



# REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP

## The Blended Visa Office-Referred Program

### The BVOR Program

#### Enriching our Communities

The BVOR Program helps resettle refugees identified by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). It is a partnership between Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), the private sponsors, the refugees, and the communities where they will be resettled. IRCC provides up to six months of income support for the newcomers, while private sponsors provide another six months of financial support, start-up costs and one year of settlement, social and emotional support.

Refugees identified for the BVOR program have been assessed and meet Canadian government resettlement criteria. They are travel-ready, and just need to be matched with sponsors.

#### Why Sponsor a BVOR Refugee?

BVOR refugees have been living in unsafe situations, often for many years, with little hope of a secure future. You will help these vulnerable people find a safe home in Canada. The number of refugees is increasing, yet many countries have reduced the number they will accept.

The BVOR program provides an opportunity to bring more refugees to safety in Canada every year.

Sponsorship is an enriching experience for all involved.

#### Who can Sponsor a BVOR Refugee?

To sponsor BVOR refugees, you must be either a:

- Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH) or one of its Constituent Groups (a SAH has a formal agreement with the federal Government);
- Group of Five;
- or Community Sponsor.

Ask us how you can form a group with your neighbours, work colleagues or members of your faith community.

#### What are your Responsibilities as a Sponsor?

Sponsors will share their community with the sponsored refugee(s) to help them settle into Canadian life. Providing settlement and emotional

support through the year-long sponsorship period can look like:

- Reception at the airport
- Arrange for housing and other basic necessities
- Help find healthcare providers
- Enroll the newcomers in school
- Connect the newcomers with language classes, job training and settlement services
- Connect the newcomers with social activities they might find interesting

#### How we can help ?

Reach out to us at the Refugee Sponsorship Training Program (RSTP). Our experienced trainers provide training and support for Canadian refugee sponsorship groups across Canada. We offer regular workshops, webinars and e-training courses on all aspects of refugee sponsorship, from how to complete applications to preparing sponsored refugees for their post-sponsorship life.

Contact us at [bvor@rstp.ca](mailto:bvor@rstp.ca) or visit [www.rstp.ca](http://www.rstp.ca).