

Become a mentor and make a difference.

Imagine yourself as a young adult, arriving in Maine from a refugee camp in Somalia or war zone in Iraq, filled with aspirations for your future in a new country but unsure of how to enroll in college, navigate U.S. work culture or receive the credentials you need to turn your lifelong goals into reality.

More than one hundred young refugees and asylees arrive in Maine each year and struggle to continue their academics in a foreign language, system, and culture. Young adults 18 and older who arrive in the U.S. with limited English are rarely able to complete high school in the short amount of time they are often allowed to attend.

This is where caring adult mentors can help. The RIS Mentoring Program, through Catholic Charities Maine Refugee and Immigration Services, matches refugee and asylee young adults (ages 18-30) with volunteer mentors to support their efforts to reach their personal, academic, and career goals.



Refugee & Immigration Services

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RefugeeImmigrationServicesCCM.org



RIS Mentoring Program FOR MENTORS

A photograph of three young adults, a woman and two men, engaged in a discussion or activity. The woman is on the left, and the two men are on the right. They are all smiling and looking towards each other.

*Helping refugee and
asylee young adults
reach their academic and
professional goals*

The logo for Catholic Charities Refugee and Immigration Services, featuring stylized figures in white and blue, with the text "Catholic Charities Refugee and Immigration Services" in white.

How does the program work?

Adult volunteers commit to supporting, guiding, and being a friend to a young adult refugee or asylee for two hours a week for six months. Mentors and mentees meet at any public location of their choice and agree upon a regular schedule.

What does a mentor do?

- Help set tangible academic and professional goals and plan activities to accomplish them
- Support their mentee through an ongoing one-on-one relationship
- Serve as a positive role model and friend
- Build confidence, familiarity, and connections in a new country
- Help their mentee navigate the US educational systems
- Help their mentee complete college applications
- Obtain evaluations and re-credential foreign transcripts and licenses
- Practice English and job skills
- Provide guidance in the pursuit of training
- Other areas of interest



Why join?

- Receive exposure to new cultures
- Gain fulfillment in helping someone progress and achieve goals
- Receive training in cross-cultural understanding and mentoring skills
- Join a network of caring community volunteers
- Invited to join on-going training opportunities

How do I become a mentor?

- Apply for an RIS mentor position online at www.ccmaine.org/volunteer, or contact the RIS Mentoring program
- Attend an in-person interview
- Participate in a half-day mentor training session held every 3 months

To find out more about the RIS Mentoring program, please contact:

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A **REFUGEE** is a person who is unable to return his or her country of origin because of a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group.

An **ASYLEE** is an individual who has sought protection for fear of persecution. Protection is generally sought upon arrival in a “third” country.

15 million refugees currently languish outside their countries of origin and 70,000 refugees are admitted into the U.S. each year — with approximately 250 resettling in Maine, many of them reuniting with family already living here. By mentoring a refugee, you are not only helping them rebuild their life, you are helping build a stronger community for us all. Thank you for your interest in Catholic Charities Maine Refugee and Immigration Services (RIS).

