

Local Resources and Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer Opportunities in italics.

Latest Update: February 2021

RESETTLEMENT AGENCIES

Catholic Charities of the Texas Panhandle: Catholic Charities of the Texas Panhandle enjoys a rich history of promoting the common good for those most in need of help. Today's Catholic Charities continues to provide help and create hope for those in need throughout the Texas Panhandle. The agency partners with other organizations including the United Way of Amarillo and Canyon to support the InterFaith Hunger Project. *We need help to assist case managers with shopping and setting up housing for new arrivals, providing transportation support (e.g., taking clients shopping), and other tasks as needed.* Contact Thuraya Lohony: tlohony@cctxp.org.

Refugee Services of Texas: RST Amarillo is affiliated with Church World Service and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service to provide initial resettlement services and on-going support to refugees, asylees, and other displaced persons. *Volunteers can work alongside our case managers to help with paperwork and other tasks to keep our office running, set up an apartment to be a home for an arriving family, and welcome a new family at the airport when they arrive in Amarillo.* Volunteer trainings are currently being held online, so fill out the volunteer application on our website: <https://www.rstx.org/locations/amarillo.html>. For more information contact: (806) 381-0099, amarillo@rstx.org.

MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS

Catholic Charities, Youth Mentorship Program: Our Youth Mentoring Program finds volunteers to help young adult refugees between the ages of 15-24 to achieve the following: empower their confidence and ability to achieve education and career goals; gain self-esteem; build a sense of belonging; increase their motivation to engage in civic life in the community. Contact Cassie Dodge at (806) 336-8377 or cdodge@cctxp.org for more information.

Refugee Language Project: The Face-to-Face program highlights relationships between refugees and English speakers. *We are looking for individuals who want to partner with a refugee. This will include meeting regularly to practice speaking English.* Ideally, this relationship would be at least a 6-month commitment but can go on much longer and can last a lifetime! No teaching experience is required. If you are interested, contact Jennifer Freeze: jennifer@refugeelanguage.org.

Speiro Legacies: To cultivate legacies of educational success for individuals (children, parents, young adults) and their families seeking to complete high school, graduation equivalency programs and college, and for individuals seeking post-college career opportunities and job placement. Contact at speiro.legacies@suddenlink.net.

ADULT ESL AND/OR CITIZENSHIP PROGRAMS

Amarillo College: Amarillo College's CRU ESL program welcomes individuals at the low-beginning to advanced levels who want to better their English. Academic- and career-focused, non-credit English classes are offered to citizens, permanent residents, refugees, and others who want to improve their reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students enrolling only in ESL for CRU courses are not required to meet any college admission requirements. Please call 806-371-5425 for more information.

Amarillo Public Library: Amarillo Public Library holds ESL and citizenship classes multiple times a week at different library locations, and also trains individual volunteers to be one-on-one literacy tutors. Currently on hold due to the pandemic. Contact Lisa White: lisa.white@amarillolibrary.org.

Catholic Charities of the Texas Panhandle: The ESL program was developed to fit the needs of those who want to become more proficient in the English language. The program is designed to help students learn by listening, speaking, writing, reading, pronouncing and comprehension skills of the language. Along with the comprehensive method of learning comes an understanding of the United States culture. *Tutors, classroom assistants, material preparation positions are all needed.* Volunteers with the ESL program are personally rewarded with the help they provide to our students. Contact Cassie Dodge at (806) 336-8377 or cdodge@cctxp.org for more information.

Culture Cross Ministries: Culture Cross Ministries runs the Amigo International Learning Center at 2303 S. Arthur Street. We offer English and citizenship classes to various levels, specializing in helping the lower-level learners in our community. We are a faith-based organization with several volunteers from all across the city donating their time each week to assist their learners. We are beginning our 14th year offering language classes in Amarillo. Classes normally follow the AISD calendar from September to April. During COVID, we have been offering 2 online classes accessible through Zoom. Call, text, or email: Steve Woodward, (806)-681-9110, swoodward23@yahoo.com.

First Baptist Church: International Friends at First Baptist Church offers conversational English classes for beginners through advanced as well as preparation for GED/HSE and citizenship examinations. Currently, some classes are in-person, and some are via Zoom. Our classes are Thursday mornings and Sunday afternoons. After COVID, we will have in-person classes, transportation, and childcare. For more information, call Sue Kelly, (806) 351-1554.

Paramount Baptist Church: LEAF is a faith-based ESL program with beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels. Childcare and transportation available. Meetings are on Wednesday mornings and evenings, following the AISD schedule. Contact: leaf@paramount.org (906)513-0910.

Persian Elevate Church: Faith-based program for Farsi and Pashto speakers. Beginning level ESL and citizenship instruction. 4216 Bowie. Call Matthew Salar at (806) 444-4245.

Pleasant Valley Assembly of God: A small, informal Wednesday evening faith-based class focused primarily on the high beginner level. Contact Jonelle Smith at 806-352-4578..

Refugee Language Project: Literacy for Somali Women. RLP Literacy is based on one-on-one relationships with a mix of large and small group instruction. Pre-literacy, beginner and intermediate levels. *No teaching experience required. Semester long commitment required.* Contact Elizabeth Waters: elizabeth@refugeelanguage.org.

Trinity Fellowship Church (Eastridge Campus): Trinity Fellowship Eastridge, located at 1706 Evergreen Street, offers ESL and citizenship classes on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Childcare is provided for parents who are taking classes. Classes include a beginning literacy class with basic conversation, and an advanced class that includes conversational English as well as preparation for the citizenship test. Classes follow the AISD schedule with breaks during the summer and the month of January. Classes are free of charge! For more information please contact: Bethesda Outreach Center (806)383-6990 or e-mail russpennington@tfc.org.

FAMILY SUPPORT AND AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Astoria Park International Mission: Offers social services, parent help sessions, and after-school programming at Apt 80, 3118 SW 15th Ave.

Eastridge Mission Center: The Eastridge Mission Center is open M-F from 3:30-6pm. We have 2 areas for kids—older kids can simply come eat and play basketball in the gym after school, whereas the younger children can enroll in Kingdom Kids (PreK-3rd) and use classroom space to do arts and crafts, Bible stories, and playtime. *We would love for volunteers to come help! Volunteers have to do a background check and a one hour online training.* Pastor Mike Garman is the director of the center. His number is 806-433-8668.

Mission 2540: Mission 2540 works with families living in low-income apartment communities, meeting their physical, spiritual, and emotional needs. Through Bible studies, resident assistance, and a variety of outreaches, camps and other activities throughout the year, our desire is to “Feed, Clothe, and Love” our neighbors in need. The majority of the residents in 3 of our apartment communities are refugees. *To find out how you can get involved,* email brooks@mission2540.org.

Mission Amarillo, BeLoved: BeLoved pairs pregnant teens with a mentor to give them support during this challenging time in their lives. Any pregnant teenagers can contact Whitney at whitney@missionamarillo.org or 903-262-8852. Enrollment in BeLoved is ongoing and *we are looking for women who would be interested in becoming mentors,* they can also contact Whitney.

Mission Amarillo, ParentChild+: The ParentChild+ program works with families that have at least one child aged 2-4. We visit the family at their home twice a week for 30 minutes to help parents ensure their children are prepared for success in school. Families receive a free book or toy each week and our program lasts for 2 years. We will be enrolling in the late summer for children born between August 31, 2018-March 31, 2020. Anyone interested can contact Christy Jalbert at christy@missionamarillo.org or 806-477-2732.

Panhandle Community Services: Family Development Specialists work with the family to bundle services that meet the family's needs. This is not an emergency or short-term program, but a structured process of multiple services designed to get the family out of poverty. Family members drive the process and meet individually and as a unit with a Family Development Specialist to work on their goals. To be able to participate in the Family Development Program, the household income must be at or below 125 % of the current U.S. Poverty Guidelines and the family must agree to work up to five years toward becoming self-sufficient. Contact us at 806-342-6117 for an appointment.

Storybridge: Storybridge believes that every child deserves access to what they need to be successful academically. Research clearly demonstrates that having books in the home is the number one predictor of academic success, but 2 out of 3 families with low income do not own books for their children. Storybridge is a local nonprofit organization dedicated to providing free access to quality, age-appropriate children's books for children with limited resources. Their operation includes collecting, purchasing, sorting, and distributing new and gently used children's books. They offer entirely free book fairs to all Title 1 elementary schools in AISD, install and maintain a network of Little Free Libraries re-stocked weekly with children's books, provide a free book to every baby born at Northwest, and support 1st year teachers with free classroom libraries for their students. Website: www.storybridgeama.org. Email: info@storybridgeama.org.

LEGAL SUPPORT

Catholic Charities of the Texas Panhandle: The Catholic Charities of the Texas Panhandle Citizenship and Immigration Program is the only non-profit citizenship and immigration service provider in the Texas panhandle, which means we also have the lowest cost for services in the area. Immigration laws are constantly changing and creating new government regulations aimed at protecting the various classes of individuals under our immigration system. If you are looking for help with a visa, green card, citizenship or other immigration matter, contact us at (806)-350-4606 for further information and to schedule a consultation.

Legal Aid of Northwest Texas: Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas is a nonprofit organization that provides free civil legal help to low-income residents. Application can be made online or by phone. To make an appointment in Amarillo call 800-955-6808 or 806-373-6808.

Texas RioGrande Legal Aid: Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (TRLA) provides services to migrant and seasonal farmworkers in the Texas Panhandle as well as the South Plains. TRLA specifically represents people who work in agricultural or related industries. That includes

workers in the meat processing companies, dairies, etc. As well as the workers who haul agricultural commodities. Link to the TRLA Labor and Employment page: <https://www.trla.org/labor-employment>.

BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Goodwill, T-PALS: The Training, Placement and Life Skills Program (T-PALS) encompasses free services including beginning, intermediate, and advanced computer skills classes, and other employment-related training. Upon successful completion of a class, participants will earn continuing education credits to our partners at South Plains College. T-PALS also offers Career Enhancement Seminars to the public at no charge to prepare for entry in the workforce or to enhance their current employment. For services in Amarillo please call (806) 331-6890 or go to www.gwtraining.org.

Lilia Escajeda (806) 282 4833: I am interested in providing financial education when possible. Historically uninformed folks are more subject to payday lending & using informal banking provided within private groups. I have a long history of working with Catholic Charities refugee program over the years.

Panhandle Community Services: Panhandle Community Services is a non-profit, community based organization offering a variety of programs and services to assist low-income individuals and families. Our programs and services are designed and implemented to target specific poverty-related issues with the goal of bridging the gap between poverty and self-sufficiency. Programs include: COVID-19 support, Housing Choice Vouchers, Panhandle Transit, Utility Assistance, and Weatherization. 1309 W. 8th Street, Amarillo. 806-372-2531.

Refugee Services of Texas: Volunteers help our clients prepare for job interviews by hosting mock-interviews, assisting with resume writing and applying for jobs online. (806) 381-0099.

Square Mile, PATH: PATH is a program of Square Mile that facilitates small business development in neighborhoods challenged by poverty and unemployment. We provide low to moderate income individuals with the tools, coaching, and access to capital needed to transform their businesses and their communities. PATH is personalized, accessible, targeted, and holistic. We are specifically interested in helping the refugee population start and grow small businesses that facilitate economic independence. Contact Donna Madison at (806) 231-3747.

FOOD PROVISION

Bethesda Outreach Center: Weekly food giveaway drive through on Wednesdays from 9:00-10:45 (ID required). Call to schedule appointments for clothing assistance. Programs run on the AISD school schedule. 1101 Fritch Highway, (806) 383-6990 or e-mail russpennington@tfc.org.

Catholic Charities of the Texas Panhandle: 1900 N Spring Street. Come on Wednesdays from 10-12 and 1-3 to receive free food once a month. Enter parking lot from NE 18th Avenue.

Eastridge Mission Center: We do once a month food giveaways on Saturdays if volunteers want to come pack food boxes and/or help with the actual giveaway. Contact Pastor Mike Garman at 806-433-8668.

SnackPak 4 Kids: Kids can't learn when they're hungry. Snack Pak 4 Kids is a non-profit organization that provides students with reliable, nutritious food over the weekend so they can succeed in school. Snack Pak 4 Kids loves our volunteers! *Our volunteers are an integral part of our organization. Whether you're an individual or a family, a corporate office or a church group, an athletic team or a school organization, you can make a difference. Learn more about our volunteer opportunities by visiting www.SignUp.com or by calling 806.626.9012.*

Square Mile: Square Mile has an urban farm project that produces for local restaurants, needs in the community, and community markets. We would be able to assist those interested with training and resources for growing on a small scale/small plot. We would also assist with teaching clients how to market and sell produce locally. It is important that the clients would be able to not only use the produce for their families but also potentially provide a source of income or assist the community in some way. Contact Donna Madison at (806) 231-3747.

MEDICAL SERVICES

Heal the City: Heal the City is a 501(c) 3 founded by Dr. Alan Keister, an Amarillo physician who identified a desperate need for healthcare throughout certain neighborhoods within Amarillo. HTC provides free quality medical care and referral services with dignity and compassion to the uninsured of our community. Contact: 609 S. Carolina Street, Amarillo, (806) 231-0364, info@healthcityamarillo.com.

OUTSIDE AMARILLO

Cactus Nazarene Ministry Center: Cactus Nazarene Ministries is a faith-based center of compassion addressing the holistic needs of the unique community of Cactus TX—including English & citizenship programs, legal services, medical services, and more. Email: info@cactusministries.org , Phone: (806)-421-0160.