



"Try to imagine how it would be to fear for your life,

to have no shelter, no food, no transportation, no family, friends or even acquaintances, and you have extreme difficulty communicating. If you do that it will not be hard to decipher where to begin.

For me it is always on my mind and in my heart. It has become a very personal thing. You must also prepare to fall in love with them."

- Joyce Acton, NtN Team Lead, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Columbus, OH

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Neighbor to Neighbor

A Program of Episcopal Migration Ministries



ABOUT NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

Through Neighbor to Neighbor, Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM) directly trains and provides ongoing support to faith communities who serve as community sponsors for asylum seekers (Track 1) or Afghan arrivals (Track 2, in partnership with the Sponsor Circle Program for Afghans). Community sponsors welcome their new neighbors by offering friendship, fostering community connections, and providing practical support such as housing, assistance in accessing services and navigating the community, enrolling children in school, supporting adults in learning English and securing employment, and more.

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in..." (Matthew 25:35)

Throughout scripture, God is clearly on the side of the immigrant. The mission of Neighbor to Neighbor is to equip faith communities to carry out the life altering work of community sponsorship, to walk alongside asylum seekers and newly arriving Afghans - as Greg Boyle, SJ says, "working together to build communities of kinship such that God might recognize them."

Neighbor to Neighbor Process Overview

PROGRAM PHASES

Neighbor to Neighbor (NtN) is organized into five phases.

1 Discernment

NtN teams complete an Initial Interest Form and attend a Neighbor to Neighbor Information Session, facilitated by the Neighbor to Neighbor program manager.

2 Training

NtN teams are granted access to EMM's Neighbor to Neighbor on-demand training videos and resources, as well as other training materials, so they can learn, plan, and prepare to welcome the new neighbors.

3 Readiness Assessment

NtN teams provide EMM with detailed descriptions of their plans to welcome their new neighbors. EMM reviews these plans and schedules a meeting with the NtN team to discuss their readiness to welcome a family. Once the plans are approved, EMM then works with other partner organizations to match a new neighbor to the NtN team.

4 Matching & Sponsorship

The team welcomes their new neighbors, following their detailed plan – arranging housing, assisting with basic needs, enrolling children in school, introducing the family to the local community, and much more. There are regular check-ins with EMM during this phase, through one-on-one conversations with the program manager, participation in monthly Communities of Practice calls with other NtN teams, and through submitting reports on the team's activities. EMM is here to support the teams, every step of the way.

5 Conclusion

The ministry of community sponsorship is vital and time-limited; the purpose of community sponsorship is to empower your new neighbors towards independence and self-sufficiency. During this phase, EMM provides each NtN team with resources and coaching on how to bring the community sponsorship relationship with your new neighbors to a close. We reflect with you on the experience and celebrate your work as you, in turn, mark the conclusion of this chapter in your relationship with the new neighbors.



Discernment

Training

Readiness

Matching & Sponsorship

Conclusion