

How to help

## **Volunteer**

RAIS works with volunteers from the community, college interns and practicum students, and groups looking to do special volunteer projects.

Learn more about volunteering with RAIS. [[Link to volunteer handbook](#)]

## **Donate**

When new arrivals come to the U.S., they are often bringing very few belongings. RAIS relies on the support of donors to provide **new and gently used items** to families to help them establish their new lives in the U.S.

Some of our most commonly needed items are:

- New bed pillows
- Blankets
- Pots, pans and bakeware
- Cleaning products, mops and brooms
- Winter coats, boots, gloves and hats
- Personal care items (such as shampoo, soap, deodorant)
- Towels

\* RAIS has a partnership with Safe Harbor Inn, who provides furniture to our new clients. By donating furniture to this organization, you will also be supporting RAIS. Call 868-7373 to donate to Safe Harbor Inn.

RAIS also receives **cash donations** to support specific projects and general programming to serve our clients. Any sized contribution can make an impact:

## **Specific Projects**

Revolving Security Deposit Fund – contributing to this fund will loan a newly arriving family the money for the first security deposit.

Garden Project Support – RAIS coordinates a project that allows some of our clients to learn about growing a small crop to sell at the farmer's market. Contributions can support tools, fertilizers, seeds and plants. Also look for the Fresh International Gardens booth at the Anchorage Market & Festival farmer's markets to purchase produce from our project.

(same page as How to help)

### **General**

A \$10 contribution can purchase an international calling card to allow a refugee to speak with family members back home; or it will buy a snow and ice scraper to help refugees be prepared in Alaska's winter.

A \$25 contribution can purchase a new pair of shoes for a child getting ready for his or her first day at school; or it will purchase an English Language Training book.

A \$50 contribution can purchase a uniform for an individual preparing for his or her first day of work; or it can replace the batteries in a refugee's hearing aid.

A \$100 contribution will purchase groceries to stock a family's kitchen for their first week in the U.S.; or it will help RAIS publish brochures and other items to raise awareness about refugee issues.

A \$1,000 contribution can pay for a month's rent for a family; or can pay for a series of classes to help a new arrival gain employment skills (such as classes for a Certified Driver's License or a Certified Nurse's Assistant).

Other ways to contribute financially:

- Give a refugee a job or inform RAIS staff about job openings that you are aware of.
- Provide tickets and coupons, such as zoo or museum passes, movie tickets, and restaurant gift certificates to support new arrivals in learning about the U.S.

