

Refugee Resources

Market for Refugees - Stock the Shelves - 9:30-11:30 on 4th Wednesday of the Month in Warren Park (Rogers Park). Focuses on items not covered by food cards: diapers (especially sizes newborn-3)

infant formula
toilet paper
paper towels
hand soap
body soap
body lotion
shampoo
oral care (toothpaste/brush)
laundry detergent
dish detergent
household cleaners
maxi pads
clothing (in good condition) (even suits!)
shoes (gently used)
coats/gloves/hats (many never saw snow until they moved here!)
children's toys
pack'n'plays
car seats (expiration date does not matter)
strollers
collapsible grocery carts
tea kettles & tea trays
blenders
microwaves
lamps

Clothing

ESCCA (Evanston) - Evanston School Children's Clothing Association. Free clothing for Evanston school children. They can shop and choose the clothes.

Cradles to Crayons - received this from Am Shalom. Haven't used them yet

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Cradles to Crayons

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(312) 767-1036

St. Paul's (Skokie) - clothing closet - need referral from school - haven't used yet

Food Pantries

Vineyard (Evanston) - food pantry that operates on Wednesdays in Evanston. Also has some clothes. Can be a long wait but can choose own food <http://www.evanstonvineyard.org/harvest>

Hillside (Evanston) - food pantry. All of our families are registered here and can get one bag of food per week. <http://hillsidefree.com/hillside-food-pantry/>

Food Shopping

Evanston Farmers Market (main market) - allows use of food stamps at the market.

Food for Less (Evanston- Main and McCormick) - discount grocery store. <https://www.food4less.com>

Early Childhood programs

JEH (Evanston) - Early Childhood Center offers Headstart classes - our refugees qualify for free federal classes, 4 days a week, including bus transportation, snack and a meal (either morning or afternoon class). Note: The state funded classes are 5 days a week, shorter, and only offer snack. It also offers pre-headstart - social worker visits with Mom and child every week and mom-tot classes (with paid taxi). Candace (or any social worker in the program) is the resource for the free diaper program and other programs. <http://www.district65.net/jehearlychildhood>

Howard Community Center (City) -- Child care and other programs for children. howardarea.org

Child Care

Evanston Childcare Network- this is a clearing house for childcare in Evanston - good resource for single parents or if both parents work. They can help with paperwork/application for childcare subsidies and connect families with childcare providers.

Parks/Recreation

Evanston Park District - offers free beach passes for qualifying families. They also offer free summer classes & camps, but there is always a waiting list and acceptance might be by lotterygggg

Ridgeville (Evanston) - If they live in South Evanston, this is a separate Evanston park district. Small program but some camps and children's activities.

Camps

Evanston District 65 has a free summer school for ESL students - 5 weeks, mornings, with bus transportation provided. There is a 2-day a week parent-English class offered at the same time.

Skokie Park District - Assistant to the Executive Director of the Park District. Mtuft@skokieparks.org. 847-933-4355 has given us discounts on camps.

YOU - free camps for children 2nd grade and up in Evanston. youthopportunity.org/

Libraries

Evanston library - offers computer classes (and other programs). Can check out wifi boxes for a month.

Skokie library - movies/books in a variety of languages, ESL practice (Wednesday 12:30-2).

Rogers Park library - play time for moms and children from 10:30-12 on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
<https://www.chipublib.org/location/rogers-park-events/>

ESL Programs

City Colleges offer free ESL classes. This is good if the mother isn't going to work and doesn't qualify for Refugee One classes.

Skokie ELL Parent Center - English classes in Skokie <http://www.ellparentcenter.org/#!resources>

Skokie Library - They have volunteers who will help newcomers practice English.

Howard Area Community Center - Classes(programming now tentative b/c of state budget crisis), as well as ongoing individual tutoring.

Loyola University - Literacy Center (one day a week during summer, Monday - Thursday during school year)
<http://www.luc.edu/literacy/index.shtml>

Job Placement

ORT Chicago Tech -- English classes and job placement. They usually don't work with clients until they are done with Refugee One. Also provide job training. We haven't actually used their programs.
<http://www.ortchicagotech.edu/>

Floured Apron - Winnetka program (congregant Lauren LeBoyer works there) that trains underprivileged women for careers in food service. 10 week program with compensation for transportation and weekly pay for Friday baking. [The Floured Apron – Sweetening Life's Possibilities](#)

Upwardly Global - helps refugees recertify for fields they were formerly trained in
<https://www.upwardlyglobal.org/>

Program for Specific Nationalities

Syrian Community Network - We haven't had a Syrian family long enough to use their programs. Programs and support for Syrian refugees. <http://syriancommunitynetwork.org/>

Bikes

Working Bikes - gives old bikes new homes. <http://www.workingbikes.org/>

School

Check with the school secretary for any programs that might benefit the children - e.g., fee waivers for school field trips, free passes from the PTA for school children of refugee families to attend the school carnival, etc.

Rent/Housing Assistance

New Trier Township -

http://www.newtriertownship.com/services/general_assistance.aspx

City of Evanston - One time Emergency Rent Assistance and/or placement in Orrington or at Wilmette Convent.

<https://www.cityofevanston.org/government/departments/health-human-services/preserve/general-assistance/emergency-assistance>

Legal

Moran Center for Youth Advocacy - The Moran Center recently started a civil legal clinic which provides free information and legal assistance on a wide variety of non-criminal topics including adoption/guardianship, family law, housing, public benefits, immigration, consumer protection, etc. The civil legal clinic serves families with children attending Evanston/Skokie School District 65. More information can be found here:

<https://moran-center.org/what-we-do/school-based-civil-legal-clinic/>

Other

Benevolent - social impact program through Kellogg. Crowd sourcing small dollar needs.

One Million Degrees - One Million Degrees provides comprehensive support to low-income, first generation, highly motivated Chicago community college students to help them succeed in school, in work, and in life. These include tutors and coaches, financial assistance and professional development. More information can be found here: <https://onemilliondegrees.org/>