



WELCOMING NEW NEIGHBORS HOME

Americans have supported refugees since our nation's earliest days. In small towns and big cities, our communities have always welcomed new neighbors. We renewed this spirit after World War II. Faith communities, including organizations like CWS, were instrumental in this work. The Refugee Act of 1980 formally established the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. It is a public-private partnership that all Americans can be proud of.

Resettlement is a last resort for refugees who are unable to return home or live safely where they fled. The United States is one of 37 resettlement countries and has the most secure vetting process in the world. Eligible refugees undergo a rigorous screening process before they even arrive in America.

Even before the Refugee Act of 1980, Americans welcomed refugees. We have always

known that refugees bring needed skills, grow local economies and make our nation more vibrant.

Refugees are mothers, fathers and children. They are doctors, nurses and medical aides working in our hospitals and elder care facilities caring for COVID-19 patients. They are entrepreneurs and educators, they are volunteers and neighbors, they are the backbone of our nation.

Today, we are facing the largest displacement crisis in history. We are also standing on a centuries-long foundation of welcome. We have a moral and legal obligation to keep going. We must welcome people who will be great neighbors while rebuilding their lives in safety.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR REFUGEES

CWS partners with faith communities, volunteers and community-based organizations.

Together, we provide a warm welcome to every arriving refugee and help them get a great start in their new homes. Volunteers and community sponsors offer friendship and support as refugee families learn about their new communities. They help them learn English or enroll children in school. Donors make sure that new arrivals have the furniture and groceries they need.

Every refugee family who arrives is on a journey, and we're there to help. We welcome them, help them achieve self-sufficiency and then cheer them on while they thrive. We do this through intensive case management and connecting refugees to job opportunities and other services. We also provide cultural and community orientation to help new arrivals get settled. Every community offers programs, support and welcoming attitudes to help refugees feel at home. In partnership with refugees, resettlement agencies are a leader, convener and educator for the community's efforts toward refugee integration.

HOW DO REFUGEES GET TO THE UNITED STATES?

1. Refugees flee from their home country out of fear. When they reach another country, they register with the United Nations Refugee Agency.
2. The UN Refugee Agency vets each refugee and decides who is most in need of resettlement. Then, they refer those refugees to the corresponding country programs, such as the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program.
3. When a refugee is referred to the United States, our government vets them. Agencies such as the Department of Homeland Security do extensive background, biometric, security and health screenings. Refugees are approved to travel to the United States only once they pass all the tests.
4. There are nine resettlement agencies in the United States, including CWS. When a refugee is approved for travel, their case will be assigned to a resettlement agency in their new local community.
5. Then, CWS and our partners welcome refugees home! We are there to greet them at the airport and take them to a house or apartment. In the months to come, we will help our newest neighbors as they find jobs, enroll children in school, shop for groceries, navigate public transit and more.



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