REFUGEE YOUTH PROGRAM

Catholic Community Services of Utah has been resettling refugees since 1974. Refugees resettled through CCS are often times fleeing their home country due to persecution because of race, religion, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group.

Adjusting to a new environment can be difficult for anyone. Learning a new language, culture, and way of life are just a few of the obstacles refugees encounter when resettling in Utah. CCS’s youth programming tries to create support systems and coordinate resources for these youth transitioning to life in Utah.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND NAVIGATION

Every child from age three to eighteen will be enrolled in a local school directly after their health screening. While attending school, our youth coordinator will track and monitor students’ progress in attendance and academic achievement, providing intervention and in home support when needed. Each adult in the family will receive orientation on navigating the school system during their first month in Utah. Some of the topics that are addressed in this orientation are preschool, elementary, middle, and high school structures, grades, buses, parent teacher conferences, after school programs, school lunches and fees, people who work at the schools, etc. Our Early Childhood Navigator works closely with families to assist in preschool enrollments so our youth are kindergarten ready.

REFUGEE YOUTH MENTORING

The Refugee Youth Mentor program matches mentors who are 21 or older with youth age 9-17 years old for a minimum of a 12 month commitment. Mentors attend 8 hours of training on trauma-informed care and developmental assets, and complete a background screening process. The roles of a mentor are to take the lead in supporting a young person through an ongoing one-on-one relationship, serve as a positive role model and friend, build the relationship by planning activities together, and help set goals and work towards accomplishing them. The mentee with receive assistance in academic issues, self-esteem, peer relationships, vocational training, family issues, attitude, and social skills. CCS coordinates quarterly group activities and ongoing trainings for mentors.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM AND TUTORING

The refugee youth program links students to after school programs at local schools or at local community centers. If students need additional assistance, CCS will coordinate referrals for programming to provide more support. Collaborating with the local after school programs and providing additional programming gives all CCS youth an opportunity to have access to quality after school programing.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERS


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Providing Help... Creating Hope...