



LIRS

WELCOMING NEWCOMERS
SINCE 1939

WE BELIEVE

NG. STRANGERS CAN BECOME NEIGHBORS. **WELCOMING NEWCOMERS IS OUR CALLING.** COMPASSION IS THE BEST POLICY.



Founded by Lutherans in the United States to serve displaced persons fleeing Nazi Germany, LIRS has become the largest faith-based national nonprofit dedicated to immigration and refugee resettlement in the United States.



500K+

**MORE THAN 500,000 NEWCOMERS
WELCOMED BY LIRS SINCE 1939**

WE BELIEVE

IMMIGRATION IS AMERICAN.

The vast majority of American-born citizens have an immigrant ancestor — someone who left a familiar land in search of a better life. To this day, individuals and families come to the United States to escape war, famine, violence, and persecution in countries that no longer feel like home. Since 1939, more than 500,000 immigrants and refugees have been met with open arms by the people of LIRS. As both descendants of immigrants and new Americans ourselves, we hear our past in their stories. As human beings, we empathize with their greatest fears and highest hopes. As passionate experts in the work of welcome, we seek to protect vulnerable newcomers and empower them to share in the American dream.

WHEN PEOPLE RUN TOWARD US WE SHOULD OPEN OUR ARMS. IMMIGRATION IS AMERICAN. THE AMERICAN DREAM IS BIG ENOUGH TO SHARE. IT TAKES COURAGE TO SEEK SAFETY. CARING IS PATRIOTIC. THERE IS ENOUGH GOOD TO GO AROUND.

WE BELIEVE

THE BEST WELCOME IS LONG-LASTING.


A warm greeting at the airport, a modestly furnished apartment, and a refrigerator stocked with familiar foods are the first signs of welcome for refugees resettled by LIRS. Over the next 90 days, our partners help refugees secure homes, find work, and access essential resources. Then our network of congregations and grassroots groups offers fellowship, and our career development programming opens up opportunities for new Americans to provide for their families and give back to the communities that welcomed them. For unaccompanied minors at our southern border, LIRS taps loving foster families to provide transitional foster care for as long as necessary. "The long welcome" entails walking alongside vulnerable newcomers and empowering them to plant roots and grow.

LIRS IS ONE OF NINE REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT AGENCIES IN THE UNITED STATES AND ONE OF TWO ORGANIZATIONS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ENTRUSTS WITH SERVING UNACCOMPANIED REFUGEE MINORS.



90+

**more than 90 local nonprofits
in our national partner network**



LIRS's annual Hope for the Holidays program has sent thousands of gifts to children in immigration detention since 2015.



LIRS worked with the U.S. government to help reunite children with their parents after family separations.

WE BELIEVE

WE CAN DO MORE TOGETHER THAN WE CAN DO ALONE.

Self-sufficiency is a great American value, but it takes collaboration to make lasting change. Together, we can advocate not only to raise the refugee ceiling but also to rebuild and enhance U.S. capacity for refugee resettlement. We can push for the reunification of all children and parents who were forcibly separated at the southern border. We can open our homes to immigrant children and invite refugee families into our communities. We can ensure that climate migration is a U.S. policy priority. Together, we can shine a light on the work of welcome and ensure that America stands as a beacon of hope to those most in need of protection.

2,800

2,800 MESSAGES SENT TO CONGRESS BY LIRS
ADVOCATES FOR THE U.S. CITIZENSHIP ACT OF 2021






Lutheran Immigration
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