



# In-Kind Contributions

Once We Were Refugees (OWWR) is a Missouri not-for-profit corporation with IRS 501 (c) (3) approved tax-exempt status. OWWR was founded by Rev. William and Ann Say, incorporated in June 2017. The stated mission is to help refugees located in the Kansas City area learn skills that will help them find suitable employment. The only restriction imposed for student participation in the ministry is they must have come to the United States as refugees. No tuition is charged and all involved in the work of OWWR are volunteers. Nearly all of the materials needed for the work of the ministry are donated by generous people who want to help refugees.

The ministry began by teaching sewing with donated household sewing machines and sewing continues to be the primary interest of most of the OWWR students. Volunteers are engaged in teaching sewing, sorting fabrics and notions, sewing machine maintenance and repair, retrieving donated items, keeping a modest set of records, and serving on the board of directors. When students graduate from the nine-week beginning course they take home the sewing machine they learned to operate, a new iron and ironing board, a new pair of scissors, notions, and about ten yards of fabric—enough to get them started on a project. Students who show an aptitude for sewing and interest in making that a vocational pursuit are encouraged to continue in an advanced setting to learn to operate industrial machines.

## Items Needed

### Sewing Machines

- New or used in working condition (used is actually preferred)—need working straight stitch, zig-zag, and reverse
- Industrial—need working straight stitch and sergers

### Washable Fabric

- Pieces 1 yard or larger
- Cotton or cotton-poly blend (no double knits)
- Spandex
- Oil cloth

### Thread

- New or recent purchase

### Notions

- Seam rippers
- Zippers
- Straight pins
- Large safety pins
- Measuring tapes
- Pin cushions
- Velcro
- Elastic

### Tools

- Bobbins
- Scissors—new
- Cutting mats
- Rotary cutters
- Rulers
- Crochet hooks
- Knitting needles

### Cash Donations

- Happily received any time

### Yarn

- All weights and colors



Go to <https://www.oncewewererefugees.org> to learn more and meet some of the OWWR students.

