. Specific scheduling can be arranged on a case-by-case basis, but we are looking for someone who can commit roughly 10 hours per week.

**Where?** Home base will be our office at 4419 N Ravenswood, but this position will travel all over the city and possibly to the suburbs to pick up donations. Most of apartment setup takes place in West Ridge, Rogers Park and Uptown.
Requirements:

- Must have a driver’s license and a clean driving record so that you can be screened and authorized to drive Heartland company vehicles.
- Must be able to lift heavy items up to 70 lbs. Setting up new apartments involves moving beds, couches and tables.
- Complete a background check.
- Commit to working with us for at least 6 months.