

We invite you to participate in a new initiative from
the Temple Emunah Refugee Action Committee

Rapid Response Team

Purpose:

Partnering with Ascentria Care Alliance and its **Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) program**, the Rapid Response Team will enable volunteers to contribute vital goods and services as soon as specific requests are received.

Why this is needed:

The Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) Program of Ascentria currently serves 159 youth from 26 countries. These children arrive in the United States alone - unaccompanied by a parent or guardian. The majority have fled their homelands due to civil unrest, war, extreme poverty, persecution, abuse and/or neglect. Some were born in refugee camps and had known only that life until coming to the U.S.

Most minors are between the ages of 15 to 17 when they enter the program, though there have been arrivals under one year old. They remain in care until they are 22 and can live independently.

Youth moving out on their own continue to require support. URM staff is tasked with ensuring that their clients are ready for the transition to independent living which can also include life in a college dormitory.

How it will work:

When a request is made, members of the Rapid Response Team will receive an email. If you can fulfill the request, we will ask you to respond and let us know. If the request is for a service, you'll also provide information about the times you are available. We will contact you to confirm your donation or service.

Items requested can be dropped off at Temple Emunah for pick-up.

Examples of Needs: school supplies, backpacks, bedding, cookware, wellness support (e.g. humidifiers), baby supplies, small furniture items, lamps, bedding,

Can you help?

If you are interested in joining this effort, reply to this email and you will receive requests as they are received. If you would like to learn more, or have questions, contact

Susan Cook at emunahrapidresponse@gmail.com.

Thanks in advance for your interest in supporting the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors during this challenging time.

Barbara Posnick, Sylvia Perelman, Co-Chairs

Temple Emunah Refugee Action Committee

Susan Cook

Coordinator, Emunah Rapid Response Team