

Family Mentors & Adult Education Program

Volunteer mentors provide guidance and support to refugees through social interaction, cultural sharing, and English conversation. Many New Americans settling in Grand Forks have never known life outside a refugee camp, and face a steep learning curve. Mentors help New Americans acclimate to life here, including changes in climate, diet, customs, expectations, and laws. Mentors respond to questions that arise and help teach New Americans to navigate various social and bureaucratic systems, thereby helping them to become self-sufficient and to realize their full potential. Global Friends Coalition encourages mentors to take New Americans to public services such as the library and city parks, as well as thrift stores and community events. These opportunities for social participation are essential to successful refugee integration

Global Friends Coalition provides in-home English instruction to New Americans. New Americans are better able to meet basic needs through improved English skills; English language is essential to employment opportunities and an ability to confidently navigate everyday life. Global Friends Coalition mentors work one-on-one with New Americans, helping them improve their English fluency.

We ask volunteers to commit to at least one-hour a week to visit a refugee in their home, teach or help with a class, or take care of children during a class.

Resilient Youth Program

Volunteer mentors are matched with English language learners at schools to assist with homework, help build English skills and confidence, and serve as positive role models.

Community Outreach and Advocacy Program

This program provides New Americans and members of the Greater Grand Forks community opportunities to learn more about our community and become engaged in meaningful ways.

Each year, Global Friends Coalition hosts or co-hosts a number of community events, including a community picnic, and World Refugee Day held at the Town Square during the Farmers Market. Volunteers help at our events with set-up and take-down, and are a solid presence at events.

Global Friends Coalition also honors requests from community groups to make presentations at its gatherings to better educate their members. In addition, Global Friends Coalition partners with local organizations on projects aimed at supporting New Americans.