



The Westminster Schools Atlanta Refugee Project Goes National with PODS!

PODS®, a leader in the moving and storage industry, will provide containers to serve as collection points for gently used furniture and household items to help refugee families settle in Atlanta.

It all started in Atlanta with Westminster High School's refugee project from two years ago, where students, teachers, and parents came together to outfit apartments for incoming refugee families in nearby Clarkston, Georgia. Working with their non-profit partner, Refugee Resettlement and Immigration Services of Atlanta (RRISA), Westminster was able to set up twelve homes using donations of gently-used furniture and household goods.

When the National Youth Leadership Council became aware of the project, they asked Westminster if they would replicate the initiative on a smaller scale so educators from across the nation might take part during the National Service Learning Conference being held in Atlanta this April 6 – 9th, at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta. Westminster will be providing educator packets for all conference participants, so that they can return to their cities and implement a similar project at their schools.

For this year's refugee initiative at The Westminster Schools, three junior high homerooms have volunteered to be student leaders for this initiative. Leitzel Schoen, the Service Learning Coordinator with the Glenn Institute for Philanthropy and Service Learning at The Westminster Schools stated "One of the many rewards of this service learning project is that volunteers are able to connect in such a meaningful way with the refugee community in our city. Through gently-used donations and those odd pieces of furniture and household goods all of us have in our garages, basements, and attics, the volunteers are able to outfit homes that are ready to welcome refugee families who are resettling after facing such turmoil in their own homelands. PODS helps make this meaningful initiative possible by providing a convenient way for the school community to collect and store these donations."

Ed McCrady, the owner of PODS Atlanta said "This is the second year in a row that we've helped with the Westminster School's refugee project. It is a very worthwhile cause and PODS is glad to be involved with the effort."

PODS Atlanta is providing storage units free of charge. The PODS brand storage containers have been placed at the front gate tennis courts of The Westminster Schools at 1424 West Paces Ferry Road NW, Atlanta, GA, 30327 and will be used to collect donations of gently-used furniture and household items Monday through Sunday, between 7 am and 8 pm, from March through mid-April.

About Westminster Schools

Westminster is a Christian, independent day school for boys and girls, which seeks to develop the whole person for college and for life through excellent education. Housed on the Westminster campus, the Glenn Institute for Philanthropy and Service Learning works to help connect the school community to

public purpose initiatives, as well as assist other schools in developing their own philanthropic programs. They are located at 1424 West Paces Ferry Road, NW, Atlanta, GA, 30327. To learn more about their programs visit the school's website at westminster.net.

About the National Youth Leadership Council

The mission of the National Youth Leadership Council is to create a more just, sustainable, and peaceful world with young people, their schools, and their communities through service learning. For more than 20 years, NYLC has led a movement linking youths, educators and communities to redefine the roles of young people in society. That movement is service learning and it empowers youth to transform themselves from recipients of information and resources into valuable contributing members of a democracy.

About the Refugee Resettlement and Immigration Services Atlanta

Located in Atlanta, Georgia, RRISA is a non-profit agency with a multi-lingual, multicultural staff that provides an entry into the American culture and continued services for hundreds of refugees each year. They come with only a few belongings and in debt for the price of their transportation from countries in Africa, the former Soviet Union, Latin America, Asia, and the Middle East. The offices are located at 4151 Memorial Drive, Suite 205D, Decatur, Georgia, 30032, and can be reached at 404-622 2235 or visit their website at rrisa.org.

About PODS Enterprises, Inc.

Founded in 1998, PODS currently provides moving and storage services to more than 240 million consumers in 48 U.S. states, Canada, Australia and soon the United Kingdom through its company-owned and independent franchise network. To date, the PODS network has completed more than 250,000 long-distance relocations, exceeded 1 million deliveries and has more than 140,000 PODS® containers in service.

PODS® secure containers are constructed of a steel frame and are available in three sizes: approximately 8-by-7-by-7 feet, 8-by-8-by-12 feet and 8-by-8-by-16 feet. The 12-foot and 16-foot containers have been tested to withstand winds of more than 110-mph when partially loaded. For more information or to schedule service, visit PODS.com or call 800-776-7637.