



Americans Helping Others ProspEr  
18 Dunnell Lane  
Pawtucket, RI 02860  
401-484-1819  
contact@ahoperi.com  
www.ahopeRI.com

## AHOPE Mentor Guide

Most refugees have escaped from years of physical and psychological persecution. Prior to admission into the US, refugees have often lived for many years in refugee camps in life threatening conditions. They fled with the clothes on their backs and not much else. They are passionate and enthusiastic about their new lives in America but may be physically or emotionally scarred by their past, which further compounds their culture-shock upon arrival. They need YOUR help to learn the culture and language, and become self-sufficient here in Rhode Island.

AHOPE Mentors are offering their mentees friendship and have helped new refugees with skills and recreational activities that have included:

- Meeting newly arrived refugees at the airport
- Visiting mentees at home to practice English outside the classroom
- Assisting new refugees with basic life skills such as navigating their neighborhoods, providing bus orientation, going grocery shopping, helping to set up bank accounts
- Cook together
- Getting a library card
- Exploring Providence – trips to the museum, walking around Roger Williams Park, experiencing WaterFire Providence

How the program works:

- AHOPE Mentors must:
  - 1) read, agree to and sign the Confidentiality Policy,
  - 2) undergo a background check (via local police station), and
  - 3) undergo a brief interview with the AHOPE Board.
- AHOPE Mentors are asked to make at least 3 month commitment to meet with their mentees on a weekly basis, at least once a week.
  - Meetings can consist of social gathering or reactional activities outside the house
- AHOPE Mentors are encouraged NOT to give monetary gifts to the mentees. (Financial assistance, if needed, can be provided through AHOPE or the resettlement agencies). Mentoring should not be financially burdensome for the mentor.
- Refugee Resettlement and Case Management Department provides on-going support and assistance throughout the volunteer commitment.



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### **Contract**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, agree

- to read and sign the Confidentiality Policy Agreement
- to undergo a Background check
- to spend a minimum of one hour at least once a week with my mentee
- to commit to at least 3 months as an AHOPE Mentor
- to attend volunteer meetings/training
- to notify refugee mentee if I am unable to keep my weekly visit or if I wish to change the day or time of my visit
- to keep all conversations with refugee mentee confidential
- to never endanger the lives or wellbeing of the mentees
- to never take refugee children outside the home without their parent
- to never allow a refugee child or adult to sleepover at my home
- to never offer to babysit client's children
- to never speak to the press about my volunteer experience, unless approved by AHOPE Board
- to never post photos or videos of refugees on Facebook, YouTube or any other social media web site
- to give my permission for my picture, name, and/or quotes attributed to me to be used at special events (i.e. National Mentoring Month), for statewide and local media coverage (i.e. newspaper, television, brochures, E-Newsletter) designed and intended to promote mentoring.

Mentor signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Printed) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mentee signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Printed): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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## **Role of a Mentor**

### **A Mentor Is.....**

- A positive role model
- A caring responsible adult – Someone who provides access to people, places and things outside their mentee's environment.

### **A Mentor Is Not.....**

- A Social Worker
- A Parent/Legal Guardian
- A Psychologist

### **Dos and Don'ts!**

- It is not recommended that you give monetary gifts to refugees. Your role as an AHOPE Mentor is not to provide in a financial way. However, it is okay to provide refugees with donations of clothes or household items, but this is NOT an expectation.
- It is recommended that you accept offers of food and beverage when visiting the home of a refugee. Often your mentee may offer you coffee, tea or food native to their country of origin. It is polite to accept these offers because in many cultures, declining an offer of food in a person's home is a sign of disrespect. Sharing a meal can serve as an icebreaker when getting to know a new mentee, but this should not be expected from all mentees.
- It is important to expose refugees to new experiences in the U.S. However, it is recommended that you do not take your mentees ice-skating or for other potentially dangerous recreational activities. While these activities may seem like a fun recreational experience for families, it



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really can be dangerous for refugees who have never experienced cold climates or such activities.

- Your refugee mentee may ask you to give driving lessons to help them prepare for their road test. **We strongly discourage you from using your own car to provide refugees with driving lessons.** AHOPE cannot be held responsible for any damages. DIIRI can provide refugee clients with a list of local driving schools.
- **You will most likely encounter situations with your mentee that are beyond your knowledge and understanding.** AHOPE Mentors are asked not to get involved with case management. For example, if your mentee has a question regarding public assistance benefits, utility bills/rent or health related issues, please ask your mentee to see their Caseworker at Dorcas. If your refugee mentee needs assistance that you are unable to provide, please contact an AHOPE Board member at 401-484-1819.



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## ***FUN and EDUCATIONAL activities for Mentors to do with refugee families***

### **Visit the Roger Williams Park and Zoo**

[www.rogerwilliamsparkzoo.org](http://www.rogerwilliamsparkzoo.org)

#### First Saturday of the Month is FREE for Providence Residents

The first Saturday of every month is free to Providence (not East or North Providence) residents only, with proof of residency. Proof of residency is a driver's license or a bill — like a gas bill — with name and address printed on it.

### **Assist refugees with obtaining a library card at:**

Knight Memorial Library, 275 Elmwood Ave., Providence, RI, 401-467-2625  
[www.provlib.org](http://www.provlib.org)

The Providence Public Library, 150 Empire Street, Providence, RI, 401-455-8000

### **Take refugees grocery shopping at Price Rite to help them learn new, healthy and affordable foods.**

Price Rite, 1415 Elmwood Avenue, Cranston, RI 02910

Ripta Bus #20 from Elmwood Ave. will drop you off in front of Price Rite

### **Take refugees to visit the Clothing Room and Food Pantry at Camp St. Ministries**

Camp St. Ministries, 190 Camp St., Providence, RI (east side)

401-421-5474, Take Ripta Bus #49 from Kennedy Plaza

Clothing Room open 11-3 Tuesday-Friday, Food Pantry open 10-1 Tuesday-Saturday