

Refugee Professional Mentors Network

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Position Title: Professional Mentor

Background Information: When refugees arrive in the Twin Cities, they face a variety of challenges, including finding employment in a country where their previous work experience and credentials may not easily transfer. Refugee Services occasionally works with clients who were highly qualified professionals in their home countries, but are unable to immediately work in their field upon arrival in the US, usually because their credentials don't transfer or because they lack US work experience. For many individuals, this is a deeply frustrating experience, because they lose a part of their identity, and often need to work entry-level jobs while they pursue recertification.

The Refugee Professional Mentors Network is designed to address the needs of these professional clients by helping them maintain a connection to their field, and network with American professionals in order to eventually reenter their field.

Position Description: The Professional Mentors Network has a very flexible structure, depending on the nature of involvement and availability. Possibilities include meeting regularly with a refugee mentee for three-six months, offering one-time advice on profession-specific resume writing or training, presenting to a small group of professional refugees, and other opportunities as appropriate.

Training and Support: Depending on the nature of engagement, mentors will receive appropriate support and cross-cultural training from the Employment Services staff at Refugee Services.

Location: Refugee Services is located in the Minnesota Church Center, located in 122 W. Franklin Avenue in South Minneapolis.

Qualifications:

- Professional experience in your field
- Willingness to provide encouragement and networking support within your field
- Cultural sensitivity
- Openness and willingness to get to know a refugee in a meaningful way

PLEASE NOTE: This is a pilot program. Changes may be made to the structure of this program as necessary.

To join, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator at rsvolunteers@mnchurches.org.