

# GLOBAL REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP INITIATIVE AT A GLANCE

## Germany to Permanently Implement "NesT" Humanitarian Admissions Program



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At the Berlin Symposium for Refugee Protection, the federal government of Germany announced that the "Neustart im Team" (NesT) humanitarian admission program will be made permanent in early 2023. Reem Alabali-Radovan, the Federal Government Commissioner for Refugees, noted: "in this way, we can also achieve more refugee protection beyond asylum procedures."

The NesT program initially launched as a pilot in 2019 to resettle 500 refugees. Within the program, refugees are supported by a group of at least four Germans who provide housing for one year, social support, such as help searching for a school or a job, and general guidance.

These programs allow for greater support for those who are displaced and are unable to return to their home countries. The NesT program aims to preserve the family unit, provide support for integration, and allow mentors and volunteers within the country to help with administrative duties.

Are you a policymaker or civil society leader  
designing a refugee sponsorship program?

Download the GRSI's policy design workbook.

## Spanish Refugee Sponsorship Program Hosts Two Families

The municipality of Tudela in the Navarra region of Spain has officially launched the Somos Community Sponsorship Program. Two Syrian families, a total of 11 people, are currently being hosted in the program, and a third Syrian family is expected to join the program by the end of June 2022. Through a combination of sponsors and volunteers, program participants ensure refugees feel safe and supported upon their arrival, then help them integrate into the community.



© Plaza Nueva

There are currently community sponsorship programs in the Navarra, Basque, and Valencia regions of Spain. Eduardo Santos, the Minister of Migration Policies and Justice of the Government of Navarra, stated that this refugee sponsorship model "strengthens inclusion and social cohesion, makes us more mature as citizens and more responsible as a host land."

## Whistler sponsors preparing for refugee family's arrival

In Pemberton, a village in British Columbia, Canada, a sponsorship initiative is underway to reunite a refugee family from Eritrea. Back in April of 2018, the Kibrom family — including Selam Kibrom, her husband, and her two

children — arrived in Pemberton. Sponsored by members of the Whistler Community Church, the Kibrom family have been supported to find work, seek education, and much more. Now, the Whistler Community Church is spearheading the sponsorship of Selam's extended family, encompassing Selam's sister, brother-in-law, and their three children.

With immigration papers completed, the last step in the Kibrom family's sponsorship is the purchase of plane tickets and the gathering of funds to support the family. The Whistler Community Church has already prepared several resources for their arrival, including housing, education, medical care, and financial resources. The community continues to fundraise as they await the day when the extended Kibrom family can be reunited.

Check out the [Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative on Twitter!](#)

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### Wicklow Foster Mum Gives Afghan Family Chance of a Brighter Future



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In Wicklow, Ireland, a devoted foster mother has given a refugee Afghan family a chance at peace and a normal life. The story begins with Mirwais, an Afghan refugee who escaped from war-torn Afghanistan in 2014 and reached Ireland in 2017. In Ireland, he was sponsored by Wicklow local Naomi. Mirwais moved into Naomi's house, where he received educational and job-related support.

Two months ago, after a successful application, Mirwais's family was invited to resettle in Ireland. Naomi has taken on the role of their sponsor and helped the family reunite and reconnect with Mirwais. Naomi continues to help the family resettle and integrate into Irish society.

### The GRSI holds a reception in Geneva, Switzerland to celebrate milestones in community sponsorship



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As the GRSI marks its fifth anniversary year, newcomers, states, civil society organizations, and private sector leaders gathered this June to celebrate community sponsorship around the world. The reception was hosted by the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations in Geneva and showcased the diversity of programs, highlighted the critical role of community welcome in scaling refugee protection, and reinforced the integral importance of innovative, multi-sectoral partnerships in advancing refugee protection under the [Global Compact on Refugees](#).

Welcomed by the Head of Mission, Ambassador Norton, and with opening remarks on behalf of the GRSI from Elizabeth Tan (Director of the Department of International Protection, UNHCR), participants had the opportunity to hear reflections on the power of sponsorship from Maysoun Darweesh (Refugee Advisory Network of Canada), and the evolution of sponsorship by Paul Morrison (Director, Homes for Ukraine, UK Government).

Jacqui Pilch (Director for Refugees, National Security Council, The White House) shared reflections on joining the global sponsorship

community and hopes for the future of sponsorship and resettlement.

States Network Representatives were recognized at the event and personally thanked for their contributions in designing programs and improving access to refugee protection worldwide.

#### What is the GRSI?

The Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative is a partnership of six organizations – the Government of Canada, UNHCR, the Open Society Foundations, The Giustra Foundation, The Shapiro Foundation, and the University of Ottawa. It aims to help other countries set up their own community-based refugee sponsorship programs, strengthening local communities and improving the narrative on refugees in the process.

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