

THE OPEN COMMUNITY

LOCAL WELCOME GLOBAL IMPACT

CAIRDE

The Open Community Allies Network

www.theopencommunity.ie



Community Sponsorship

- Community Sponsorship was pioneered in Canada in the 1970s. After four decades of the programme's success, we know that this is hugely positive for the lives of both refugees and local communities.
- Refugees referred to the Community Sponsorship programme go directly to the community where they will reside and immediately begin the process of settlement. Under community sponsorship, private citizens and community organisations, rather than government officials, become the face of welcome for resettled refugees arriving to their country; supporting them through the process by providing a range of social and emotional supports, as well as providing accommodation, assisting in learning the language and seeking employment, enrolling in schools and any other necessary assistance.
- With Community Sponsorship programme in Ireland, communities will be supported to provide direct assistance to refugees settling in their locality through a structured programme backed by a unique collaboration between government, UNHCR, NGOs and civil society



The Open Community:

- We oversee and support communities to assist refugee families to resettle here and find safety and a new life.
- We use a collaborative approach to helping those arriving from other countries to become part of the fabric of Ireland.
- We work with all sectors of society to enhance integration so that both the families and communities thrive.

Why we are talking to you:

- You are a leader in Irish society.
- Your existing networks can help bring people together in our communities - which can help others in need.
- We need your help to create supports for refugee families living in Ireland.
- Help us create a home from home for families seeking safety.



Ways that Cairde Partners can support community sponsorship include:



Promote Community Sponsorship across employee and/or community networks to encourage and support the formation of new groups



Provide industry or sector expertise and funding.



Include Community Sponsorship as part of CSR commitments.
e.g., Commit volunteer days to community sponsorship activities



Provide training and/or employment opportunities



Examples of Possible Engagement:

- **Business**
Offer employment of different types to workers on merit. Help fund community sponsorship groups
- **Banking**
Create dedicated bank accounts available to CSG and refugees
- **Insurance**
Design a specific policy that provides protection to CSGs
- **Sporting Associations**
Provide access to existent community networks
- **Education/training**
Support employment training supports and other training opportunities
- **Charity sector**
Access volunteers and existing community development skills
- **Other engagements**
We are open to innovative and lateral approaches to helping
- talk to us



Benefits to Cairde partners

- Development of team building.
- New skills imbued in the workforce at all levels - leadership, coordination, communication, fundraising, social marketing and budgeting skills.
- An enhanced sense of social purpose and CSR opportunities.
- A new collaborative approach to community engagement.
- Growth of multigenerational networks both in and outside of the organisation.
- Possible new employees from diverse backgrounds with lateral thinking, creativity and resilience.



The Allies Partner Pledge:

Allies are asked to commit via a Pledge to:

- Promote Community Sponsorship across their network to encourage the formation of community sponsorship groups where possible;
- Share the ethos of Community Sponsorship to help communities and refugees build interactions that foster positive attitudes and create a community of advocates for the rights of refugees; and,
- Work in cooperation with The Open Community and its partners to meet the challenges and realise the unique opportunities presented by Community Sponsorship.

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Allies Partner Pledge

The Open Community Allies Network comprises a diverse national network of organisations that share a commitment to maximise the potential of Community Sponsorship in Ireland.

- Promote Community Sponsorship across the organisation's staff and networks to encourage the formation of community sponsorship groups where possible;
- Share the ethos of Community Sponsorship to help communities and refugees build interactions that foster positive attitudes and create a community of advocates for the rights of refugees; and,
- Work in cooperation with The Open Community and its partners to meet the challenges and realise the unique opportunities presented by Community Sponsorship.

Name of Representative:
Position:
Date:
Signature:

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