

Philly Neighbor, HIAS PA

Overview: Volunteering for 6 +months to help refugees, a family or an individual, who have been settled in Philadelphia by HIAS, PA through the State Department.

Work with a family as they acclimate to life in Philadelphia. Partner with immigrant and refugee neighbors and work alongside them on 2-4 identified areas that are agreed upon in advance of initiating the relationship in conversation with HIAS PA staff. These areas could include practicing English, helping kids with homework, navigating public transportation, connecting with community resources, coming up with a budget, mitigating landlord issues, and/or getting to know Philadelphia together through fun activities. The people you are paired with have requested a Philly Neighbor and have identified the areas they could use support in conjunction with their case manager. As a Philly Neighbor, you are a self-sufficiency guide who works with a family to empower them for 6 months by meeting together 3-6 hours per week, and you are working on developing relationships, building trust, and welcoming a family to the U.S.

Expectations:

- Philly Neighbor will proactively communicate with HIAS PA surrounding issues, questions or problems that arise in the course of the relationship.
- Philly Neighbor will commit to a regular weekly schedule and will communicate with family if this schedule must change.
- Philly Neighbor will encourage the family to do tasks with their support, versus the volunteer doing task for the family.
- Family will develop greater understanding of life and culture in Philadelphia and in the United States.
- Philly Neighbor and family will have developed a trusting relationship in which the family feels comfortable reaching out when they have questions or concerns.