

REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP: AN OVERVIEW



Working Together to Help Refugees

(416) 588-1612 | info@auraforrefugees.org | www.auraforrefugees.org

WHO IS A REFUGEE?

A refugee is someone outside their country of nationality, unable or unwilling to return because of a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a social group. For resettlement to Canada, a refugee must also show that they are unable to remain in their country of asylum.

Since 1991, AURA has facilitated the sponsorship of refugees from over 20 countries:



ABOUT AURA

AURA is a Canadian charitable organization assisting in the sponsorship and resettlement of refugees. Our mission is to provide support and expertise to groups involved in refugee sponsorship and resettlement on behalf of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto.

HOW AURA WORKS

AURA works closely with parishes to develop, submit and monitor refugee sponsorship applications. We provide support and guidance throughout the entire process. We receive thousands of requests for sponsorship every year, but only applications refugees matched with an Anglican Parish can be submitted.

SUPPORT FROM AURA

- AURA provides training and support to all sponsor group members.
- Our detailed sponsorship handbook provides up to date information about overarching considerations and specific settlement tasks.

WHAT IS REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP?

Refugee sponsorship allows Canadians to personally welcome refugee newcomers to their communities. A sponsor group commits to providing financial, emotional and settlement support to a refugee individual or family for the period of one year. The program began with the 'Boat People' in the 1970s and has earned Canada recognition worldwide.

SPONSORSHIP REQUIRES DEDICATED SPONSORS WHO TRULY WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

SPONSOR RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Reception** - Meet the newcomers at the airport.
- **Lodging** - Provide a suitable home, basic furniture and household items.
- **Care** - Food, clothing, public transportation and other basic necessities.
- **Settlement Assistance and Support** - Help newcomers adjust to life in Canada (language training, future employment or education, day-to-day life).

ESTIMATED COST:

The total cost of a sponsorship depends on many factors and is difficult to predict exactly.

Family Size	Approximate Cost
1	\$20,000
2	\$30,000
3	\$35,000
4	\$40,000
5	\$45,000
6	\$50,000

Approximately 70% of funds must be raised before an application can be submitted.

AURA WILL BE THERE TO SUPPORT YOU THROUGH THE REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP PROCESS.



Working Together to Help Refugees

(416) 588-1612 | info@auraforrefugees.org | www.auraforrefugees.org

We deeply value the integrity of the refugee sponsorship program and have policies and guidelines in place based on decades of experience. AURA will meet with your sponsor group to answer questions and explain the process.

TYPES OF REFUGEE CASES:

AURA works with 2 types of refugee sponsorship applications: Named and BVOR

Private Sponsorship Type	Processing Time Submission to Arrival	Who names the refugees?	Family in Canada?	Accepted by Canadian Government?	Funding Available?	Number of Cases AURA can submit
Named	1 - 3 years	Family members/ organizations in Canada	Almost always	Application required	None (sometimes family members contribute)	Limited (yearly allocation system)
Blended Visa Office Referred (BVOR)	2 - 4 months	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Sometimes	Already accepted, 'travel ready'	Government provides financial assistance for 6 months	Unlimited

OVERVIEW OF EACH SPONSORSHIP PROCESS:

Named Cases	Blended Visa Office Referred (BVOR)s
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An Anglican church/sponsor group/family expresses interest in sponsoring a refugee 2. AURA assesses the refugee's eligibility and confirms an Anglican parish to facilitate the sponsorship. 3. The sponsors raise the required funds, submit contact info and police background checks. 4. AURA completes paperwork with the refugees/sponsors/parish and receives Diocesan approvals. 5. AURA submits the application to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). Processing, including security checks, medicals and interview begins. Takes 1 - 3 years. 6. IRCC makes a final determination. 7. Refugees arrive as Permanent Residents and the 1 year sponsorship period begins. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Refugees are referred to Canadian Visa Offices by the UNHCR. 2. Sponsors express interest to AURA to sponsor refugees, without a particular family in mind. 3. The sponsors raise the required funds, submit their contact info and police checks to AURA. 4. AURA matches the sponsor group with a BVOR refugee family/individual. 5. AURA completes the required paperwork with the parish and receives Diocesan approvals. 6. AURA submits the application. IRCC assess sponsor eligibility and makes travel arrangements. Takes 2 - 4 months. 7. Refugees arrive as Permanent Residents and the 1 year sponsorship period begins.

Are YOU Ready to Get Involved?

Invite AURA staff to speak to your outreach committee or sponsorship group.

Contact AURA to learn more about sponsorship opportunities for your community.

Donate to AURA. Donations from refugee supporters enable us to continue our work supporting sponsors!