



Good Neighbors Capitol Hill

A Refugee Ministry in Washington DC

December 2020

What is Good Neighbors Capitol Hill (GNCH)?

- A Refugee Ministry in Washington DC founded in 2016 by 8 Capitol Hill congregations
- Participating congregations helping refugee and asylee families resettle in the DC area
- Assisting recent immigrants from El Salvador, Afghan and most recently Cameroon assimilate into the US and transform from merely surviving to thriving
- Helping to provide housing, financial, social and employment support to recent immigrants and their families
- GNCH assists the efforts of Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSSNCA)

Who is Good Neighbors Capitol Hill (GNCH)?

- Good Neighbors Capitol Hill includes volunteers from:
 - Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church
 - Capitol Hill United Methodist Church
 - Capitol Hill Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
 - Christ Church Episcopal
 - Hill Havurah
 - Lutheran Church of the Reformation
 - St. Mark's Episcopal Church
 - St. Peter's Catholic Church

We welcome all volunteers regardless of religious or non-religious status

What does Good Neighbors Capitol Hill do?

Provides a variety of assistance to refugee families including:

- Furnishing apartments
- Stocking pantries with food and supplies
- Helping enroll and acclimate children in school
- Focusing on developing English skills
- Accompanying individuals or families to medical appointments
- Facilitating financial education
- Helping with employment preparation and the job search
- Arranging for transportation when public transit is not practical
- Helping the refugee family to learn more about their new community
- Raising funds to support the refugee community

Transforming empty apartments into welcoming homes



Furnishing kitchens to bedrooms, GNCH also stock's with food and basic household supplies



Volunteer Efforts

A constant need for volunteers exists to help all the family members, particularly the women, to improve their English language skills, to seek improved employment opportunities, and to successfully transition into a new culture

- Develop a relationships while assisting them with learning English
- Supporting the individual in their progress to become comfortable in the community
- Accompanying refugees to medical appointments
- Help improve employment opportunities by assisting with crafting resumes and job applications
- Providing childcare in a library setting while mothers are tutored
- Socializing with the families and individuals
- Support with the mechanics of enrolling themselves or children into school
- Provide guidance with various services such as obtaining driver's licenses
- Help move them toward goals of self-sufficiency in areas of housing and job assistance

GNCH Volunteers



Accomplishments



- Between 2016-2020 GNCH has assisted 52 families move into fully furnished apartments along with food and supplies
- In 2018 received a proclamation from the D.C. City Council recognizing GNCH's important work
- Summer 2020 acquired a used van for donation collection, move ins and taking family groups to appointments through a generous \$10,000 grant from the Marinus and Minna B. Koster Foundation
- Since March 2020, Good Neighbors provided gift cards to 40 refugee families and funded computers needed for applications, telework, and virtual classes by young families
- This holiday season 2020, GNCH has pledged \$10,000 to the Lutheran Social Service resettlement agency for the purchase of gift cards to be distributed to the most vulnerable refugee families
- Featured in a November 2020 Hill Rag article <https://www.hillrag.com/2020/11/18/good-neighbors-of-capitol-hill-find-common-ground-with-refugees/>

How Can You Help?

- Good Neighbors of Capitol Hill welcomes donations of furnishings and funds and encourages volunteers to help in many ways
 - Volunteer your time
tutoring to improve English language skills, provide childcare, offer rides, help with employment preparation, spend time with them
 - Donate household goods and furnishings, or help move furniture and set up apartments
 - Send money
 - Help fundraise
 - Spread the word
- Visit the Good Neighbors Capitol Hill at www.goodneighborscapitolhill.org
- Email your interest to gnch-info@googlegroups.com

Current Gift Card and Blanket Drive

□ Funding for much needed Gift Cards

Due to COVID-19, many of the wage-earners in the GNCH network have been furloughed without income. We need funds to support the needs of the families we have helped to resettle

- GNCH has pledged \$10,000 to the Lutheran Social Service resettlement agency for the purchase of gift cards
- To contribute link to the online donation portal www.goodneighborscapitolhill.org or visit www.reformationdc.org

□ GNCH is collecting gently used comforters or blankets for the newest arrivals

- Warm blankets are needed in all sizes—queen, full, and twin
- To donate contact Beth Hannold at eahannold@aol.com

How to donate?

- Contribute your donation online via www.reformationdc.org/give to the financial agent for the GNCH, the Lutheran Church of the Reformation
- Link to the online donation portal through the GNCH website www.goodneighborscapitolhill.org and designate gifts for “Refugee resettlement.”
- Or make checks payable to **Lutheran Church of the Reformation at, 212 E. Capitol Street, N.E, Washington, DC 20003** and note “Refugee resettlement” in the notation line.

Testimonials from our CHPC Volunteers



- **GNCH History and Future**
Beth Hannold
- **Apartment Set up**
Claudia Nadig
- **Tutoring**
Rita Cohn
- **Child Care**
Mary Ann Sroufe

Photo courtesy of B. Danaher GNCH



GNCH Contacts

- GNCH partners with Solutions in Hometown Connections to coordinate the tutoring efforts. For more information text or call 301-615-1034, or email info@shconnections.org
- GNCH Treasurer-David Hughes dh1227@gmail.com (CHPC)
- Furniture- Dale Manty dmanty@umich.edu
- CHPC- Beth Hannold eahannold@aol.com
- CHPC-Claudia Nadig claudianadig@hotmail.com

Questions & Answers

