Careers and Connections

A Mentoring Program Partnership of Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, Inc. *and* United Way of the Midlands



Careers and Connections aims to support long-term career advancement for refugees and to expand their professional connections. **LFS is actively recruiting mentors to match with refugees.** The mentor will act as a job coach, encouraging the refugee to develop skills, identify long-term career goals, and create a plan to reach those goals. Through these mentoring relationships, refugees should expand their professional and social networks. The vision is a mentoring relationship characterized by equal responsibility and mutual respect. Below are the expectations associated with mentors and mentees, including qualifications for interested refugees.

Mentee and Mentor Responsibilities

- Meet weekly for a minimum of three months
- Participate in initial training session
- Develop a career plan
- Check in regularly with Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska

Mentee

Top Attributes for a Mentee

- Entered U.S. as a refugee or asylee
- Ability to openly and clearly communicate in English
- Have U.S. work experience
- Ability to establish a relationship based on equal responsibility and respect
- Has shown motivation for career advancement within current field of employment, reentering a prior professional background, pursuing training or education, or exploring a new vocation

Role of the Mentee

- Share information about career goals, aspirations, and challenges
- Consider and attend trainings and pursue resources to implement career plan
- Accept invitations to mentor's place of employment, meetings, conferences, etc.

Mentor

Top Attributes for a Mentor

- Professional experience
- Understand cultural sensitivity and be open-minded to learn as well as teach

Role of the Mentor

- Share personal career story
- Help mentee document career goals
- Assist in broadening the mentee's professional network by inviting him or her to participate in various enriching career-related functions during the program.

Become a Mentor or Mentee

For more information on *Careers and Connections* or to become a mentor or mentee contact Lutheran Family Services at CareerMentoring@LFSneb.org or at (402) 536-3510.

Lutheran Family Services
of Nebraska, Inc.

Community Services
Refugee Resettlement Offices

1941 South 42nd Street
Suite 402
Omaha, NE 68105
(402) 536-3500

2301 "O" Street
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(402) 441-6636

www.LFSneb.org

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VOLUNTEER PROCESS

Apply to Program

- Review Program Description
- Complete Bio Form
- Phone or in-person intake

Program Intake

- Complete Volunteer Application
- Complete DHHS Registry Check
- Background screening
- Review volunteer guidelines *(see Careers and Connections Handbook)*

During Volunteer Commitment

- Attend program training event
- Complete monthly service hours and return form to supervisor
- Check in with supervisor and ask for help whenever needed

Completion of Program

- Complete End -of-Program Evaluation and share feedback
- Receive Program Completion Certificate
- Attend a yearly appreciation gathering of mentors/mentees who complete the program