



4 Key Philosophies of Church World Service

1. Confidentiality

- As an organization with access to a clients' private information, we are legally and ethically bound to honor their privacy by not sharing with others access to information that is not integral to their involvement.
- We ask that you not post information or pictures of refugees on the web or in print without their prior permission, and that you remain mindful of refugees' privacy during all conversations, refraining from the dissemination of their personal information such as personal identification numbers and medical records.
- The refugees you will interact with may not want to share information concerning their past, their medical condition, or other details of their life with you. It is their right to keep this information private.

2. Acceptance

Although it is natural to share what is important to you with others, we firmly request that cosponsors not engage in proselytism. Many refugees have spent years fleeing persecution because of their faith, and this may be their first chance to live without fear that someone has an agenda to change them in some way. Proselytizing is defined as "inducing someone to convert to one's own religion." In all that you do, make sure the refugees understand that your help is not contingent on their participation in your church or religion; we don't want them to feel they have to become like us in order to receive our assistance.

3. Sustainability

Refugees arrive with so many needs you may think it's impossible for you to help with all of them. You're right! It is important in your service to refugees that you always remember you are not ultimately responsible for their well-being. The key to serving in a way that is sustainable is maintaining healthy boundaries, which includes having a clear understanding of your responsibilities, identifying whose responsibility it is to help solve the problem, and recognizing your limits.

4. Empowerment

The goal of the U.S. Refugee Resettlement program and each of our staff, clients, and the community members who support them is self-sufficiency. Many refugees arrive having lost confidence in their abilities and feeling scared, lost and alone. In all of our decisions and actions, we want to work to ensure arriving refugees are becoming self-sufficient and independent as quickly as possible.