

Austin Jews & Partners for Refugees



Dear AJPR Volunteers and Supporters,

Happy New Year, and thank you for your continued support of Austin Jews and Partners for Refugees and its mission. Thank you to the many volunteers and donors who have supported us throughout 2024! Know that we are grateful for all of your generosity and support; we would not be able to assist as many newly-arrived families without you.

Thank you to Temple Beth Shalom for designating AJPR as one of the recipients of their High Holiday Fundraising Campaign. A total of \$1711 was raised and donated to AJPR.

AJPR UPDATE

Currently, there are up to 5 families, around 20 individuals, on the list of arrivals through Endeavors in the next few weeks, with another 13 families on the 'assured' list, which means that they are coming to Austin, but their arrival dates are not confirmed. As of 1/17 there will be a total of 13 families, 49 individuals that have been resettled through Endeavors since October 1 (the start of the fiscal year for HIAS and Endeavors, the local HIAS affiliate).

Fundraising Campaign

We are already two-thirds of the way there! Money raised goes directly to the families and getting them settled into Austin with household supplies, groceries, and additional basic needs support. To help us reach our goal of \$50k, please consider contributing to the campaign. [DONATION LINK](#)



Sewing Collective

AJPR partners with AISD to teach sewing and English skills to a group of 10 AISD refugee moms each semester. The next cohort is set to begin in February. Thank you to the volunteers and generous sponsors who funded sewing machines and sewing supplies for this Spring!

How do YOU get involved?

Volunteer and Join an AJPR Team

AJPR volunteer opportunities are posted on the volunteer portal [HERE](#). You can find the list of volunteer needs under the 'Austin Jews and Partners for Refugees' section. For assistance with creating an account, navigating the site, etc., please email Joan.

When on a team, you will receive up-to-date notifications about upcoming volunteer opportunities related to the team. Reply to this email directly to request to be on a team (or two!)

Moving Team: Interested in organizing household goods at the storage unit? Able to lift and/or transport furniture? Join the Moving Team!

Transportation Team: Interested in assisting refugees to their scheduled medical or government benefits appointments? Join the Transportation Team!

ESL Team: Interested in facilitating ESL classes for adults? Join the ESL Team!

Cultural Orientation: Interested in working as a Cultural Orientation Liaison? This curriculum requires 6 or 7 visits with a newly-arrived family over 3 months. It includes hands on practice and conversations as people adjust to life in the US. This includes practicing using the bus together, explaining financial systems, job markets, etc.

Family2Family: Interested in having your family organizing and going on several outings in Austin together with a refugee family? There are many kid-friendly and free activities around town that will provide a wonderful setting to form friendships with your assigned family, practice English, and help them explore their new home. You also will have a volunteer mentor assigned to you as a resource and continued peer support. Should you choose, you can also assist with Cultural Orientation and/or Transportation needs for the refugee family.

Donate

You can review our **Amazon wish list** of supplies for welcome baskets and other essential needs [HERE](#)

If you have **furniture*** to donate, please submit this form [Furniture Donation Form](#)

To make a **monetary contribution** toward the resettlement efforts, please follow this [DONATION LINK](#)

**Dressers, Dining tables sets, Couches, Rugs, TVs, Lamps, and Bedframes (as well as mattresses, provided that they are in excellent 'like new' condition). Items should be in great condition (no stains, no tears)--nothing that you wouldn't give your adult children if they were setting up their first apartment.*

Stay connected with Austin Jews and Partners for Refugees on Facebook [HERE](#).

If you would like to be removed from the volunteer notification list, please reply directly to this email to let us know.

Thank you,

Sherry, President, Austin Jews and Partners for Refugees

Joan, Volunteer Director, Shalom Austin

Joan Eisenberg Maniere (she/her)

Volunteer Director

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Shalom Austin

Jewish Federation | Jewish Community Center

Jewish Family Service | Jewish Foundation