



Refugee Resettlement

Meet the People We Help...

Problem

Fatuma and Dixon were refugees from Liberia who spent many years in a refugee camp in Ghana after fleeing the hostilities of the Second Liberian Civil War, which displaced thousands of people from their homes and killed many civilians. They were granted refugee status overseas and brought to the U.S. by the federal government. Their English skills were strong already, but they needed to learn just about everything when it came to building new lives for themselves in the U.S.

Solution

Jewish Family & Children's Service refugee staff welcomed exhausted and hungry Fatuma and Dixon at the Pittsburgh International Airport and brought them to their new apartment that was stocked with donated food, clothing and furniture. We enrolled them for welfare benefits and took them to medical and dental appointments. They were referred to an English as a Second Language program to improve their literacy and also helped with daily living tasks such as learning to use modern appliances and to take public transportation. JF&CS found both steady work in housekeeping and maintenance at a downtown hotel; and a year later, when they were eligible for green cards (permanent residency in the U.S.), we helped them apply.

Outcome

With the tireless help and support of JF&CS, Fatuma and Dixon adjusted quickly to American culture and life in their new country. A year after coming to Pittsburgh, Fatuma became pregnant with her firstborn son and left her housekeeper job to care for their newborn. Several months later, we helped Fatuma find childcare services and then another job with higher pay closer to their apartment. Their family is now safe, healthy—and growing—far from the brutality of their homeland.