

INVEST IN CROSS-CULTURAL FRIENDSHIP WHILE HELPING ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS PRACTICE LANGUAGE SKILLS AND BUILD CONFIDENCE.

Goals:

1. To help English Language Learners (ELLs) become more proficient and confident in their English skills through consistent, conversational practice in a low-pressure, friendly environment
2. To facilitate connection and friendship between World Relief clients and community volunteers

Role of the Volunteer:

Conversation partners are different from tutors and teachers in that their main role is to help ELLs practice English through conversation with native or fluent English speakers. While you might prepare some conversation starters, there are no lesson plans, formal curriculum, or exams. Conversation partners help facilitate a friendly, low-pressure environment for conversations where it's ok to make mistakes and learn by trying.

How it Works:

TIME COMMITMENT

- Volunteers will meet with their partners for approximately 1 hour per week for 5 weeks

COMMUNICATION: With WR Clients

- **Conversations** will take place on a video chat platform primarily based on accessibility to the WR client (ex. Zoom, Whatsapp, Messenger). Volunteers will be given additional guidance when paired with their partner.
- **Reminders** will be sent by volunteers to their partner ahead of the scheduled meeting time either by text or using the agreed-upon platform.
- **Other** communication between partners is welcome and encouraged – sending texts, audio messages, pictures, and short videos is a great way to build friendship and reinforce learning.

COMMUNICATION: With WR Volunteers & Staff

- **Basecamp** will be used as the primary platform for volunteers to share experiences and resources with other volunteers. WR staff will also share reminders, suggestions, and materials on Basecamp.
- For other concerns, challenges, or feedback, volunteers can reach out directly to their WR staff contact.

MATERIALS

Volunteers can find helpful conversation starters and other materials on Basecamp.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Submit a **Volunteer Application** and indicate your interest in this volunteer role, [linked here](#)
- Complete World Relief's **Volunteer Orientation and Training**
- Receive **program specific** training to equip you with the information and tools you'll need as a Conversation Partner

Once you've completed the training and orientation, WR staff will match you with a conversation partner and share their contact information with you. You will then be able to contact them and set up your first meeting!

Have additional questions?

You can reach our Volunteer Services staff with any questions, feedback, or comments at triadv@wr.org. We look forward to hearing from you!