



# 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, people granted asylum and other humanitarian immigrants to the Baltimore metropolitan area. The Welcome Home Project (WHP) offers individuals or groups an opportunity to prepare an apartment to make it into a welcoming home for an incoming family.

### HOW IT WORKS

- 1) **Training and Application:** [RSVP here](#) to attend an information session to learn more. After the info session, you will receive a link to sign up for a Welcome Home Project training session. At least one member of your WHP group must attend both an IRC information session and WHP training, as well as submit a volunteer application.
- 2) **Confirm and Begin Collecting:** IRC asks each group to have one group leader 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 in WHP. The group leader will also contact the IRC point person once all items are collected. The IRC in Baltimore does not have storage space for collected items, so groups must be prepared to store items until set-up day.
- 3) **Household Assignment:** The IRC housing and logistics team will contact your team with a specific household assignment that includes set-up date, 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 depending on the current need and available volunteers.
- 4) **Set-Up Day:** Your team transports items to the apartment on the scheduled day. 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.



**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.

**Kitchen**

8 bowls, 8 plates  
 8 glasses, 8 mugs  
 8 utensil sets (fork, knife, spoon)  
 3 kitchen knives  
 1 cutting board  
 2 pots (1 large) with lids  
 2 frying pans  
 2 oven mitts  
 1 baking sheet  
 1 baking dish  
 1 can opener  
 2 mixing bowls  
 2 dish towels  
 1 large kitchen trash can  
 1 large kitchen trash bags (40 13 gal. bags)  
 Tea kettle  
 1 spatula  
 1 cooking spoon  
 1 slotted spoon  
 1 whisk  
 1 ladle  
 1 tongs  
 1 peeler  
 1 pot holder  
 Drawer organizer  
*Paper towels*  
*Bottle opener*  
*Measuring cups and spoons*  
*Silverware holder*  
*Aluminum foil*  
*Sandwich bags*  
*Pizza cutter*  
*Microwave*

**Cleaning**

6 sponges  
 1 bottle dish soap  
 2 containers laundry detergent  
 1 toilet brush and holder  
 1 plunger per bathroom  
 1 bottle all-purpose cleaner spray  
 1 broom & dustpan  
 Mop & bucket  
 Vacuum (if there is a carpet)

**Small Furniture / Other**

1 small trash can per bathroom  
 1 shower curtain w/ rings set per shower  
 1 shower curtain liner per shower  
 6 bath towels  
 6 washcloths  
 1 twin sheet set per twin bed  
 1 twin blanket or comforter per twin bed  
 1 full/queen sheet set  
 1 full/queen blanket or comforter  
 1 pillow per person  
 1 floor lamp for living room  
 1 floor lamp per bedroom  
 2 packages light bulbs  
 Hangers (at least 10 per person)  
 6 notepads & pens  
 3 sets large plastic drawers (or bureaus) for clothes  
*Toy ball*  
*Area rug*  
*Stuffed animals*  
*Coffee table*  
*Hand towels*  
*Alarm clock*  
*Throw blankets*  
*Side tables*  
*Table lamps*  
*Television*  
*Bicycle(s)*  
*Backpacks*  
*Winter coats/hats/gloves*

**Toiletries**

12 rolls of toilet paper  
 1 toothbrush per person  
 3 toothpastes  
 1 pack feminine hygiene per woman over 12  
 1 lotion or Vaseline  
 3 shampoos  
 3 combs/hairbrushes  
 2 packs of razors  
 2 bottles shaving cream  
 First aid kit w/ thermometer  
 9 bars of soap  
 6 deodorant (3 men's, 3 women's)  
*Conditioner*  
*Toothbrush holder*  
*Tissues*  
*Hand soap*

**Baby Items (only needed if there is a baby)**

Baby spoon  
 Sippy cup  
 Baby food  
 Baby lotion  
 1 large box of diapers (age appropriate)  
 Baby bath wash  
 1 box of baby wipes  
 Crib or Pack 'n' Play w/ mattress  
 2 sets of crib sheets  
 Highchair or booster seat  
 Baby blanket

**Food**

Cooking oil  
 Bag of potatoes  
 Bag of rice  
 Cereal  
 2 loaves of bread  
 Bananas  
 Cucumbers  
 Cheese slices  
 Sugar  
 Bag of onions  
 Peanut butter  
 Canned veggies  
 Canned beans  
 1 gallon whole milk  
 Apples  
 Salt  
 Black tea  
 Pasta  
 Flour  
 Oatmeal  
 1 dozen eggs  
 Tomatoes  
 Spaghetti sauce  
 Yogurt tub  
 Fresh veggies  
 First night meal (if family is arriving within 1 day of set-up)  
*Canned fruit*  
*Frozen food*  
*Ketchup*  
*Applesauce*  
*Mac n cheese*  
*Mustard*  
*Soup*  
*Nuts*

**Furniture (optional)**

*Kits may be delivered without furniture. Contact IRC for details. Mattresses **must** be new.*

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