



Cultivating hope with our new neighbors

What are Church Refugee Gardens?

Churches have unique opportunities to assist refugees in their transition by providing land for growing produce. Most refugees have a long tradition of being agriculturists and have a deep attachment to the land. They desire self sufficiency through food production and hold a cultural identification with farming.

Refugees and recent immigrants are now landless, living in crowded urban apartments, isolated in ethnic communities. Churches, by providing gardening plots, enable refugees to break out of isolation, engage in physical activity and grow fresh and nutritious food for their families. This provides a huge physiological and economic lift to refugees.

Congregation Participation

Arrive Ministries seeks churches to build friendships with refugees through gardening. This is an opportunity to get to know new neighbors living in your neighborhood and to assist them in integrating into American culture. The Church Refugee Gardens provide refugees with a connection to their past and to their future while helping them put fresh food on their tables.

Congregations can help by:

- Providing access to land on church property or within neighborhoods for refugees to garden
- Tending church gardens to provide produce for donations to local food banks
- Providing transportation to an area garden for refugees and church members to work side by side

Arrive Ministries provides:

- Orientation and resources for starting your own church garden
- Training and insights into the various refugee cultures
- Help pairing a congregation with refugee families and community organizations for gardening
- Assistance in thinking through garden organization and leadership

Next Steps:

- 1) Contact Arrive Ministries
- 2) Form a church gardening committee
- 3) Obtain approval for your church to start a gardening project



Church Refugee Gardens: Growing food - growing friendships

Arrive Ministries envisions a future where every congregation in the Twin Cities with land resources provides garden plots to help refugee families with gardening opportunities as they build a new life in America. These garden plots provide an opportunity to befriend, mentor, share stories and faith as we learn from one another.



Gardening options:

Congregations can choose a gardening ministry using a variety of garden types including:

Friendship Gardens are plots provided by congregation members in their own yards to refugees, immigrants or the needy.

Welcoming Gardens are garden plots offered to refugees, immigrants or low-income people in the community. They tend the garden plot themselves and harvest produce for their own use. The congregation provides water, compost and, if possible, tools and seeds.

Other types of garden ministries:

Offering Gardens are church gardens that are cared for by members of the congregation and harvests are donated to the needy in the community

Home Gardens are cared for by congregation members and neighbors who donate part of their harvest to the church to be added to the donations to food shelves

Arrive Ministries recommends Welcoming and Friendship Gardens to allow refugees to grow their own food and independence as well as relationship-building between people of different cultures and faiths.

CHURCH REFUGEE GARDENS



Serving Refugee & Immigrant Neighbors Together



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