



# Supporting community sponsorship German Red Cross

© Gordon Welters: Neustart im Team (NesT) - Mentorengruppe Nürnberg, Deutschland, Nürnberg, 21.11.2021

## "The NEST Project"

is a special form of Resettlement in which part of the responsibilities, including financial ones, are covered by community actors such as private persons, civil society actors, faith-based organizations and others. Many citizens are willing to do something and help. This is where the programme "Nest – Neustart im Team" provides a link between local communities in Germany on the one and refugees in need. It aims to help refugees rebuild their lives in peace and safety. Germany's pilot project started in 2019. The German Red Cross was involved in the development of the project. They are part of the Civil Society Contact Point that provides support for sponsors and refugees.

## "NEST" IS TEAMWORK

*"Never give up. Gain trust and dare to take action."* – Volunteer, NesT

In 2020, the **Iftin Abdi family** came to Germany. After fleeing their home country Somalia, they lived in a refugee camp in Ethiopia **for 10 years** where the family's protection needs could not be met. Today, they have found a new home in Germany. Participating in the NesT Programme gave people in Germany the opportunity to become actively involved in supporting vulnerable refugees. A group of mentors accompanies the family in their daily life. The family arrived during the COVID-19 pandemic, which put a strain on the new start.

“ It was quite a difficult situation in the beginning which also made learning German much more difficult. There was no school, no language course, no club they could join. ” Now the family looks to the future with confidence and wants to contribute to society.

One NesT sponsor said “I have been very lucky throughout my life, and I think it's time to give something back to those who aren't as fortunate. That is my intention to balance it out – to give back what I received in abundance.” He later continues “For me, it was one of the most interesting experiences I have ever had. A team with different skills and interests can be a great asset.

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## IMPACT OF THE PROJECT

The programme has proven to have a great impact on the supported refugees and their integration, as well as on the mentoring group of sponsors. The NesT programme so far allowed **400 refugees** to settle in Germany.

**PERCO**

Platform for European Red Cross and Red Crescent Cooperation  
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