

Volunteer

Volunteer opportunities are generally Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. to coincide with Catholic Charities office hours. A background check and Virtus training will be necessary for all volunteer opportunities. Orientation and training will be provided. Contact Richey Thongvanh at 515-237-5090 or rthongvanh@catholiccharitiesdm.org with questions.

Opportunity	Description
Emergency Family Shelter <small>(Formerly known as St. Joseph Emergency Family Shelter)</small> Weekly	Join our crew of staff and volunteers as we maintain our 24/7 Emergency Family Shelter. Basic housework, cleaning, and preparing meals are just a few of our volunteer roles. We are always in need of help in this life-changing facility! Contact Ashley at 515-282-1235 • Address: 1535 11th Street, Des Moines
Food Pantry <small>(Formerly known as St. Mary Family Center)</small> Weekly	Volunteers at the Food Pantry may assist clients through the choice food pantry, pick up food donations, distribute food at the food counter, and assist with cleaning throughout each shift. Shifts vary with need. Hours: 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Monday - Friday. Contact Brooke at 515-262-7290 • Address: 1815 Hubbell Avenue, Des Moines
Donation Organization Weekly	Help organize and sort household items and furniture in our storage rooms and warehouse. This activity is regularly needed and can be done by groups. Large groups can volunteer outside of normal office hours.
Apartment Setup Weekly or as needed	Help refugees arrive to a welcome environment. Assist in setting up apartments by moving furniture unpacking items, washing dishes, making beds and setting out toiletries. Turn Prefer 1-2 volunteers per setup.
Office Assistant Weekly	Assist us with copying, filing, and preparing case files so that our program can run smoothly. This position is highly needed and helps us better support our clients. Prefer 1-2 volunteers at a time.
Donation Collection Ongoing	Groups, businesses, schools, and more can do a special collection for Catholic Charities. Call to ask about current needs, and how we can help make your collection a success!
Event Assistant Seasonal	Energetic helpers needed for events throughout the year. Help with planning committee, decorating, auction item collection, recruitment, event staffing and more! Contact Beth at 515-237-5078 • bgibbins@catholiccharitiesdm.org
Empowerment Opportunities	
Cultural Orientation Assistant 4 times/ month	This is a great opportunity to interact with refugee families. Please join us for cultural orientation classes every Friday afternoon from 1:00- 4:00 p.m. We discuss different topics during each session.
Bus Training Weekly or Monthly (First Wednesdays)	Frequently needed position! Learn how to be green and help a refugee in the process! We'll teach you the bus system so you can teach our clients. Refugees rely heavily on public transportation and learning to ride the bus is an essential skill for them to successfully navigate Des Moines. Prefer 1-4 volunteers at a time.
Housekeeping and Hygiene Training High need	American housing and hygiene can be confusing to a new arrivals. Volunteers can help out by showing refugees how different cleaning products work, how to maintain a house or apartment, how appliances works, and make sure individuals are aware of safety and hygiene issues.
WIC Shopping Weekly or as needed	Many newly arrived refugees are in need of assistance in understanding the various programs they use. For example, Women, Infants, & Children (or WIC) may give food assistance to families. However, this assistance comes with a number of restrictions and regulations that are challenging to understand. You can help refugees by grocery shopping with them to demonstrate how to use this assistance effectively.
Family Advocacy Weekly appointments	We are looking for organizations that would like to sponsor a refugee family. This would involve planning for their arrival, helping them find their way in the US, and providing them support for at least their first year in the US. Contact Monica at 515-237-5091 • msodergren@catholiccharitiesdm.org
Financial Success Education 4 days / month	Help empower and connect refugee clients with financial success education. Volunteers will help transport clients (by bus or personal vehicle) to and from classes and assist with program facilitation. This program is currently held on Tuesday mornings. Contact Ben Spick at 515-237-5075 • bspick@catholiccharitiesdm.org
Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Program Council Bluffs	We are always in need of volunteers in our nine county area in western Iowa. Help staff our 24-hour Crisis Line, support victims during legal and medical appointments, and help with general upkeep of our shelter. Contact Martha at 712-256-2059 • mwright@catholiccharitiesdm.org