

Tips for Creating Multi-Church Partnerships

- **Assign one person to be the Chair of the sponsorship committee.** This person should be the main contact for all correspondence with World Renew.
- **Check out the “[Guidelines for Forming a Refugee Sponsorship Committee](#)” document (see APPENDIX).** It is a good starting point for understanding the various volunteer roles that can be shared with the partnering churches.
- **Assign one point-person in each church to be responsible for communicating news about the sponsorship to their respective church.** Use the “[Tips for Keeping your Sponsoring Community Informed](#)” document (see APPENDIX) as a guide for what information is appropriate to share with your church community and how.
- **Decide how and when the partnering churches will communicate with each other.** Ensuring open communication is critical for building trust and partnership. Share news, challenges, questions, and successes as they arise and as they are helpful. All churches will want to feel part of the process and successful settlement.
- **Clearly outline all tasks involved in the refugee settlement process.** During the process of seeking to form a partnership between multiple groups, review “[The Settlement Plan](#)” (see APPENDIX for a sample) to establish responsibilities.
- **Do not create volunteer teams that are too large or numerous.** Since multiple churches are involved, you may want to replicate all the sponsorship activity sub-groups (i.e. housing, transportation, translation) needed for the refugee settlement process *in each church*. This may not be necessary – *more* is not always better. Be mindful of how many different volunteers are working directly with the newcomers to minimize confusion and not overwhelm them.

- **Establish clear expectations around what percentage of the financial contributions each church will make.** This will also help each church set and meet its own fundraising goals. It is not necessary for each church to contribute the same amount, but the amount should be agreed upon and clear.
- **Utilize the same volunteers for repeating tasks that involve face-to-face interactions and accompaniment of the newcomers** (such as giving rides to a doctor's appointment). Consistency will help build trust between the sponsoring group and the sponsored refugee(s).
- **Celebrate your accomplishments together.** Successfully completing a refugee sponsorship is no small task, and it is certainly a reason to celebrate! We encourage your churches to celebrate all you have achieved together. Meet in one of the partnering churches to hear what was most rewarding, what lessons were learned, and what you appreciated most from each other in this partnership. *This is a time of gratitude and prayer.*