

WELCOME BASKET CHECKLIST

- Paper towels (2 rolls)
- Toilet paper (4-6 rolls)
- Kitchen towels and dish rags (2-4 of each)
- Sponges
- Household cleaners (bathroom spray, pine cleaner, etc.)(3)
- Laundry detergent
- Dish soap
- Body Soap (2-4 bars)
- Kleenex (2 boxes)
- Toothpaste (1)
- Toothbrushes (4)
- Deodorant (2)
- Shaving Cream (1)
- Razors (2)
- Hand lotion
- Shampoo
- Child's shampoo
- Child's soap
- Can opener
- Alarm clock
- Flashlight with batteries
- 9-volt batteries (2) for smoke detectors
- 13-gallon trash bags

▼ Students at Maplewood Richmond Heights High School collected items to make Welcome Baskets after learning about the members of their community struggling to meet their basic household needs.



ONE SMALL GESTURE CAN MEAN
A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE



International Services
American Red Cross
10195 Corporate Square
Creve Coeur, MO 63132
314-516-2737

The American Red Cross St. Louis Area Chapter is proud to partner with the Saint Louis International Institute, Catholic Charities Archdiocese of St. Louis, and the United Way of Greater St. Louis.



INTERNATIONAL
WELCOME BASKET
PROJECT
OF ST. LOUIS

WHAT IS THE INTERNATIONAL WELCOME BASKET PROJECT?

Imagine that you live in a war torn country. Every morning you wake up hoping this will be the day the war ends, but the violence escalates. You are unable to voice your opinion or practice your religion and you live in fear of punishment because of your nationality. You are forced to flee your home and leave carrying only a few possessions. You arrive in a new country and feel safe for the first time in years.

For more than 70,000 members of our St. Louis community, this is reality. Many refugees leave their home countries with little more than the clothes on their backs, coming to the St. Louis community in search of a safe haven—a place to rebuild their lives. While they finally feel safe again, arriving here is just the beginning of a difficult and sometimes overwhelming journey to adapt to a new culture, learn a new language, find a new home, find a job and rebuild a community network of friends. That's where you can help.



◀ Red Cross visit to a refugee camp in Macedonia where Ethnic Albanians who fled Kosovo reside. Photographer: Daniel Cimal/American Red Cross

HOW CAN WE GET INVOLVED?

Together, we can provide Welcome Baskets to thousands of refugee families coming to the St. Louis area each year. Welcome Baskets contain household basics like laundry detergent, dish soap, toothpaste, shampoo and more—simple items that can mean a great deal to a family. Best of all, the Welcome Basket includes a letter of friendship from you, welcoming the family to their new home in St. Louis.

You can create Welcome Baskets on your own, or ask your scout troops, classmates, coworkers or community organizations to join you. Whether collecting donations to buy supplies, purchasing items, or writing a letter of welcome to include, you can make a world of difference in the life of a refugee family. This simple and easy gift will show our new neighbors the kindness of their new community.

For more information on how you can get involved with the International Welcome Basket Project, contact the St. Louis Area Chapter International Services at 314.516.2737.

◀ Cover photo: Kaga Bandoro, Central African Republic. Working alongside the Central African Republic Red Cross, the International Committee of the Red Cross distributes essential household items to families forced to leave their homes. ©ICRC/CF-E-001291. Björgvinsson

▼ Batticaloa, Sri Lanka. A woman living in a camp for the displaced in Kiran receives a Red Cross message. ©ICRC/D. Sansoni/LK-E-0029



HOW DO WE MAKE A WELCOME BASKET?

Your Welcome Basket will be given to a refugee family as a “starter” for their new home. You can build a Welcome Basket for a family of four by following these simple steps:

1. Collect the items listed on the Welcome Basket checklist (see reverse panel). Please include only the items listed.
2. Place all of the items in a sturdy, plastic laundry basket with handles (approximately 18” x 26”). Please include a letter(s), or a picture(s) for the new family from your group. It could be one letter signed by all group members, separate letters from each member, picture(s) or a combination of the above. Place the finished letter(s) or picture(s) on top of the supplies.
3. Wrap the basket in a plastic bag and fasten with a twist tie to keep all of the contents secure.
4. Deliver assembled baskets to the American Red Cross St. Louis Area Chapter in Creve Coeur.



▲ Lebanese evacuees arrive at the airport in the early morning. Little Hussien Makki, 4, blows Red Cross-issued bubbles in front of a Red Cross table with food. Photographer: Hector Emanuell/American Red Cross

When the baskets are received, the Red Cross works with the primary resettlement agencies in the St. Louis community, the International Institute and Catholic Charities Refugee Services of St. Louis. Together, we identify refugee families most in need of household basics and distribute the baskets accordingly.