



MINNESOTA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Design with Purpose Competition Rules

The Competition:

Want a chance to challenge a rival department in your office to the ultimate design challenge? Show a neighboring congregation that you've got what it takes to create a home to be proud of, even on a limited budget?

The *Design with Purpose Competition* is an opportunity to flex your creative muscles, settle that friendly office rivalry, and most importantly, change the lives of refugee families.

Refugees have escaped incredible circumstances to create a new life in Minnesota. Often, they've lived in a refugee camp for years, or even decades. The *Design with Purpose Competition* is an opportunity to create a home for the homeless, welcome new arrivals from all over the world, and participate in a fun, high impact project with your friends, coworkers, or congregation.

How To Enter:

Each participating group will be entered into one of four quarters of the competition and will be charged with furnishing an apartment for a soon-to-arrive refugee family.

Competition Timeline

- Quarter One: July-September
- Quarter Two: October – December
- Quarter Three: January-March
- Quarter Four: April- June

You have the choice to enter the competition under three different categories.

Three ways to enter:

- **General Competition:** Enter your group to compete against all other general entrants.
- **Side-by-side Challenge:** Challenge a rival group to compete with you. All apartment set-up photos will be displayed side-by-side on MCC's website and the winner of the challenge will be chosen by popular vote. Your set-up will also be entered into the general competition.
- **The "Ultimate Rivalry" Challenge:** Get five groups together and you will be judged in your own competition category. Entrants will be considered in all judging categories: Popular Vote and the Staff Award categories.

Once you know which quarter you'll be competing in and have decided your category, each group must elect a primary contact person. S/he will receive:

- A brief bio of the family who will be arriving
- A list of all required household furnishings
- Details on apartment location and apartment keys
- Family's U.S. arrival info and a deadline for setting up the apartment

All apartments must be set up before a refugee family arrives. Each group is responsible for providing all required furniture and household donations and transporting those donations for the apartment set-up.

Judging:

Each group will be judged in two ways: by popular vote and by being entered to win MCC Refugee Services Staff Awards.

Popular Vote:

Take pictures while setting up your apartment and of the finished product. Once you submit your pictures to MCC, they will be displayed on MCC's website and viewers will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite design under each category: the General Competition, Side-by-side Challenge, and Ultimate Rivalry Challenge.

All pictures will be put up on the website on the same day and voters will have the opportunity to vote a maximum of once per day. After two weeks the winners will be announced.

Staff Award Categories:

**Note: Groups are welcome to submit a short paragraph detailing their design strategy when they submit their pictures.*

- **Most Creative Use of a Limited Budget:** This award will be given to the group that does the most with limited resources. The staff will consider factors like thoughtfulness/continuity of the design, how many items were found for free or little cost, and the creativity used in finding high-quality, low or no cost items. You may spend no more than \$100 base cost plus \$50 per bedroom to be considered in this category.
- **"Homiest" Touches:** It's the little things that turn a house into a home. The winning group will demonstrate their ability to incorporate small things, like flowers on a living room table, pictures on the wall, or toys for the kids that will turn an apartment into a welcoming home.
- **Above and Beyond:** This group will fulfill all of the basic requirements of an apartment set-up, plus they will do their best to help set up their family with the tools they need for self-sufficiency and a little extra enjoyment in their new home. Groups considered for this category must provide at least 5 of the following: bus cards, emergency cell phone (one without a plan to be used to call 911), international phone card, vacuum

cleaner, bicycle, TV, computer, area rug, donation toward the family's travel loan, or greeting the family when they arrive at the airport.

- Note: All refugee families must reimburse the federal government for the cost of their plane ticket. This is done in the form of a travel loan that they must pay back.

Bonus Points:

A group will be awarded 15 extra votes in the "Popular Vote" category if they are able to provide mattresses, box springs, and frames for a family. Beds must be new or from a reputable source.

The Winners

The winners in each category will be announced after the two week judging period is completed. Winners will be awarded a trophy, electronic tag for display on their website (if applicable), a write up in one of MCC's newsletters, *News for the Common Good* or *Welcoming the Stranger*, and of course, ultimate bragging rights!

****Note on the Competition and the refugee resettlement process:***

MCC Refugee Services will do our best to provide advance notice and set-up materials in a timely manner. However, competition participants should also be aware that we are juggling complex variables that are often outside of our control.

We have no way of predicting how much notice we will be given about when a family will arrive (it could be a month's notice or only a few days notice), how many families will come in a given quarter, or how quickly we will be able to secure housing. Sometimes a family's travel date is cancelled a few days before they're scheduled to arrive. While there are certainly situations that run smoothly and according to plan, all competition participants need to have the understanding that they may be required to maintain flexibility and a willingness to "go with the flow" when the situation requires it. MCC Refugee Services will commit to providing timely information and open communication channels for each Competition group.