



CATHOLIC  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICES

## REFUGEE YOUTH PROGRAM

Catholic Community Services of Utah has been resettling refugees since 1974. Refugees resettled through CCS are often times fleeing their home country due to persecution because of race, religion, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group.

Adjusting to a new environment can be difficult for anyone. Learning a new language, culture, and way of life are just a few of the obstacles refugees encounter when resettling in Utah. CCS's youth programming tries to create support systems and coordinate resources for these youth transitioning to life in Utah.

### SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND NAVIGATION

Every child from age four to eighteen will be enrolled in a local school directly after their health screening. While attending school, our youth coordinator will track and monitor students' progress in attendance and academic achievement, providing intervention and in home support when needed. Each adult in the family will receive orientation on navigating the school system during their first month in Utah. Some of the topics that are addressed in this orientation are: preschool, elementary, middle, and high school structures, grades, buses, parent teacher conferences, after school programs, school lunches and fees, people who work at the schools, etc.

### REFUGEE YOUTH MENTORING

The Refugee Youth Mentor program matches mentors who are 21 or older with youth age 9-17 years old for a minimum of a 12 month commitment. Mentors attend 8 hours of mentor training and complete a background screening process. The roles of a mentor are to take the lead in supporting a young person through an ongoing one-on-one relationship, serve as a positive role model and friend, build the relationship by planning activities together, and help set goals and work towards accomplishing them. The mentee will receive assistance in academic issues, self-esteem, peer relationships, vocational training, family issues, attitude, and social skills.

### AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM AND TUTORING

The refugee youth program links students to after school programs at local schools or at local community centers. If there isn't an after school program easily accessible they can attend a CCS run after school program partnered with Youthlinc. CCS afterschool program provides an environment with peer mentoring and tutoring with the opportunity for more one on one support. Partnering with the local after school programs and providing additional program gives all CCS youth an opportunity to have access to quality after school programming.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERS

CCS's Refugee Youth Coordinator sits on different committees including the Utah Refugee Youth Advisory Committee, Women's Committee, Parent Engagement Committee, and the DWS/WIOA Youth Services Committee. Partners include: Granite School District and Education Equity, Granite Education Foundation, International Rescue Committee, Asian Association of Utah, United Way of Salt Lake, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Utah, DWS Refugee Services Office, Salt Lake School District, Murray School District, Bicycle Collective, English Skills Learning Center, SLCC, UVU, Bud Bailey Apartments, Breakthru Soccer, Dry Creek Charity, SLCO Libraries, Promise South Salt Lake, Refugee Education Initiative, Utah International Charter School, Utah Parent Center, Salt Lake County Office of Community Innovation.

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*Providing Help...  
Creating Hope...*