

**Interested in Sponsoring an Individual Refugee or a Family  
and/or Contributing Financially to Sponsorship?  
Find Out How!**

Please contact **Alessandra Santopadre**,  
**514-778-8950**  
**asantopadre@diocesemontreal.org**

The Archdiocese of Montreal has been running a sponsorship program for several years under a framework agreement with the Quebec Government. The Archdiocese helps families here to successfully bring over family members living in refugee camps; these families become the refugees' sponsors, with the support of the Archdiocese.

The sponsoring family provides a minimum of \$7000 to the Archdiocese for each individual refugee. Then, the Archdiocese gives this money, divided into twelve-month installments, to the refugees.

**The government requires the host family to take legal responsibility for the well-being and settlement of the refugees for one year: they must see to their housing, food, and clothing. The host family must ensure the children's enrolment in school, help the refugees in the process of learning French, and assist the adults in finding work. During the first year, these people are not eligible for social assistance.**

Several diocesan parishes provide assistance through various community organizations, food banks, and volunteer centres.

Since Pope Francis's appeal to the parishes, the Archdiocese has been receiving more sponsorship requests directly from the parishes.

**Parishes to undergo the sponsorship process must contact Alessandra Santopadre, Assistant to the Director of the Office of Cultural and Ritual Communities, who is responsible for the program's administration at the Archdiocese.** The parishes are not required to provide any money to the Archdiocese, but they will have to commit in writing their agreement to take responsibility for the refugee family.

It will take one, perhaps two years before the refugee family arrives. It is very difficult to wait so long, equally for the sponsors as for the refugees, who are enduring terrible living conditions in refugee camps.

For more information, to apply for sponsorship, or to make a donation, please contact **Alessandra Santopadre, 514 778 8950 - asantopadre@diocesemontreal.org**