



# IRC in Los Angeles

## Welcome Home Volunteers

### 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 in over 40 countries and 25 U.S. cities, we store safety, dignity, and hope to millions who are uprooted and struggling to rebuild their lives.

### Volunteer opportunity: Welcome Home Volunteers

Every year, the IRC welcomes hundreds of refugees, asylees, and other humanitarian immigrants to the Southern California area. The Welcome Home Volunteers (WHV) opportunity offers individuals and groups a chance to help us prepare a new apartment by sourcing essential home goods. Welcome Home Volunteers help our team go the extra mile by ensuring that these new homes are warm and welcoming.

### How it works

- **Training and Application:** Attend a Welcome Home Information Session. For groups: please note that at least one member of your WHV group must attend the Information Session and submit a volunteer application.
- Welcome Home Volunteers are also added to our **WHV directory**. Our team will routinely send out newsletters with our current in-kind donation needs. WHV can expect these needs to be communicated by: weekly wishlists or by seasonal requests.
- **Confirm and begin collecting!** Organize yourself or your group. IRC asks each group to have one person to be the point of contact with our team. Your group leader contacts the established IRC point person to confirm your participation once all items are collected. IRC does not store items, so groups must be prepared to store items until notified by IRC for delivery.
- **Drop-off day!** Your team delivers the items to our office in Glendale.
- **For Delivery Drivers:** Volunteers will be added to an on-call/as-needed WHV register. Our team will contact volunteers and share our delivery needs at which point volunteers can choose the opportunities that best fit with their schedule and location.

# Items Checklist

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.

## Household Essentials

- 2 floor lamps
- 2 packages of light bulbs
- 5 notepads and pens
- 2 sets of large plastic drawers (one for each bedroom, large enough to hold clothes).
- 25 hangers
- 1 shower curtain with rings
- 1 small sewing kit
- 1 screwdriver set

### Optional:

- First aid kit
- Vacuum

## Cleaning

- \*4 sponges
- \*1 laundry detergent
- \*1 all-purpose cleaner
- \*dish detergent
- \*toilet brush and holder
- 1 large kitchen trash can
- 1 box of large trash bags
- 1 small trash can
- 1 box of small trash bags
- \*1 broom and dustpan
- \*1 mop
- \*Dryer sheets
- \*Hand soap
- \*Toilet paper
- \*Paper towels
- \*Flushable wipes

## Kitchen

- 6 bowls, 6 plates
- 6 glasses, 6 mugs
- 6 utensil sets (fork, knife, spoon)
- 3 kitchen (cooking) knives
- 1 cutting board
- 2 pots with lids
- 2 frying pans
- 1 saucepan
- 1 oven mitt or hot pad
- 1 baking sheet
- 1 can opener
- 1 set of cooking utensils
- Serving spoons
- Spatula
- 2 mixing bowls
- 1 measuring cup set
- 1 measuring spoon set
- \*2 dish towels

### Optional:

- Tea kettle
- Microwave
- Rice cooker
- Extra large baking dish
- Grocery store gift card

# Items Checklist

## Hygiene

- \*Hairbrush
- \*Detangling hair brush
- \*Hair comb
- \*Toothbrushes
- \*Kids toothbrush
- \*Toothpaste
- \*Shampoo
- \*Conditioner
- \*Body wash
- \*Bar soap
- \*Body lotion
- \*Women's Deodorant
- \*Men's deodorant
- \*Shaver's
- \*Shaving cream
- \*5 Chapstick

Feminine products:

- \*Maxi pads
- \*Tampons

## New Baby

- \*Newborn diapers
- \*Size 1 diaper
- \*Baby wipes
- \*Diaper cream
- \*Newborn first aid kit
- \*Receiving blankets
- \*Swaddle blankets
- \*Baby soap
- \*Baby lotion

### Optional:

- Car seat (contact us for additional info.)
- Stroller
- \*Baby Bath

## Linens

- \*5 pillows
- \*5 pillowcases
- \*5 bath towels, 5 washcloths
- \*3 twin sheet sets
- \*3 twin blankets or comforters
- \*1 full/queen sheet set
- \*1 full blanket or comforter
- \*2 Throw blanket

**Furniture or bulkier items:** volunteers can also help with storing bulkier items at their residences or with delivering furniture and appliances directly to our clients.

## Furniture

- Couch or armchairs
- Dining or kitchen table (set for 5)
- 2 dressers or chest of drawers
- \*2 twin-size mattresses & box springs
- 3 twin bed frames
- \*1 double mattress & box spring
- 1 double bed frame

### Optional:

- Area rugs
- Coffee table
- Side tables
- Table lamps
- Television
- Bicycle(s)

# FAQs

## **Do I have to be a part of a group to participate?**

- You do not need to be a part of a group to participate. Individuals are welcome to participate on their own.

## **Is there a commitment timeframe required?**

- No. WHVs are welcome to determine how frequently they will like to commit. For example, some WHVs might decide to participate once a year while others might want to commit to a schedule of every few months.

## **I prefer not to be added to the WHV directory is that allowed?**

- Yes! That is an option. However, we highly encourage WHVs to add themselves to our WHV directory as it's the best way to stay up-to-date on our current needs.

## **Do I need to complete a background check to participate?**

- Our WHVs who wish to participate in delivering items directly to our clients will have to complete a criminal background check. To help us offset some of the cost of the background check we request a donation of \$49 so that more of our program dollars can go directly to the people we serve and not to overhead costs. If this donation is a barrier to your participation, please contact the Volunteer Specialist, Kristie Wong for further help.

## **Can I do both roles, that is source for in-kind donations and deliver donations directly to refugees?**

- Yes! WHVs are welcome to perform both roles. However, WHVs who wish to become delivery drivers will need to complete a criminal background check. SEE ABOVE.

## **What items do IRC-LA not take?**

- Wore, torn, or stained items. Baby car seats that are more than a year old. Used linens. Religious items such as holiday decorations or ornaments.



# IRC Donations

## Kitchen Kit

### **Delivery options:**

**Ship directly to our office** - Package complete kits in boxes and send them to:

International Rescue Committee  
Attn: Welcome Home Volunteers Project  
625 N. Maryland Avenue  
Glendale, CA 91206

**Schedule a donation drop-off or sign up to attend the Welcome Home Donations Drive Event** - Please email [kristie.wong@rescue.org](mailto:kristie.wong@rescue.org)

- Frying pan
- Saucepan
- Boiling pot
- Can opener
- Bowls (4)
- Dinner plates (4)
- Drinking glasses (4)
- Large mixing/serving bowl
- Large wastebasket
- Small wastebasket
- Teakettle
- Trash bags
- Dish soap
- Kitchen towels (2)
- Dinner utensils (set of 4)
- Serving utensils
- Spatula
- Knife set
- Potholder (2)
- Rice cooker (optional)
- Dinner plates (4)
- Drinking glasses (4)
- Large mixing/serving bowl
- Large wastebasket
- Small wastebasket
- Teakettle
- Trash bags
- Dish soap
- Kitchen towels (2)
- Dinner utensils (set of 4)



# IRC Donations

## Hygiene Kit

### **Delivery options:**

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- Toothbrush (4)
- Toothpaste
- Floss
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Body wash
- Body lotion
- Hand lotion
- Deodorant (4)
- Chapstick
- Hand soap
- Shaving cream
- Razors utensils
- Hair brush
- Hair comb
- Cotton swabs
- Cotton rounds
- Toiletpaper
- First aid kit (optional)



# IRC Donations

## Cleaning Kits

### **Delivery options:**

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- All purpose cleaner
- Toiletbowl cleaner
- Glass cleaner
- Floor cleaner
- Vinegar
- Shower cleaner
- Magic eraser
- Oven cleaner
- Dish soap
- Kitchen sponges
- Hand soap
- Laundry detergent
- Stain treater
- Fabric softer
- Bleach
- Oxi-Clean
- Mop
- Mop bucket
- Broom
- Dustpan
- Cleaning caddy
- Rubber gloves
- Sponges
- Microfiber cloths
- Scrub brush
- Toilet brush
- Anti-bacterial wipes
- Duster
- Trash can
- Trash bags
- Paper towels
- Vacuum (optional)
- Carpet cleaner (optional)



# IRC Donations

## **Bathroom Kits**

### **Delivery options:**

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Glendale, CA 91206

**Schedule a donation drop-off or sign up to attend the Welcome Home Donations Drive Event** - Please email [kristie.wong@rescue.org](mailto:kristie.wong@rescue.org)

- Trash can
- Soap dispenser
- Toothbrush holder
- Bath mat
- Toilet plunger
- Drain cover
- Shower caddy
- Shower curtain
- Bath towels (2)
- Hand towels (2)
- Hair dryer (optional)
- Laundry basket (optional)