



IRC in Baltimore

Welcome Home Project

OUR MISSION

The International Rescue Committee, Inc. (IRC) helps people whose lives and livelihoods are shattered by conflict and disaster to survive, recover and gain control of their future. Founded in 1933 at the request of Albert Einstein, the IRC offers lifesaving care and life-changing assistance to people forced to flee from war or disaster. At work today in over 40 countries and 25 U.S cities, we restore safety, dignity and hope to millions who are uprooted and struggling to rebuild their lives. The IRC opened in Baltimore in 1999.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: WELCOME HOME PROJECT

Every year, the IRC welcomes hundreds of refugees, asylees and other humanitarian immigrants to the Baltimore metropolitan area. The Welcome Home Project (WHP) offers individuals or groups an opportunity to prepare an apartment and help to welcome a family to their new home in Baltimore.

HOW IT WORKS

- 1) **Training and Application:** Attend an information session webinar to learn more. [RSVP here](#) to an info session. After the info session, you will receive a link to sign up for a special Welcome Home Project training session. At least one member of your WHP group must attend both an IRC information session webinar and WHP training, and submit a volunteer application.
- 2) **Confirm and begin collecting!** Organize your group. IRC asks each group to have one point person to be the point of contact with our housing and logistics team. Your group leader contacts the established IRC point person to confirm your participation and once all items are collected. IRC does not store collected WHPs, so groups must be prepared to store items until set-up.
- 3) **Household assignment:** The IRC housing and logistics team will contact your team with a specific set-up assignment date and household size, ages, genders and country of origin, so that the WHP items can be tailored specifically to the household. The length of time between finished collection and assignment can range from weeks to months depending on the current need and available volunteers.
- 4) **Set-up day!** Your team transports items to the apartment on the scheduled day. Note that group sizes are limited due to COVID-19 safety protocol. All members sign a confidentiality agreement on set-up day to protect the safety and privacy of our clients. The set-up occurs in an empty apartment, before household members have arrived.
- 5) **Follow-up:** IRC will provide a brief follow-up about one month after the set-up.



LEARN MORE: all of our current volunteer opportunities are updated on [our website!](#)

Items to Collect (for a family of 5)

Italicized items are optional but always appreciated! You are welcome to add to both the variety and quantity of items listed below. If you believe a donation would be useful to a new home, you are likely right!

The IRC is committed to providing only new or gently used items to our clients. Used items should be clean. Items should not have tears or stains. *Starred items must be new.

Kitchen

8 bowls, 8 plates
 8 glasses, 8 mugs
 8 utensil sets (fork, knife, spoon)
 3 kitchen knives
 1 cutting board
 2 pots with lids
 2 frying pans
 1 oven mitt or hot pad
 1 baking sheet
 1 can opener
 1 set of cooking utensils
 2 mixing bowls
 2 dish towels
 1 large kitchen trash can
 1 large kitchen trash bags
Tea kettle
Microwave

Linens / Other

1 small trash can
 3 floor lamps
 5 pillows
 5 bath towels, 5 washcloths
 3 twin sheet sets
 3 twin blankets or comforters
 1 full/queen sheet set
 1 full blanket or comforter
 25 hangers
 1 broom and dustpan
 1 shower curtain and rings
 2 packages of light bulbs
 5 notepads and pens
 2 sets of large plastic drawers (one for each bedroom, large enough to hold clothes)

Cleaning

*4 sponges
 *1 laundry detergent
 *1 all-purpose cleaner
 *1 dish detergent
 *1 toilet brush and holder
 1 broom and dustpan
Vacuum

*Toiletries

*12 rolls toilet paper
 *2 shampoo
 *5 deodorant
 *5 toothbrushes
 *2 toothpaste
 *5 bars of soap
 *2 packs of feminine hygiene products (pads)
 *2 packs of razors and shaving cream

*Non-Perishable Food

*Cooking oil
 *Sugar
 *Salt
 *1 bag of potatoes
 *1 bag of onions
 *1 box of black tea
 *1 bag of rice

*Perishable Food (optional)

*2 loaves of bread
 *1 gallon of whole milk
 *1 dozen eggs
 *Bananas or apples
 *Tomatoes or cucumbers
 *Cooked food – rotisserie chicken, rice

Furniture (optional)

Kits may be delivered without furniture. Contact IRC for details.

Couch or armchairs for 5
Dining or kitchen table with 5 chairs
2 dressers or chest of drawers
**3 twin size mattresses (and box spring)*
3 twin bed frames
**1 double mattress (and box spring)*
1 double bed frame

Other optional items: area rugs, coffee table, side tables, table lamps, television, bicycle(s), backpacks, winter coats/hats/gloves