

The List Project

The List Project is a non-profit operating in the U.S., founded with the belief that the United States Government has a clear and urgent moral obligation to resettle to safety Iraqis who are imperiled due to their affiliation with the United States of America.

The List Project is the first comprehensive organizational effort to honor the sacrifice of these Iraqis. It has two pillars:

1. Help as many of the hundreds of Iraqis on our constantly-expanding List make it to the United States through a groundbreaking partnership with three top law firms and nearly 200 attorneys.
2. Provide a "cushion" for resettled Iraqis upon their arrival to America by:
 - cultivating a grassroots support network of Americans to help newly-resettled refugees integrate successfully, and
 - helping them find meaningful employment through our expanding network of partnerships with the innovative NGOs like Upwardly Global and Manpower Professional.

The List Project is a U.S. 501(c)3 non-profit organization under the Tides Foundation.

Those who are interested in learning more can go to <http://www.thelistproject.org>. For those who want to volunteer, they can do so through that link or at <http://netroots.thelistproject.org>.

To help a U.S. associated Iraqi apply for a Special Immigration Visa (SIV), contact Ann McKittrick at ann@thelistproject.org.

Wondering What Kind of a Difference Your Volunteer Work Makes in a Refugee's Life?

Well...let me tell you a little bit about how the refugee resettlement system works and show you why your work is so important.

Lets begin at the point where the United States has officially recognized someone as a refugee and the refugee is going to be resettled in the U.S.

All refugees coming to the U.S. through the regular resettlement program have their case assigned to one of the ten national voluntary agencies (also known as a VOLAG) that work to resettle refugees in the U.S. Each VOLAG (these are listed below) has an agreement with the U.S. Department of State to resettle refugees and they have partnerships with local resettlement offices and religious communities across the country. Once the VOLAG has a case, they work to find a sponsor for the refugee. If the refugee does not have relatives in the U.S. who can sponsor her/him then the case is open to a church, a civic group or a local affiliate to be her/his co-sponsor. It is the co-sponsor, typically a local affiliate of the VOLAG, who carries out the actual resettlement activities.

The role of the co-sponsor is not to supply everything that a refugee needs, but to make sure that certain services are provided so that she/he has the tools to make it on their own. Typically, the co-sponsor is a team consisting of case managers, other co-sponsor groups, community service providers and volunteers (***here is where you come in!***) and it promises to help with the resettlement process of a refugee and their family through the organized giving of goods, services, and financial assistance. These things include meeting her/him (and family, in some cases) at the airport, providing safe, sanitary, furnished housing, providing a food allowance, basic clothing, assists in helping them apply for a Social Security card, assists in enrolling children in public school, helps with English language training, helps adults to find employment and makes sure to keep in touch with the VOLAG.

While it is the local resettlement office that bears ultimate responsibility for a refugee *there is plenty that a volunteer can do*. The local resettlement office determines which services it will provide and which it will ask of the co-sponsor team and it assists in all matters concerning the team throughout the resettlement process by providing training and support. A *volunteer can seek out or start a co-sponsor team*, where they can then work with the local affiliate and come up with a secure and supportive plan to help a refugee. There are many roles one can have within the team, such as team coordinator, and there can be groups dedicated to certain topics within the team, such as cultural orientation, education and language, fundraising and finance, employment, healthcare and others. Once you have founded or are part of a co-sponsor team contact your local resettlement office and discuss with staff the assistance your team can give. The program designed for a refugee lasts up to six months after arrival and the goal is to help the refugee become an independent member of the community.

The Netroots site (<http://netroots.thelistproject.org/>) hopes to provide people with a way to connect and determine how they can best help a refugee. We are working hard to find how best to pair the Iraqis that have made it here with the local Chapters and we will let Netrooters know as soon as this is complete. TLP has given three ways to help our cause and the life of a refugee. While we have just discussed sponsorship today, we hope that you go to the TLP Toolkit and find which way best suits your strengths and needs.

Through your volunteer activities, you can welcome a new person to your community and make a real difference in their life. To see exactly how you can help look on each of the VOLAG websites, for example organizations like USCRI have a '[Volunteer Page](http://www.refugees.org/article.aspx?id=1093)' (<http://www.refugees.org/article.aspx?id=1093>) to show you how you can help. Or you can look at the organization's publications on how your religious community can help, for example LIRS has several [booklets](http://www.lirs.org/InfoRes/Congregation/index.htm) (<http://www.lirs.org/InfoRes/Congregation/index.htm>) filled with information on how to co-sponsor. Please check out each organization and call to see where the local affiliates are in your area.

[Church World Service \(CWS\)](#)
[Ethiopian Community Development Council \(ECDC\)](#)
[Episcopal Migration Ministries \(EMM\)](#)
[Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society \(HIAS\)](#)
[International Rescue Committee \(IRC\)](#)
[US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants](#)

[Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services \(LIRS\)](#)
[United States Conference of Catholic Bishops \(USCCB\)](#)
[World Relief Corporation \(WR\)](#)
[State of Iowa, Bureau of Refugee Services](#)

Checkpoint One Foundation

The Checkpoint One Foundation is a not-for-profit, charitable organization benefiting the courageous citizens of Iraq and Afghanistan who have voluntarily assumed great risk to life and limb by assisting United States Armed Forces in combat theaters of operation. The Foundation assists Iraqis and Afghans in the immigration process by providing technical assistance as well as temporary financial assistance to individuals and their families to help defray the costs associated with immigration applications and travel to both consular interviews and to the United States. Once immigration has been approved by the United States Government, the Foundation also endeavors to subsidize temporary housing and living costs as well as employment search assistance.

People can donate online by clicking on the "Donate Now" button, which appears on nearly every page of our website. We are a 501(c)(3), tax-exempt, charitable organization, so any donations are of course tax-deductible <http://www.cponefoundation.org/>.