



Annual Report 2025

At Global Refugee,
we are driven by
belief in human
dignity and the
intrinsic value of
every individual.

Cover: Staff from the Camino a Casa program in Guatemala present participants with thread to help support their small traditional clothing business.

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Please note, names marked with an asterisk (*) throughout this report have been changed to protect clients' privacy.

Refugees and other immigrants in this country are facing unprecedented challenges—but the [work of welcome](#) continues, just as it has through countless political and cultural shifts since 1939.

After an extraordinary year in 2024, the early months of 2025 brought a cataclysmic shift to immigration and refugee resettlement in the United States. With a few strokes of a pen, the system as we knew it and the lives of thousands of people were upended. Long-held policies were changed, life-saving programs were ended, and families were left stranded, unsure when or if they would have another chance at safety.

But Global Refuge did not give up. We did not abandon our call to welcome or our central mission—to stand with and advocate for immigrants and refugees as a witness to God’s love for all people. Instead, we met the moment in ways both big and small, from advocating for just, humane immigration policy to helping cover a month’s rent for refugee families when their benefits temporarily lapsed. With an incredible groundswell of support from generous supporters and faith communities, we were able to ensure children were enrolled in school, parents could find work, and families could keep the lights on and food on the table.

In 2026, the environment remains difficult, but we are up for the challenge. The past year has given us the chance to rethink and re-envision what’s possible. Our programs have largely stabilized, and we continue to invest in new programs and opportunities that transform our approach to welcome.

We remain ready to meet the needs of our clients, diversifying our revenue streams to increase private funding and embracing the power of our network: our affiliate partners, congregations, community groups, and people who believe in the work of welcome.

As the past year has shown, we truly cannot do this work without you. Your partnership makes it possible for us to keep our promises to those who have made it safely to our shores and to those who are still waiting.

With your partnership, we are confident that our focused approach and commitment will see us through whatever may come in the next several years—just as it has in the last 86 years and just as it will in the decades ahead.



Krish Vignarajah
Krish O'Mara Vignarajah
President & CEO



Bryn Parchman
Bryn Parchman
Board President



Marie*, a client of the Baltimore Welcome Center, has focused on rebuilding her life in Maryland after fleeing Haiti.

Our Impact

At Global Refuge, we believe in a world where all people are welcomed, embraced, and empowered.

Since 1939, we have walked alongside 800,000+ refugees and other immigrants as they rebuild their lives in the United States through our work in refugee resettlement, community engagement, economic empowerment, and family reunification.

Throughout our history, the work we do has evolved to meet the most pressing needs of our newest neighbors. While policies change, our commitment never wavers.



19,526

refugees served by
Resettlement and Integration Services



3,099

served by international programs



8,867

served by Children and Family Services



\$1.07M

in loans distributed to refugee and other
immigrant borrowers



\$12.2M

raised in private funding



Global Refuge

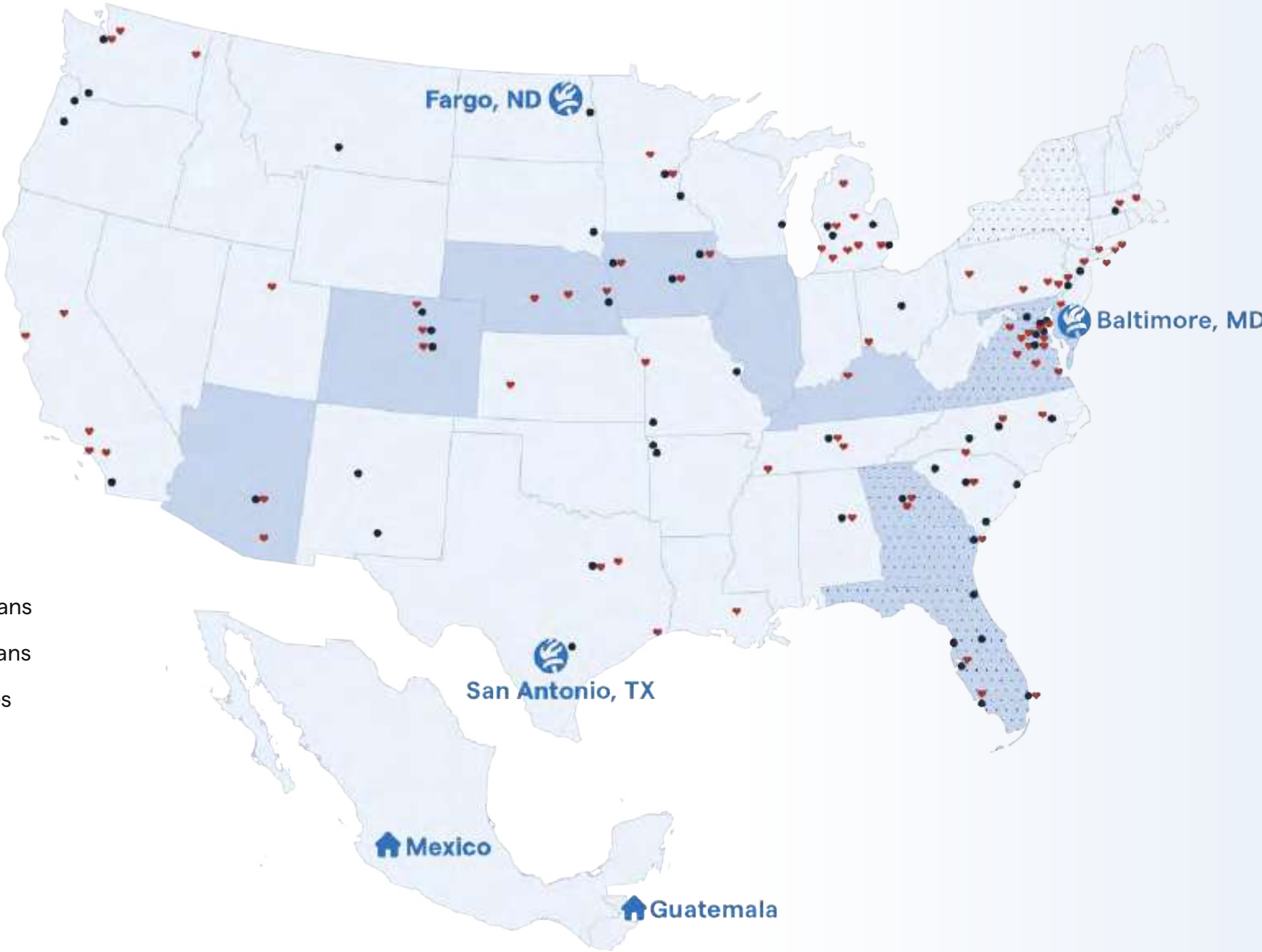


Where We Work

Our programming and impact spans 30+ states and three countries—making a world of difference for those in search of safety and a brighter future.

-  Global Refugee Welcome Centers
-  New American Lending - Business Loans
-  New American Lending - Personal Loans
-  Resettlement and Integration Services
-  Children and Family Services
-  Camino a Casa*

*map not to scale



- 
- Children and Family Services
 - Refugee Resettlement
 - Welcome Centers

Embracing New Neighbors



Children and Family Services

When children under 18 arrive in the United States without a parent or guardian, the Children and Family Services team at Global Refuge partners with the U.S. government to ensure they are cared for and protected.

Protecting unaccompanied children and reuniting families is at the heart of what we do. While the number of children being admitted into the U.S. has fallen dramatically, our teams go above and beyond to provide each child in our care with a soft landing and a family-like environment until they can be safely united with their parents or legal guardians.

Our work in residential and family reunification services ensures that each child has the support they need to thrive, including:

- Enrollment in school
- Mental health resources
- Case management and community referrals
- Medical care
- ...and more!



8,867

children and families served



198

mental health clients served in MD and VA



STORIES OF HOPE

Protecting Children Along the Journey

Twelve-year-old Lily* and her 6-year-old sister Luci* were welcomed by Global Refuge in 2025 while they awaited reunification with their mother. The sisters, like all children in our care, received one-on-one assessments and counseling, education, mental and physical healthcare, access to legal services, and connections to their religious communities. We also assessed each child's emotional well-being, as many unaccompanied children arrive with mental health challenges such as separation anxiety and PTSD.

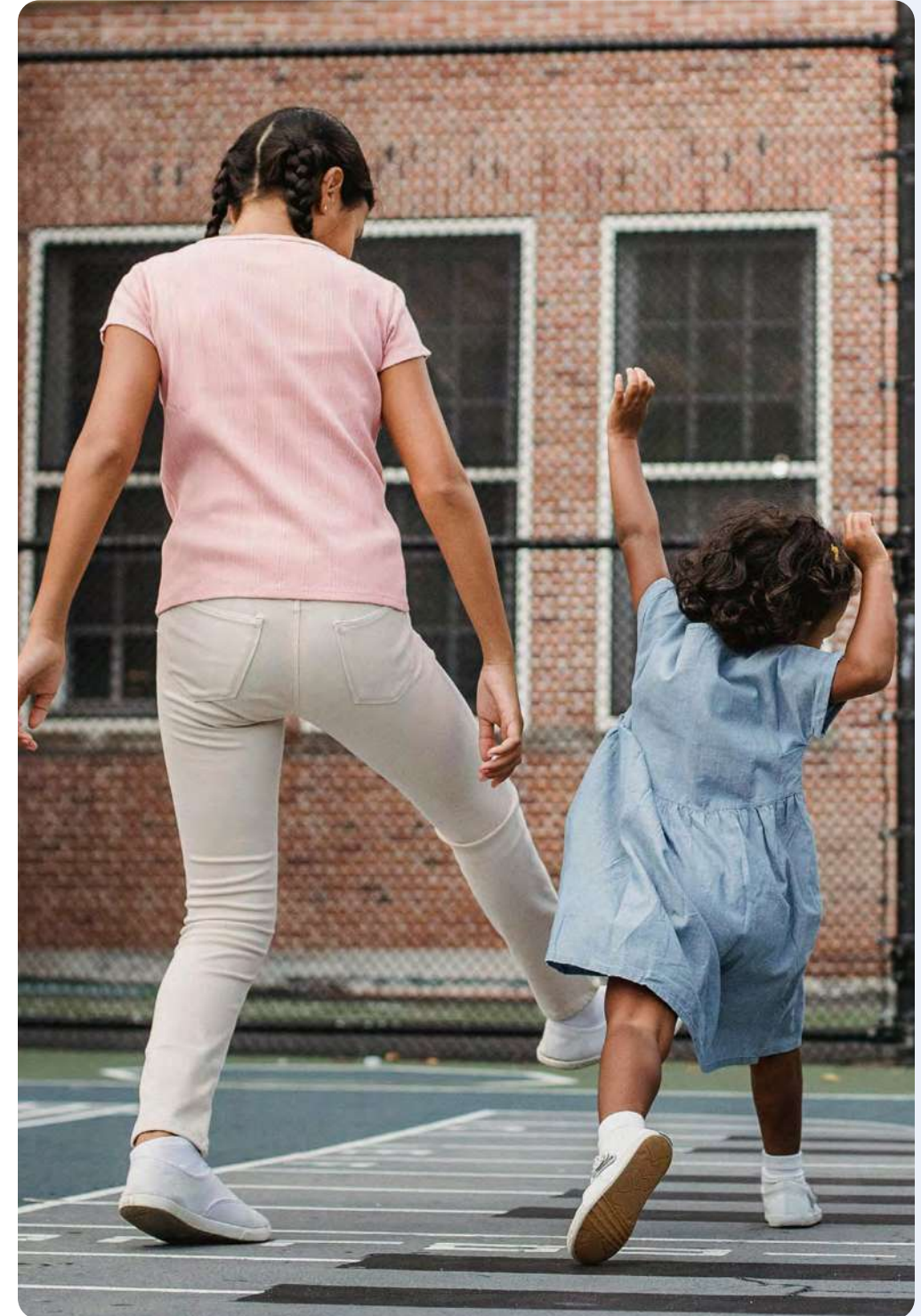
During this process, Lily and Luci lived with a specially trained and licensed foster family who provided stability and reassurance during an overwhelming time. They were in the care of Global Refuge staff during the day and our staff visited their foster home every two weeks to make sure they were adjusting well and receiving the care they needed.

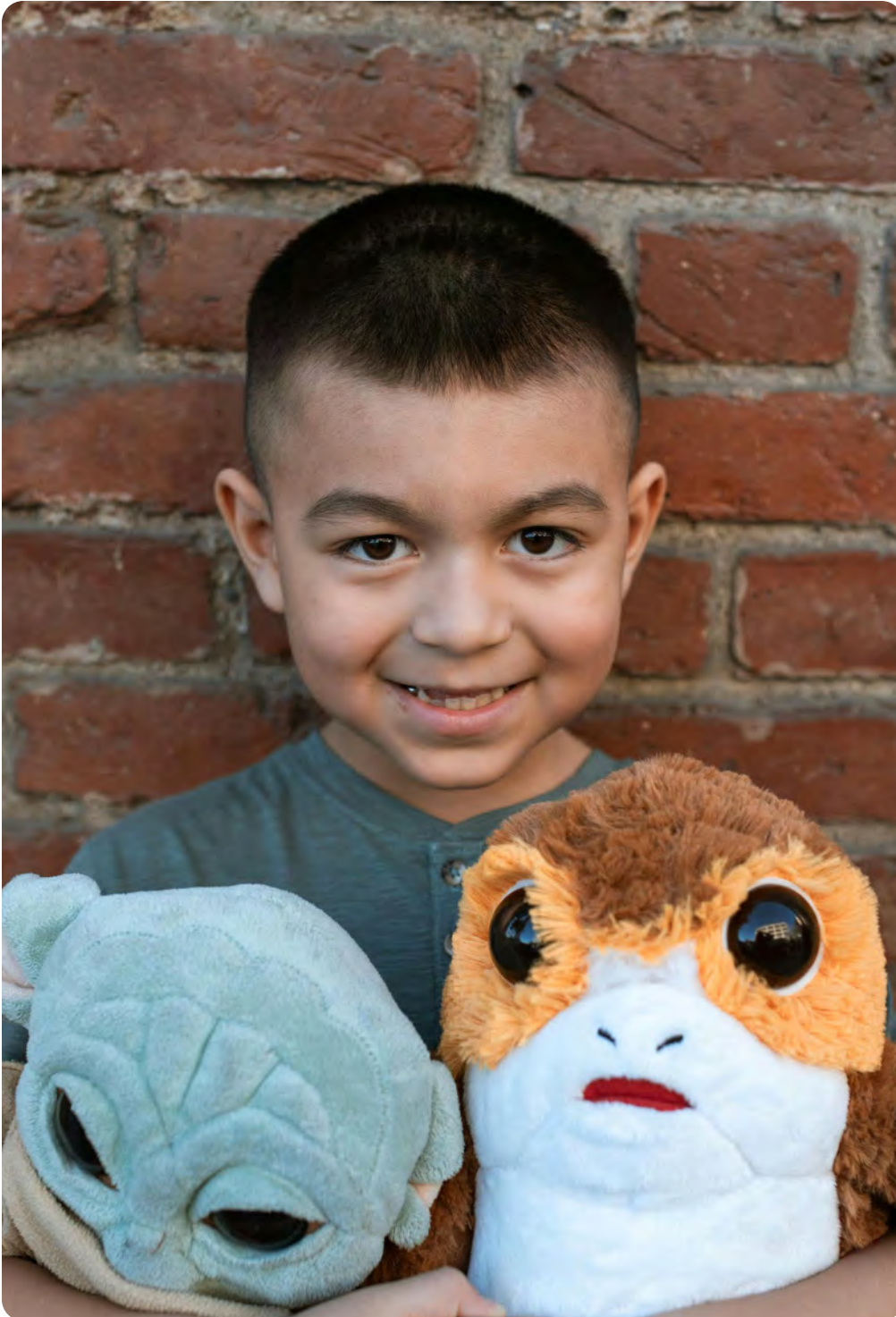
Lily and Luci's time in our care came to an emotional end when, after two long years apart, the sisters finally reunited with their mother.

"Seeing a family physically reunited after such a long process is incredibly meaningful," said the girls' Global Refuge Case Manager. "We also provide follow-up services, so the family continues to get the support they need."

"Seeing a family physically reunited after such a long process is incredibly meaningful."

GLOBAL REFUGE
CASE MANAGER



 STORIES OF HOPE

A Safer Future for Samuel

Five-year-old Samuel* arrived in the United States with his grandmother after facing extremely dangerous circumstances in his home country. There had been a direct threat against him, and shortly before they fled, his grandmother was attacked and Samuel was nearly kidnapped.

When they arrived in the United States, Samuel and his grandmother were separated. He was classified as an unaccompanied child and placed into the care of Global Refuge's Children and Family Services program.

Our team gave Samuel an individualized assessment to understand his needs and emotional well-being. He was assessed for signs of anxiety, stress, and PTSD and placed with a loving foster family while he awaited reunification with his grandmother. Fortunately, he and his foster family quickly bonded over their shared love of soccer.

For a child so young, these changes were overwhelming. Our staff was struck by his bright smile, outgoing nature, and the joy he brought to those around him despite the difficult circumstances he had faced.

"Despite everything he had been through, he was really resilient and always smiling and laughing," said his Global Refuge Case Manager. "He had a great sense of humor. He was really funny."

After Samuel was reunited with his grandmother, Global Refuge continued to support the family by helping his grandmother access resources to meet Samuel's ongoing medical needs and ensure the family had the support they needed to begin their next chapter.

Resettlement and Integration

Welcoming refugees has long been an essential part of our identity—but recent changes in policy and travel restrictions have made traditional refugee resettlement impossible for thousands of families across the globe.

Fortunately, the Global Refuge team worked tirelessly to welcome thousands of refugees before the new rules were put in place. We are still able to resettle a small number of newcomers, but much of our effort has pivoted to focus on the Long Welcome—supporting refugees and other immigrants already living in the United States after their initial 90-day service period ends.

The Long Welcome looks different for every family, but we work to ensure that our newest neighbors are on the path to stability through employment assistance, economic empowerment, mental health support, and more.



19,526

refugees served



Despite severe restrictions on resettlement, Global Refuge was able to support thousands of newcomers in their journey to stability.

 STORIES OF HOPE

The Human Impact of Changing Policy

Zumbe*, a native of the Democratic Republic of Congo, had just begun preparations for his wife and children's arrival in the United States. After nearly two years apart, they were finally slated to join him at his new home in South Carolina, where he had been resettled by a Global Refuge partner. Though the family's separation had been extremely difficult, Zumbe stayed motivated by the thought of finally welcoming his family to a place where they could be safe and free.

But that all came crashing down on January 20, 2025, when the new administration issued an executive order immediately suspending all refugee resettlement.

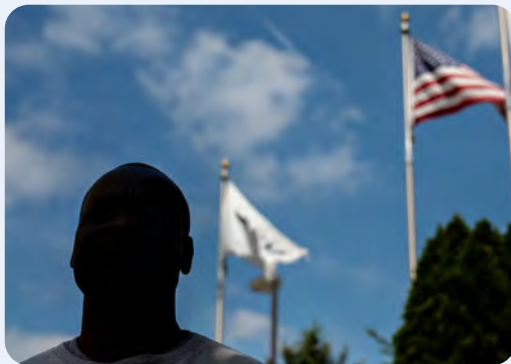
When he spoke to them on the phone later that day, his wife and children just cried. "They felt so hurt and very disappointed," he says.

With the administration's continued actions affecting the resettlement system and ongoing uncertainty about what lies ahead, Zumbe doesn't know where to turn.

"I don't know what to do right now," he says. "I don't know where to start, nor where to end...I ask the government to help our families get here, to reunite us with our families. Because when we get here, we also help—we work so hard, we work in companies where other people are not working, we help the families we left behind."

"People are suffering," he adds.

"Open the way for them. Continue accepting refugees into the United States."


 STORIES OF HOPE

A Refugee's Journey to Student of the Year

Naima* arrived in the United States with her husband and three young children, ready to start a new life. As refugees from Somalia, the family had limited resources but Naima hoped her new country would give her the opportunity to find stability and success. And she was more than willing to put forth the effort needed to realize her dreams.

Soon after arriving in Fargo, Naima and her family connected with Global Refuge. Our support helped them access employment services, healthcare, driver's education classes, and English language lessons.

In just over a year, Naima earned her driver's license, got a job at Amazon, and made significant progress in English. She also became a positive and active member of her adult-learning school community.

But her success didn't come easily. Without a driver's license when she first arrived, Naima walked to work and school—even in subzero temperatures—to stay committed to her goals.

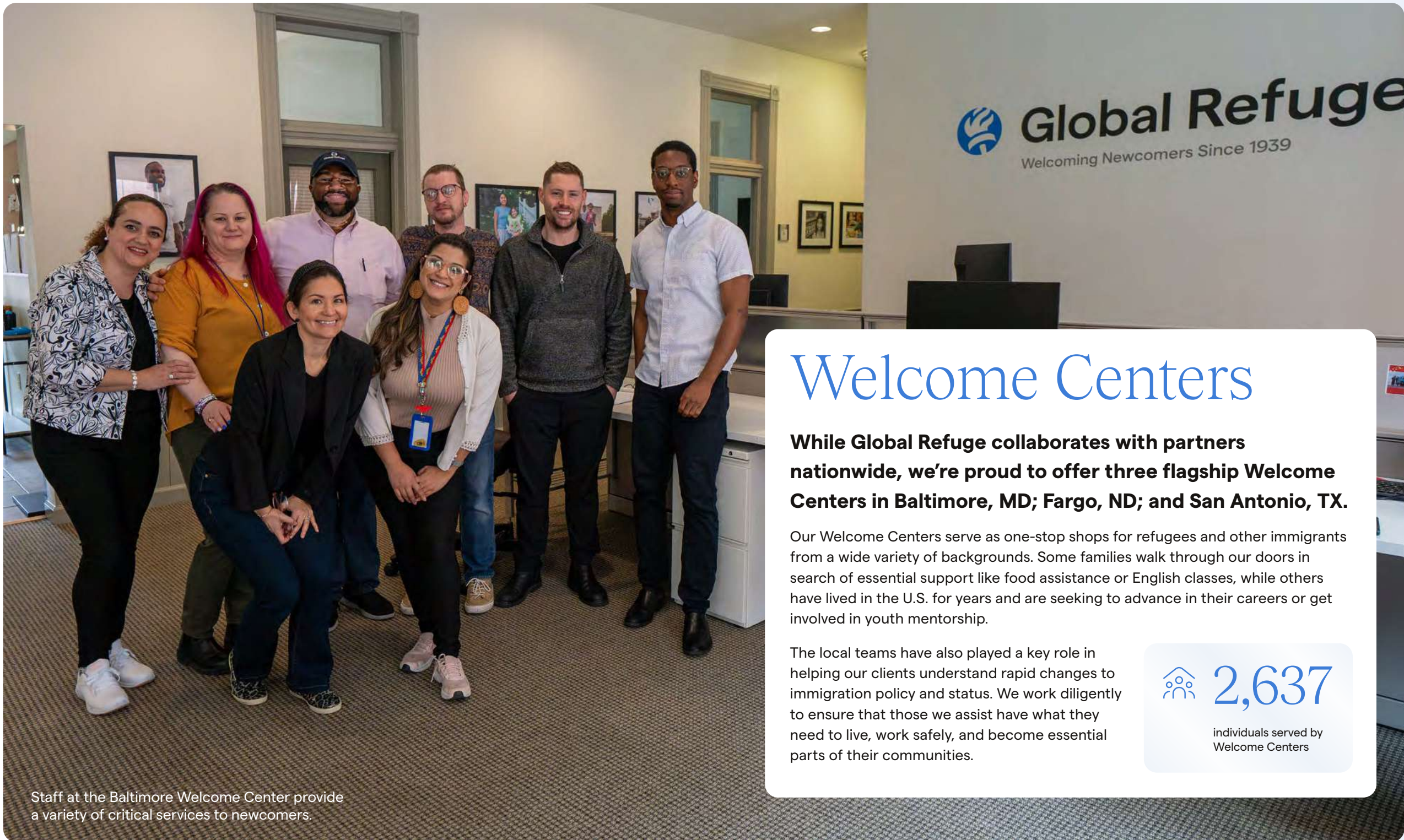
Her hard work, perseverance, and spirit were recognized in 2025 when she was honored as the North Dakota Association for Lifelong Learners' Student of the Year.

"In Somalia, many people believe that a mother with children cannot go to school or succeed," Naima said during her acceptance speech. "Today, I stand here proudly to say that I proved them wrong."



"In Somalia, many people believe that a mother with children cannot go to school or succeed. Today, I stand here proudly to say that I proved them wrong."

NAIMA, GLOBAL REFUGE CLIENT
AND STUDENT OF THE YEAR



Welcome Centers

While Global Refugee collaborates with partners nationwide, we’re proud to offer three flagship Welcome Centers in Baltimore, MD; Fargo, ND; and San Antonio, TX.

Our Welcome Centers serve as one-stop shops for refugees and other immigrants from a wide variety of backgrounds. Some families walk through our doors in search of essential support like food assistance or English classes, while others have lived in the U.S. for years and are seeking to advance in their careers or get involved in youth mentorship.

The local teams have also played a key role in helping our clients understand rapid changes to immigration policy and status. We work diligently to ensure that those we assist have what they need to live, work safely, and become essential parts of their communities.

 **2,637**
individuals served by
Welcome Centers

Staff at the Baltimore Welcome Center provide a variety of critical services to newcomers.



The Power of a Warm Welcome

Across the country, refugee mothers strive every day to create safe, stable lives for their families in a place they're just beginning to call home—finding work, securing housing, and enrolling children in school while adjusting to a new culture.

For Valentina,* seeing her daughter safe, happy, and thriving in the U.S. makes every hardship feel worth it. She and her family fled mounting crises in Venezuela, first seeking safety in a refugee camp in Colombia. Unfortunately, life there proved just as difficult.

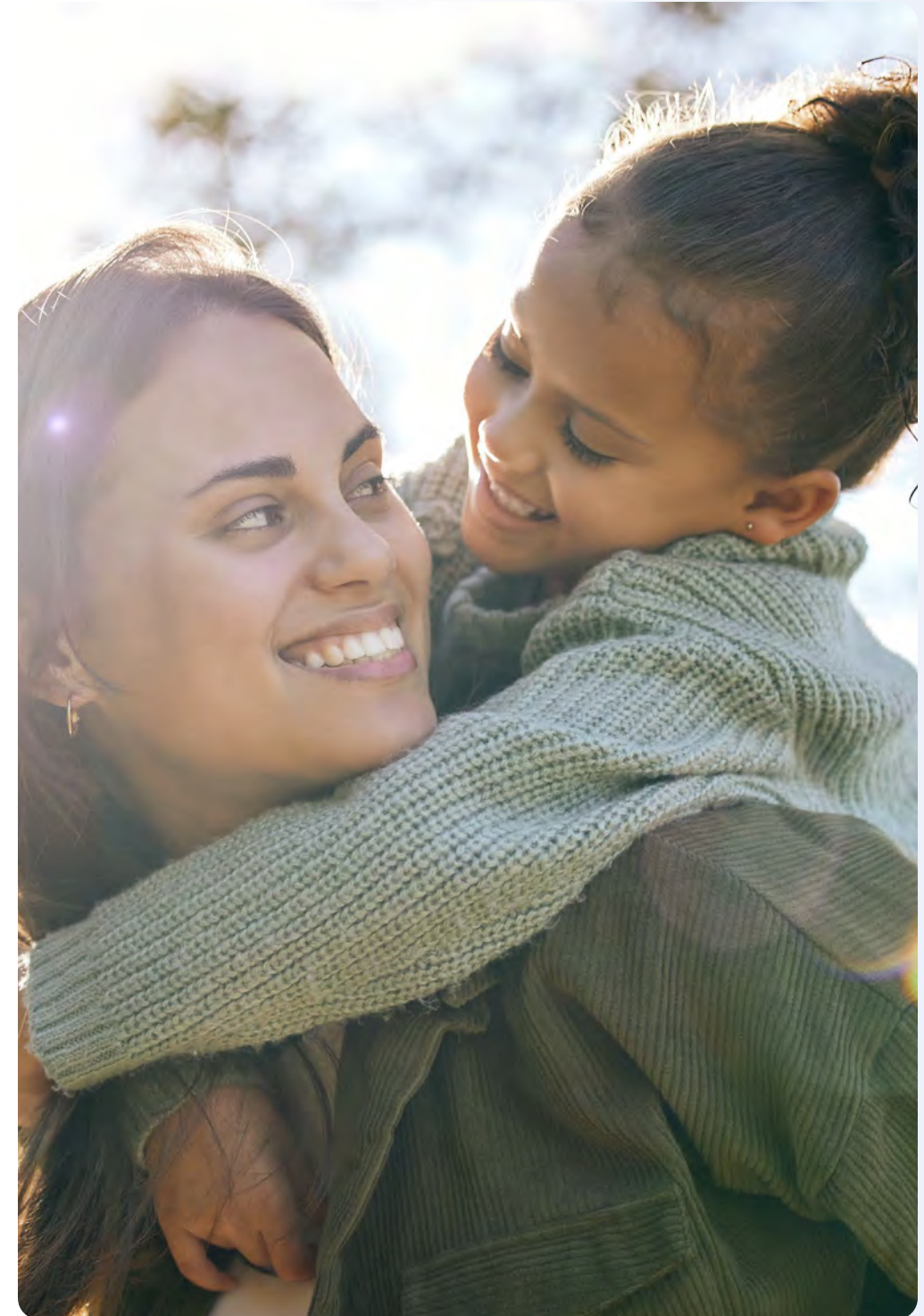
After seven years, Valentina and her husband applied for entry to the United States. When they arrived, fear and anxiety overwhelmed them. But a warm greeting from our San Antonio Welcome Center staff changed everything. The team provided a secure home, groceries, and other essentials for the family to begin their new lives.

“Global Refuge staff provided a lot of support through the hard times,” Valentina shared. “They became that family that we needed to get ahead.”

With Global Refuge’s support, the family secured work permits, enrolled their daughter in school, and applied for benefits to help get them on their feet. Today, Valentina’s family is thriving. She hopes to give back by volunteering with Global Refuge and helping others find the same support she once needed.

“Global Refuge staff provided a lot of support through the hard times... They became that family that we needed to get ahead.”

VALENTINA, GLOBAL REFUGE CLIENT





 Baltimore Welcome Center

Forging a Future in Safety

Marie* and her family were forced to flee violence and uncertainty in Haiti. They first sought safety in Turkey, but there, they faced persecution as Haitians were targeted by local authorities. When Marie's family was granted humanitarian parole to the U.S., she knew she finally had a chance for a fresh start.

But starting over in a new country wasn't easy. "Coming to a new country is hard to navigate, especially with the language barrier," she shared. "Without Global Refuge, we would have been two years behind."

The Baltimore Welcome Center team provided essential support, helping Marie with paperwork, medical appointments, housing, and transportation. But funding cuts in federal programs in 2025 caused families like Marie's to lose access to the crucial assistance they need. Our team was there to help, but restrictions in services remained a challenge. "Having Global Refuge is like having someone hold your hand and guide you to the right doors," she said

Marie's dream is to know with certainty that she and her daughter will always have the safety and stability she found in the U.S. "My biggest joy is watching my daughter go to school without danger," she says. "I want to offer the stability to my daughter that everyone wants for their child."

 Fargo Welcome Center

A Record-Breaking Season of Growth

The 2025 summer season was the most productive yet for our Welcome Garden in Fargo. Participating families harvested an incredible 6,181 pounds of produce—far surpassing last year's total of 1,678 pounds! The abundance was so great that some gardeners brought wagons just to carry their harvests home.

Launched in 2023, the garden has become a vital space for refugee and immigrant families to grow food that's meaningful to them, connect with one another, and build community. This year brought exciting new successes: Afghan gandana flowered in its second year, and Molokhia—also known as Ethiopian Spinach—was grown for the first time and quickly became a favorite.

As ever-changing policies bring stress and uncertainty, the garden continues to provide a healing place to connect with the Earth and the community.



“Working in the garden creates a great opportunity for gardeners to socialize while harvesting. This summer has been a season of growth, learning, and a lot of good food and friendship shared with the community.”

MASTER GARDENER
ERIC HEGG

- 
- New American Lending
 - Immigration Legal Services
 - Camino a Casa

Building Brighter Futures

Jonathan*, a participant in the Camino a Casa program, is rebuilding his life with the help of Global Refuge.

New American Lending

When refugees and other immigrants come to the United States, it can be difficult for them to find their financial footing.

Many people struggle to understand the American financial system and establish credit—something taken for granted by many native-born citizens.

Global Refuge established New American Lending to help bridge that divide. Through individual and small-business loans, the subsidiary promotes economic and personal empowerment, increases individual quality of life, and enables greater contribution to local communities. The result? Stronger communities for all.

 98

individuals and
businesses served

 \$1.07M

in loans distributed

 \$581K

in private support raised



STORIES OF HOPE

Finding a Bridge to Financial Stability

When Isla* and her husband Lorenzo* made the difficult decision to come to the United States and rebuild their lives, they knew the road ahead wouldn’t be easy. As immigrants, they quickly discovered how hard it is to access even the most basic financial tools needed to restart.

The couple had little to no credit history in the U.S.—a fact that made getting help from traditional banks virtually impossible. And while Isla waited for her work authorization to be processed, relying solely on Lorenzo’s income has placed a heavy strain on the family.

“It is very difficult for a family to get by on only one salary, especially with increases in rent, immigration fees, and even groceries,” Isla said.

They decided they needed a personal loan but knew getting approved would be difficult—until they connected with New American Lending.

“This loan has been of exceptional help to our family during this time while I am waiting for permission to work,” Isla said. “We are truly grateful that we found Global Refuge.”

Isla and Lorenzo now have a little more peace of mind as they move toward a secure future for their family.

Isla is so grateful for the help she received, in fact, that she is now pursuing the opportunity to become a Global Refuge Ambassador. She hopes to share her experience, raise awareness, and support Global Refuge’s mission so that other families navigating similar challenges can find the same guidance and care she did.

“This loan has been of exceptional help to our family during this time while I am waiting for permission to work.”

ISLA, NEW AMERICAN LENDING CLIENT



New American Lending Achieves CDFI Certification

New American Lending was officially certified as a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) by the U.S. government—a major milestone that expands our ability to deliver affordable loans, provide financial education and business coaching, and reach underserved communities.

At a time when other forms of public support for immigrant and refugee families are diminishing, we are excited to embark on this exciting new chapter and help more families achieve their American dream.

Immigration Legal Services

At Global Refuge, we understand that access to immigration legal protections can change lives—increasing employment opportunities and economic stability, opening doors for academic achievement, and improving physical and mental health.

Our Immigration Legal Services team guides refugees and other immigrants through complex processes, including:

- Work permit applications
- Temporary Protected Status (TPS), re-parole, and DACA applications
- Family-based sponsorship & family reunification
- Adjustment of Status (AOS) to Lawful Permanent Resident
- Green Card renewals
- Naturalization & Certificates of Citizenship
- Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests
- Individual support and case advocacy
- ...and more.

As policies continue to change, we will continue to work tirelessly to help our neighbors on the pathway to safety and security.



1,056

clients served



40+

legal resources developed



28

states served





LEARN MORE ABOUT IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES

STORIES OF HOPE

Starting a New School Year in Safety

For Jamilah*, the 2025 school year began in a very different place.

Just a year before, the 15-year-old was living with extended family in dangerous circumstances in Pakistan, desperate to be reunited with her parents who were already in the United States.

Her older brother, a U.S. citizen, had helped their parents navigate their immigration journey, and now, he was doing everything he could to help his sister.

The Global Refuge Immigration Legal Services team was brought on to help bring Jamilah to safety. We pushed for expedited processing of her case, working closely with immigration agencies and seeking help from congressional offices. Thanks to a coordinated effort and tireless advocacy, Jamilah arrived in the U.S. in January 2025—just days before new travel bans and policies would have made that nearly impossible.

Today, Jamilah is enrolled in high school, living with her family, and finally able to start building a future in safety. Our team has assisted her in applying for longer-term protection that will allow her to seek a green card. As her case progresses, we enjoy receiving updates from her family on her amazing progress in school.

“I am in awe of Jamilah’s courage and resilience throughout this process,” said Jill Marie Bussey, Global Refuge Director for Legal Affairs. “These cases can be very intense and stressful at times, but it is all worth it when young girls are valued, protected, and have a chance at reaching their full potential.”

“I am in awe of Jamilah’s courage and resilience throughout this process.”

JILL MARIE BUSSEY,
DIRECTOR FOR LEGAL AFFAIRS





With support from Camino a Casa, Luz* is pursuing a career in nursing.

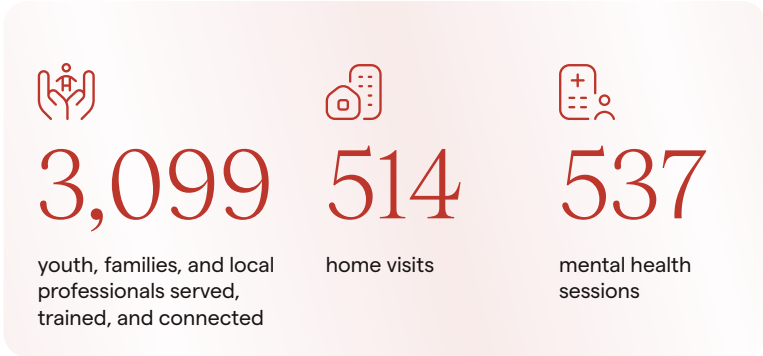
 WATCH LUZ'S STORY

Camino a Casa

As more young people are returned to their home countries, there is greater need than ever to help them build a brighter future at home.

The Camino a Casa program offers holistic support to communities in Guatemala and Mexico, bringing medical and mental health support, job training, educational resources, and more to create opportunities for young people to thrive.

Our passionate team works to ensure that geography is not a barrier to success, sometimes traveling more than six hours for a single home visit. We've supplied everything from a family of goats to new roofs to ensure that each client's material needs are met, allowing them the freedom to succeed in their chosen path—and pay it forward to the next generation.





STORIES OF HOPE

A Solid Foundation

Roberto* grew up in a rural village in Guatemala, where he lived with his parents and two younger sisters in a small tin-roofed home. His father worked as a blacksmith (though irregular work made it hard to earn a steady income) and his mother, who suffered a heart condition, stayed home to care for the children. When Roberto's youngest sister became seriously ill, medical costs pushed the family into crisis.

Determined to support his family, Roberto searched for work after graduating as a junior accountant—but despite his best efforts, every job application went unanswered. With nowhere else to turn, he made the difficult decision to migrate north in search of work. But the journey was cut short and he was returned to Guatemala.

His return home presented a new opportunity. He was connected to the Camino a Casa team, which worked quickly to address the family's immediate needs, providing nutritional support and medical attention to help stabilize his family. They were also provided with 12 chickens, strengthening their food security and creating a sustainable source of nutrition and income.

With his family out of crisis and his sister getting the medical attention she needed, Roberto could finally focus on his own future. Global Refuge staff worked with him to strengthen his professional skills, prepare a resumé, complete application paperwork, and build confidence for interactions with employers. He was soon connected with a local construction company that was partnering with Global Refuge to employ returned youth. He secured a full-time administrative position managing payroll, invoices, and materials, gaining valuable experience that aligned with his studies.

Now making a steady income, Roberto invests in his sisters' education, paying for school fees and supplies so they can pursue their own dreams. He is continuing his studies and full-time work—building a stable, independent life at home.



LEARN MORE ABOUT CAMINO A CASA



- 
- Advocacy
 - Thought Leadership
 - Our Supporters
 - Mobilization and Faith Relations

Strengthening Communities

Photo credit: Mollye Miller

 WATCH BROWN MEMORIAL'S STORY

Members of Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church in Maryland packed Neighbor Kits for the Baltimore Welcome Center.

▶ LEARN MORE ABOUT ADVOCACY

Advocacy

2025 saw some of the most significant policy changes in the history of immigration and refugee resettlement in the United States—often through unilateral executive orders that later faced legal challenges.

Throughout it all, our advocacy team served as tireless champions for our refugee and other immigrant neighbors at the state, local, and federal level and provided critical resources and tools for members of the public to speak out, including through actively engaging our large network of committed grassroots advocates across the United States..

The team met often with Congressional offices on both sides of the aisle to advocate for smart, safe, and humane immigration policy. Though the partisan gridlock has been undeniably difficult to break through, we firmly believe that change is possible if we continue to show both the harm of these policy changes and the inherent importance of immigrants to the United States.



142

meetings with
Congressional staff



19,300+

online resource views



16,870

constituent messages
sent to policymakers

Representatives from the Advocacy team met with Members of Congress to advance safe, humane immigration policies.

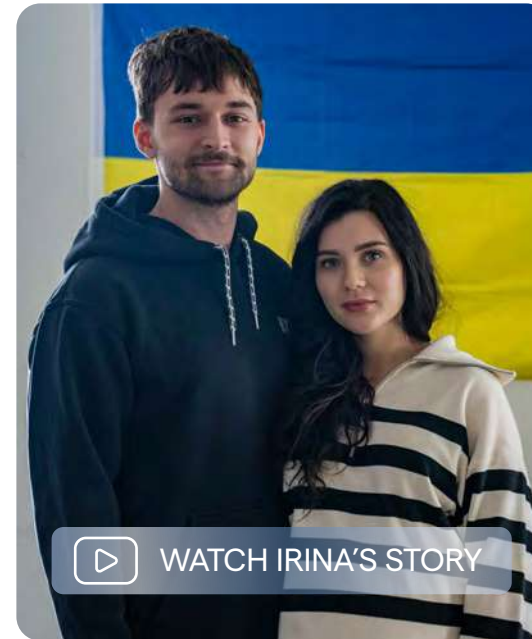
Photo courtesy of Office of Rep. Maggie Goodlander





Navigating a Difficult Period

From late January to mid-March, Global Refuge and its network were dramatically affected by a pause in reimbursements from the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) for services already provided. This created enormous challenges for our programming on behalf of clients and for the organization and our network. The advocacy team engaged numerous Congressional offices and assisted multiple Congressional oversight letters from Arizona, Colorado, and other Congressional delegations to share our firsthand insights of the impact of these administration actions on the lives of children, families, and communities across the country, and to encourage the administration to end the reimbursement pause. The pause was lifted, and reimbursements were issued to Global Refuge and its network—allowing us to resume our critical work of welcome.



“Closing legal pathways does not eliminate need or risk; it simply pushes people further into harm’s way.”

KRISH O’MARA VIGNARAJAH,
PRESIDENT & CEO

Advocacy in Action

Supporting Ukrainians

Throughout 2025, Global Refuge served as a thought and advocacy leader on supporting Ukrainians displaced by the Russian invasion.

While status for Ukrainians had not been cancelled en masse, Ukrainians were seeing no movement on their immigration applications. The team drafted and supported multiple bipartisan Congressional oversight letters urging the administration to resume and ramp up processing. Ukrainian adjudications have since picked up speed, particularly for newer applications.

Defeating Harmful Measures

Global Refuge participated in coalition advocacy during the 2025 reconciliation process in Congress. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act cut off humanitarian entrants from services, hiked immigration fees, and made other harmful changes to federal law for newcomers. However, through our advocacy, some harmful provisions were reduced or struck from the bill prior to passage—such as lowering the proposed initial asylum application fee from \$1,000 to \$100 and removing a high fee for sponsors of unaccompanied children.

“Offering refuge is an act of faith — faith in people, in second chances, and in our shared humanity. That faith has shaped America’s story for generations.”

KRISH O’MARA VIGNARAJAH
PRESIDENT & CEO



Photo courtesy of Goucher College

Thought Leadership

Though 2025 brought significant challenges, it also offered a remarkable opportunity for Global Refuge to speak boldly and reframe the national narrative on immigration and refugee resettlement.

We took to the national stage with a central message: refugees and other immigrants are still welcome—and when our newest neighbors thrive, so does the United States.

Speaking Out

Global Refuge was proud to remain a prominent voice for truth, legal clarity, and compassion, serving as a leading commentator in the national media on major federal actions and policy changes while also advancing proactive coverage on refugees’ economic contributions, bipartisan policy solutions to restore lawful pathways, and faith-based models of welcome.

Standing Up

In this time of hateful rhetoric and harmful policies, we know who refugees and other immigrants truly are: teachers, parents, doctors, neighbors, and friends.

We launched our #StillWelcome campaign to demonstrate that—despite the prevailing narratives—refugees and other immigrants are still welcome in our organization and in our communities.



12,600+

mentions in local and national media



20.5M

impressions for #StillWelcome campaign



Mobilization and Faith Relations

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” - Matthew 25:35

Beginning with our organization’s founding by Lutherans in 1939, people of faith have played a fundamental role in Global Refuge’s work of welcome. Their steadfast support has seen us through every refugee crisis since WWII, through multiple presidential administrations, and through countless changes in policy and political opinion.

This year, despite—or because of—its challenges, these same people of faith stepped up beyond anything we’ve seen in our 85+ year history. Congregations and people of faith around the country met the moment with compassion and grace: mobilizing to protect and embrace their immigrant and refugee neighbors, building mutual aid networks from the ground up, boldly advocating to their local and national representatives, and beyond.



\$1.2M

raised by
faith communities



16,000+

cards written for
Hope for the Holidays



1,600

Neighbor Kits
packed



Members of the Global Refuge team spoke with congregations across the country about our work and the call to welcome.

Photo credit: Terrie Thompson



STORIES OF HOPE

Welcoming Through Service

Global Refuge supporter **Susan Lyke**’s commitment to welcoming refugees has grown out of a lifetime of experience. She’s lived in countries like Macedonia and Pakistan, where daily life was far less secure than in the U.S., and has seen firsthand the kinds of hardships like war, poverty, and persecution that force people to flee their homes.

“Many people don’t come to the U.S. by choice, but because staying in their home countries simply isn’t safe,” she shared. “My faith compels me and has shaped me to believe that where I live, there’s room for others.”

Susan channels that belief into action through her role as a Global Refuge Ambassador. Living near our Baltimore headquarters, she has volunteered in the Welcome Center, supported administrative tasks, called fellow donors to thank them, and represented Global Refuge at local events.

“I believe strongly in Global Refuge’s commitment to welcome, and it’s important to me that our nation be a place of refuge,” she says. “Welcome means making room for someone else, inviting them into your life, and accompanying them respectfully as they navigate the realities, challenges, and joys of a very new place. Genuine welcome changes everybody involved as we learn from one another.”

“I believe strongly in Global Refuge’s commitment to welcome, and it’s important to me that our nation be a place of refuge.”

SUSAN LYKE, GLOBAL REFUGE SUPPORTER & AMBASSADOR



Faith Partner Spotlight:

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints has been a steadfast and generous partner of Global Refuge’s local, national, and international programs for many years. Their humanitarian support has helped to lay a foundation of safety and stability for newcomer families in the U.S. and provided empowerment and hope for the future to the young people we serve in Guatemala.

Faithful Partnership

As always, our partners at the **ELCA** have been incredible supporters during this difficult period.

During the stop-work order that affected our organization early in 2025, we received a critical gift of \$125,000 from **ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response**.

While attending Synod Assemblies throughout the country, we were honored to be recognized in several Resolutions supporting the accompaniment of immigrants, our Camino a Casa program, and our organization more broadly. (Thank you to the **Minneapolis Area Synod**, the **Southwest California Synod** and **Our Savior’s Lutheran Church** in Everett, WA for your commitment to the work of welcome!)

And on the congregation level, we have been so grateful for the response of clergy around the country this past year as they offered their voices, buildings, and time to support immigrant families in need.

Members of ELCA Synods in action for Global Refuge: Minneapolis Area Synod (top), Southwest California Synod (bottom left), and Trinity Lutheran Church in Chicago.



San Antonio Field Office Director Julie Thornton (right) poses with Deacon Lisa Diana of Christ Lutheran Church.

 STORIES OF HOPE

More than 50 Years of Welcome, Together

In 2025, **Christ Lutheran Church of Alamo Heights** boldly stepped forward to support immigrant and refugee families when they needed it most. With a history of welcome dating back to 1974—when the congregation sponsored a refugee family from Vietnam through what is now Global Refuge—the church continued its long-standing commitment to walking alongside our newest neighbors.

As changing policies increased hardships for immigrant and refugee communities, the congregation looked for meaningful ways to respond. During Lent, Christ Lutheran designated Global Refuge as the recipient

of its worship giving, offering vital financial support for programs of welcome. In the summer, members came together again, collecting gift cards, bus passes, toiletries, diapers, and other essential items to share directly with Global Refuge clients.

Through financial giving and hands-on support, Christ Lutheran lived out its calling to welcome the stranger and care for neighbors most in need. Global Refuge is deeply grateful for this partnership and for the faith, compassion, and steadfast commitment that congregations like Christ Lutheran bring.

Our Supporters

Gifts from our generous network of donors and faith communities have always been critical to our mission. This year, that support was more important than ever.

Beginning in January 2025, pauses in federal funding, program reductions, and losses of critical benefits and work authorization put our clients at grave risk. But thanks to the compassion of donors across the country, we were able to ensure that none of our clients fell through the cracks. Gifts to Global Refuge kept a roof overhead, the lights on, and food on the table for immigrant and refugee families in a time of crisis.

Private funding also allowed us the freedom to expand, innovate, and build programs that are not reliant on federal grants—creating a critical safety net for families in need.



\$12.2M

in private donations



3,253

first-time donors



110%

increase in giving from faith communities



WATCH TRINITY'S STORY

Trinity Lutheran Church in Chicago hosted a Mardi Gras pancake dinner to benefit Global Refuge.



Planting Hope

Sharon and Ron B. have supported Global Refuge as donors for more than eight years. But in 2025, they gave something truly essential to the success of one of our programs.

When Sharon learned that the Global Refuge Welcome Garden in Fargo, ND needed a new tractor, she wanted to help. Having been raised on her family’s farm, she knew how vital a tractor was for a growing operation. So Sharon and Ron donated the full cost of a new tractor in memory of her father, Harold.

Sharon and Ron’s generous gift allowed the garden to expand growing space for high-demand crops like lenga-lenga greens, Aleppo peppers, and molokhia. In 2025, families harvested over 6,000 pounds of fresh, culturally meaningful produce.

“This is such important work,” says Sharon. “We are happy to do what we can to help.”

STORIES OF HOPE

Global Refuge donors have stepped up in so many incredible ways—including a few out-of-the-box ideas to support the work of welcome!

Painting with a Purpose

Jennifer Hereth is an artist, a retired professor, and the daughter of a Lutheran minister—and she’s spent much of her 40-year career using her art to speak out on social justice issues. Now, she’s turning her creativity into action by pledging 100% of the proceeds from her new art book, *My Brush – My Voice*, to Global Refuge.

“I hope people who purchase my book will gain a greater understanding of how and why an artist makes paintings about social justice and refugee justice,” Jennifer says. “I hope they will feel proud to know their purchase makes them part of and ‘welcomed’ into the Global Refuge family.”

Jennifer’s work has taken her around the globe, including to Sri Lanka, where she helped build a community center in the aftermath of civil war. She’s also supported refugee resettlement efforts here in the U.S.

“My hope for refugees is that everyone is welcome,” she shared. “And that we treat immigrants and refugees already here with justice and we give them ways to become citizens.”





Riding for Refuge

In September, longtime Global Refuge supporter **Vicki Schmidt** joined our Chief Development & Mobilization Officer Andrew Steele for a 30-mile bike ride from Duluth to Castle Danger, MN. The goal? Raise funds for the Fargo office’s Welcome Garden and awareness about the urgent situation facing immigrant and refugee families today.

“I’ve been supporting the work of Global Refuge for decades because I believe with my whole heart that this is what I was called to do,” said Vicki, who turned 80 years young this year. “This ride is just another way to say to families, ‘You are welcome.’”

Thanks to generous donations, the bike ride raised nearly \$23,000 for the Welcome Garden—a particularly critical gift as some refugee and other immigrant families lose federal food assistance and seek alternative food sources.

“I was so happy to join one of our most loyal supporters to raise money to keep this important program thriving,” said Andrew. “Riding with Vicki [was] so much fun—she’s a great riding companion and such an inspiration.”

“I’ve been supporting the work of Global Refuge for decades because I believe with my whole heart that this is what I was called to do.”

[VICKI SCHMIDT, GLOBAL REFUGE SUPPORTER](#)





Corporate and Foundation Partners

As both federal funding and support for humanitarian aid decline, we know that building and strengthening partnerships is essential.

The families we serve need allies who are committed to honoring human dignity and supporting those seeking safety. At Global Refuge, our corporate and foundation partners do just that: showing up, pitching in, and standing with refugee and immigrant families every step of the way.



Meet Our Partners

SANFORD HEALTH

A trusted employer expanding pathways to opportunity

As the largest rural nonprofit health system in the United States, Sanford Health has been a trusted employer for Global Refuge clients in North Dakota for years, helping connect newcomers to meaningful employment and long-term opportunity. In 2025, Sanford Health expanded its support to include funding for direct assistance and the work of the Fargo Welcome Center—strengthening access to critical stabilization services and promoting employment, economic security, and community.

UNITED WAY OF SAN ANTONIO AND BEXAR COUNTY

Strengthening economic stability for new Texans

United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County joined the work of welcome through its support of Global Refuge’s workforce development efforts in the greater San Antonio area. This new partnership expands access to job readiness training, career advancement pathways, and individualized employment support for refugees and immigrants on the path to self-sufficiency.



INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Empowering youth to build futures at home

Global Refuge is proud to have launched a partnership with the International Community Foundation, which provided a generous grant in support of our Camino a Casa program serving repatriated youth in Guatemala.

Meet Our Partners

THE MEADOWS FOUNDATION

A new partnership supporting the work of welcome

The Meadows Foundation provides critical support for the San Antonio Welcome Center, strengthening comprehensive, community-based services for refugees and immigrants across the greater San Antonio area. This support helps ensure newcomers have access to individualized case management, emergency assistance, and pathways to long-term stability and self-sufficiency during a critical period of resettlement and integration.

BETTERWORLD TRUST

Investing in education and opportunity

BetterWorld Trust supports Global Refuge’s Camino a Casa program, strengthening holistic services for repatriated and refugee youth in Mexico and Guatemala. Through its investment, BetterWorld Trust helps Camino a Casa address root causes of migration by advancing education, workforce readiness, health, and beyond.

AARON & LILLIE STRAUS FOUNDATION

Meeting the moment when it mattered most

The Aaron & Lillie Straus Foundation responded to urgent needs in our client communities, supporting access to essential legal and stabilization services for immigrant families in the Baltimore region—and helping ensure protection, dignity, and pathways to security during a period of heightened uncertainty.

 STORIES OF HOPE

Shaping a Stronger Workforce

When business owner **Frank Fumich** began making a sustained effort to hire refugees and other immigrants, the positive impact on his workforce, his business, and his life was felt immediately.

As owner of airline catering service **Express Catering**, Fumich employs a large number of refugee workers. So when he learned that some refugees with legal work authorization would soon lose their status and face deportation, it hit close to home.

“I just lost two of my hardest working employees from Nicaragua who had been granted humanitarian parole,” says Fumich, referring to the Humanitarian Parole Program for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans (CHNV), which allowed entry to the U.S. for up to two years. The program was terminated in 2025.

“These guys worked for me for two years and were great workers. We were all so sad to see them leave.”

Working closely with refugees and other immigrants has given Fumich a unique perspective on the difficulties they face. When an employee shared the story of being separated from his wife and daughter in Cameroon for five years, Fumich offered support and helped find legal assistance. Three years later, the family was reunited in the United States.

This commitment led Fumich to become a **Global Refuge Preferred Refugee Employer**, a designation for companies meeting refugee employment best practices. PREs receive ongoing training and support and serve as pipelines for refugee talent.

“Immigrants are incredibly important to our country and our economy,” Fumich says. “We need common sense immigration laws that recognize that.”





STORIES OF HOPE

A Powerful Partnership

In 2025, Global Refuge was excited to continue working with **LifeStraw**, a water filtration company based in our own hometown of Baltimore.

“We were drawn to Global Refuge because of the organization’s commitment to dignity, care, and the long-term well-being of newcomers,” shared Vito Castelgrande, LifeStraw’s Social Impact & Sustainability Manager. “We believe that respect, dignity, and health must be at the center of humanitarian response. Like LifeStraw, Global Refuge both responds to urgent needs and builds long-term solutions.”

This past holiday season, the team at LifeStraw went above and beyond for our Fresh Change program—buying nearly 90% of the items on our Amazon Wishlist, donating reusable LifeStraw bottles, and showing up in person at our Hope for the Holidays event to help pack care bags for newly arrived families.

Their Giving Tuesday efforts were just as powerful. LifeStraw donated water pitchers and personal reusable straws to our Camino a Casa clients in Guatemala, gave clothing and school supplies, and launched a fundraising campaign to support our work.

LifeStraw is looking ahead to growing this powerful partnership—supporting and donating to our work in Baltimore, across the U.S., and in Central America and Mexico.

“We hope to see a world where humanitarian aid goes beyond meeting basic needs to focus more on restoring dignity and building equity. Partnerships like this move us closer to that vision.”

“We hope to see a world where humanitarian aid goes beyond meeting basic needs to focus more on restoring dignity and building equity.”

VITO CASTELGRANDE, LIFESTRAW’S SOCIAL IMPACT & SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER



Photo credit: Marlayna Photography

Financial Statement

Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2025

Based on audited financial statements

Statement of Activities & Changes in Net Assets
for the year ended December 31, 2025

Dollars in thousands

Global Refuge is a careful steward
of the private donations and
public funds that allow us to
carry out our work of welcome.

Statement of Financial Position

Assets	2025	2024
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$32,609	\$31,577
Investments	42,707	37,630
U.S. Govt Receivable	16,615	34,495
Other Assets	3,022	6,023
Investment In Lutheran Center Corp	3,007	3,100
Total Assets	\$97,960	\$112,825
Liabilities and Net Assets	2025	2024
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable & Other Liabilities	\$19,224	\$43,851
Long-term Debt	599	956
Total Liabilities	\$19,823	\$44,807
Net Assets		
Without Donor Restrictions	\$75,829	\$66,197
With Donor Restrictions	2,308	1,821
Total Net Assets	\$78,137	\$68,018
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$97,960	\$112,825

Statement of Activities & Change in Net Assets

Support & Revenue	2025	2024
Contributions-Private Sources	\$12,153	\$9,952
U.S. Government and State	154,705	291,935
Fees and Other Revenue	9,698	6,929
Total Support and Revenue	\$176,556	\$308,817
Expenses	2025	2024
Program Services - Government	\$147,824	\$276,561
Program Services - Other	5,400	6,821
Management and General	10,638	16,335
Fundraising	2,575	3,549
Total Expenses	\$166,437	\$303,266
Change in Net Assets	\$10,119	\$5,550
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	68,018	62,468
Net Assets, End of Year	\$78,137	\$68,018



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Photo credit: Marlayna Photography

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Photo credit: Marlayna Photography

Global Refuge is a nonprofit serving newcomers seeking safety, support, and the opportunity to thrive. For more than 85 years, we have welcomed more than 800,000 of those seeking refuge, upholding a legacy of compassion and grace for people in crisis.

Thank you for supporting Global Refuge!

You make the work of welcome **possible**.

DONATE NOW



Global Refuge

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700 Light Street
Baltimore, MD 21230

410 983 4000
info@globalrefuge.org



globalrefuge.org