





new name, same mission

In 2024, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) became known to the world and the people we exist to serve as “Global Refuge.”



With millions of people displaced by war, famine, climate change, persecution, and more, our mission of providing the “long welcome” has become more crucial than ever. The accompanying growth in the demand for our essential, expanded suite of services sparked the need to identify ourselves ever more clearly and create a bigger table of partners and supporters.

As Global Refuge, we become even more accessible to clients, partners, and supporters without altering our core mission. We remain dedicated to fostering a world of just and welcoming communities, informed by our Lutheran heritage and 85+ years of experience. Our faith-based identity remains integral to our organization, reflecting the spirit of love that shapes our work of welcome and strengthens our relationships with Lutheran communities and congregations, as well as with nondenominational and interfaith partners.

We look forward to the next 85 years!

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Tasneem came to the United States as a refugee from Yemen. She now lives in New Mexico with her mother and sister.

Photo credit: Adria Malcolm

a letter from leadership



Krish Vignarajah
Krish O'Mara Vignarajah
President & CEO

At this moment, we find ourselves in one of the most difficult periods in the history of the U.S. immigration system. The need for our services has never been greater, yet we're seeing the very infrastructure designed to protect those seeking safety at a crossroads.

We've been through hard times before, and—with the help of our incredible supporters—we're confident we will once more be able to provide the excellent, time-tested care we always have for children and families. As you'll see in the report ahead, this past year was truly a monumental one in our history...and, in fact, was the first official year as Global Refuge!

Our 85th anniversary marked an important milestone and offered an opportunity for reflection. In the near-century since Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service first welcomed refugees fleeing World War II, who had we become?

Our core mission, rooted in our Lutheran heritage, has always been to serve refugees and other immigrants—but we've never stopped innovating. This year brought with it the launch and expansion of a suite of new programs spanning legal and mental health services, economic empowerment, life-changing international work in Guatemala and Mexico, and so much more. **Most importantly, we were able to serve more individuals and families than ever before.**



Bryn Parchman
Bryn Parchman
Board President

In short, it was a fantastic first year under our new name and a promising vision for our future. But the year brought something else, too: an increase in anti-immigrant sentiment, disinformation, and hateful rhetoric leading up to the presidential election. We are seeing a significant disruption in the lives of refugees and other immigrants in the United States and beyond.

The horizon presents challenges—but for now, please enjoy seeing Global Refuge at our best. **We couldn't have done it without our incredible supporters, and we know that with your help, we will reach new heights once more.**

As always, we're so grateful to have you by our side.

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

Justo and his family fled Nicaragua and were welcomed to Dallas, TX by Global Refuge partner ICNA.

[Learn more](#)

2024 was the most impactful year in our long history.

We were honored to expand our programs, increase our advocacy, and serve more children and families than ever before.



\$10.2M

raised through private fundraising



19,496

refugees resettled



20,029

children and families served



\$1.4M

in loans distributed to new Americans



981

participants served by international programs in Guatemala and Mexico



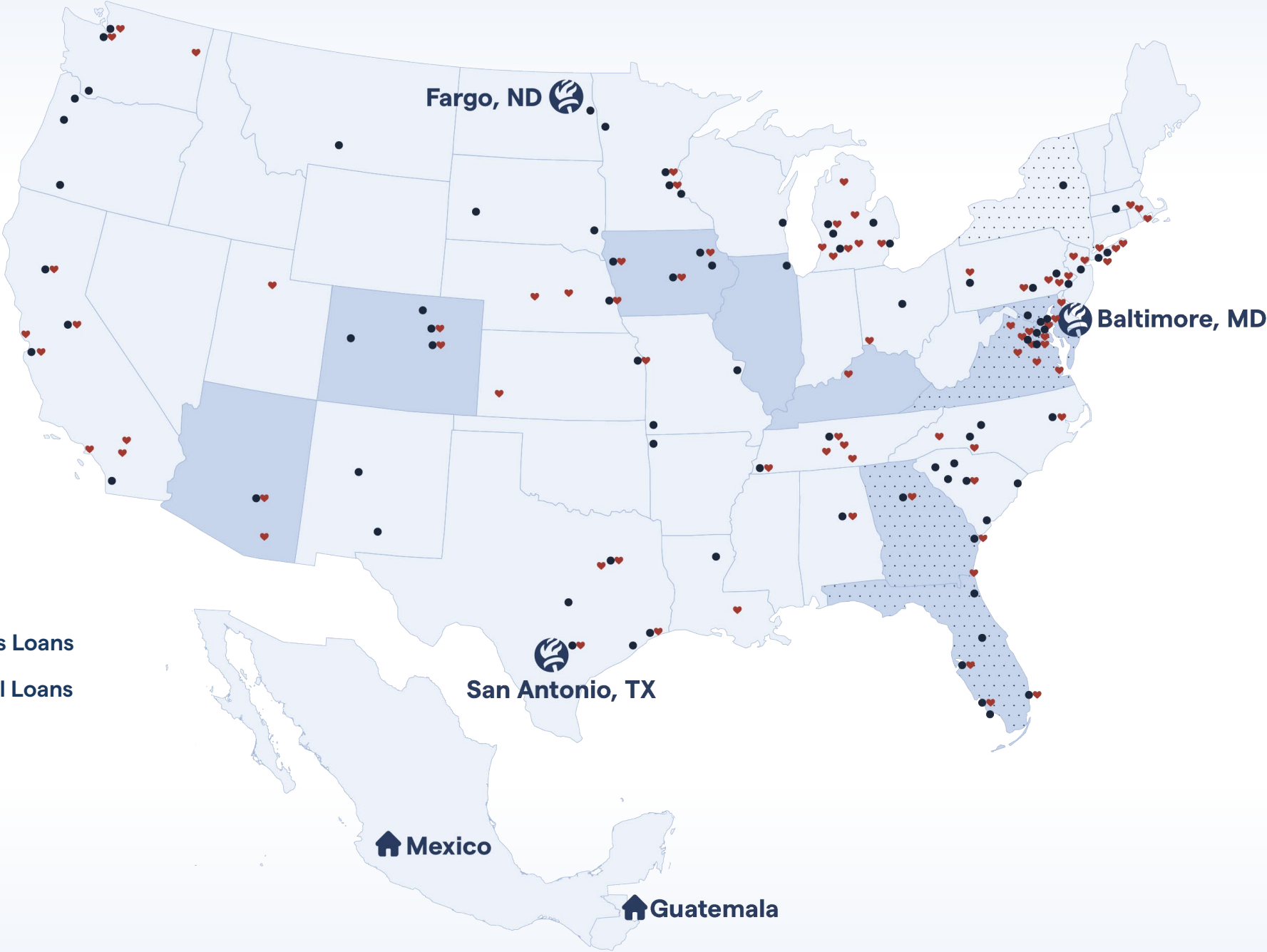
5,238

engagements with state and local officials

our impact grows

-  Global Refugee Field Offices
-  New American Lending - Business Loans
-  New American Lending - Personal Loans
-  Refugee and Integration Services
-  Children and Family Services
-  Camino a Casa*

*map not to scale



OUR PROGRAMS

building a new sense of home



Aziz and Massouda fled Afghanistan and found a home in the U.S. with help from the Global Refugee network.

[Watch their story](#)

OUR PROGRAMS

refugee
resettlement
is at the heart of
what we do.

Since helping the first Lutheran refugees start new lives in the United States after WWII, **we’ve welcomed more than 800,000 people** of all races, religions, and creeds from across the world.

We still believe in the power of those first few months in a new place. That’s why we’re there from the very moment a family arrives at the airport and are ready to welcome them with a full pantry and a warm meal at their new home. But we believe, too, in the long welcome: supporting our newest neighbors as they find work, go to school, meet new friends, start businesses, and become essential members of their communities.


19,496
refugees
resettled


8,969
served by
Matching Grant
employment program


91%
of personal and
professional goals achieved
by clients in our specialized
case management system



Eric and Elizabeth arrived from Guatemala in May 2024 and worked with the Baltimore Welcome Center to find their footing in their new home.

 Watch their story





Matendo's **story:**

a place to call home

Looking at his accomplishments today, you'd never guess that just a few years ago, Matendo was living in a refugee camp with his wife and young son—unsure where their next meal would come from or whether their lives would ever move forward.

Originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Matendo fled conflict in his country and sought refuge in Malawi. He lived there for seven years with his wife and eventually had a son. Life in Malawi for them was unstable, with scarce food, limited access to education, and no clear path forward. Matendo worked as a barber, but income was inconsistent, and many days passed without enough to feed his family.

"Some days my son would say, 'Daddy, I need bread,'" he says. "When you don't have food, life is very hard, very hard."

After applying for refugee status and years of waiting, the family's application to enter the U.S. was approved. With the help of Canopy Northwest Arkansas, a Global Refugee partner, Matendo, his wife, and their young son began a new chapter. Canopy welcomed them at the airport and provided critical support—from helping them find housing and employment to navigating schools, transportation, and medical appointments.

Matendo started working as a dishwasher and carefully saved money while building enough credit to buy their first home. Now a U.S. citizen, Matendo is focused on the future.

After experiencing the hardships of camp life, Matendo is committed to ensuring that his son has the opportunities he never had. He says he encourages him to take school seriously because education is key to success.

**“ Now that we are citizens,
the future for our son is good. ”**

 **Watch Matendo's story**

OUR PROGRAMS

**economic
empowerment builds
stronger communities.**



At the end of 2023, Global Refuge launched **two new subsidiaries** to fill critical labor needs and support economic empowerment for refugees and other immigrants as they build and strengthen their lives in the United States.

As they took root in 2024, the two initiatives supported a core Global Refuge goal: financially empowering new Americans while strengthening local economies—leading to better opportunity for all.

New American Lending

This Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) offers low-interest and Riba-free business and personal loans that would otherwise be difficult to obtain for those with low or no credit, meeting newcomers where they are.

 **96.67%**
loan approval rate

 **\$1.4M**
in loans distributed

 **116**
clients received
financial coaching

New American Careers

Our newest social enterprise connects employers with immigrant talent, while offering job readiness training and opportunities for professional growth.

 **1,400**
clients in job
placement database

 **\$150K**
in revenue

Abdul & Zahra's **story:**

investing in a family dream

Immigrants and refugees face countless challenges as they adapt to a new country and culture. One of the biggest hurdles is finding the financial support needed to start a business, especially without credit history or familiarity with the financial system.

Abdul and Zahra* know this predicament all too well.

The couple fled danger in Afghanistan, arriving in the U.S. with their four children and hopes of following their American dream. For Abdul, that meant owning and operating his own business.

"I needed a loan to help me get started," he says.

His goal was to drive for a rideshare service, then build a business to provide private driving services. He even earned his chauffeur's license. But what he really needed was a reliable car.

"It was very difficult finding a bank that offered the kind of car loan that I needed," says Abdul. As a Muslim, Abdul needed a Riba-free loan, one structured in a way that does not involve interest.

"It was very important to me to find a loan that aligned with my faith," says Abdul, who worked with the New American Lending team to structure a loan with terms that fit his needs and budget.

With his loan, Abdul purchased his car and began his driving business.

A year later, his wife Zahra returned to New American Lending to grow her home catering business. She purchased kitchen equipment, bulk inventory, and digital devices for promoting her business on social media.

Now, the couple works together, with Abdul handling food delivery for Zahra's business.

"This is what I love to do," Zahra says.



[Read Abdul and Zahra's story](#)

“ It was very important to me to find a loan that aligned with my faith. ”

Photo credit: Adria Malcolm

New Americans participate in a wellness program run by Global Refuge partner LFSRM in Albuquerque, NM.

▶ Watch the story

OUR PROGRAMS

mental health services encourage healing.

Global Refuge believes that addressing the mental well-being of refugees and other immigrants plays a critical role in their long-term success. Our licensed multilingual clinicians understand the refugee and immigrant experience and are well-versed in **trauma-centered, culturally sensitive, and empowering care** that supports individuals and families throughout their journeys. We designed our mental health programs with the goal of improving the overall wellness of recently arrived families and building stronger, healthier communities for all of us.

Tina's story:

rebuilding a bond

During their difficult journey from El Salvador to the U.S., Tina* and her 4-year-old daughter Veronica* were separated at the border.

When they were reunited two months later, Veronica had changed. She was quiet, distant, and refused to connect with her mother. "I cried. I felt helpless because my daughter rejected me," Tina said.

With support from Global Refuge's mental health services, including parent-child activities that helped rebuild their bond, Veronica slowly began to trust her mother again. At the same time, Tina started to feel more confident. She began reaching out to local agencies for help

with food, clothing, and school enrollment to help meet her family's basic needs and give them stability.

Today, Tina and Veronica are building a new life in the U.S. Veronica attends a local Head Start program and Tina works at a nearby restaurant. She stays involved in Veronica's life by volunteering at school events like the fall festival and spirit week. She now feels confident in her ability to care for her daughter and advocate for their needs.

**Names have been changed to protect anonymity.*

“ One of the greatest needs for this community were mental health services that were culturally and linguistically appropriate for the kids and their caregivers. ”

- MARGIE HARTMAN, LMSW, MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES CLINICIAN

OUR PROGRAMS

welcome centers offer on-the-ground support when it's needed most.

In addition to our partnership model with affiliates across the country, Global Refuge is proud to provide direct services at our three field offices in Baltimore, Fargo, and San Antonio. These offices, called Welcome Centers, serve as a one-stop shop for refugees and other immigrants—offering a wide variety of support and services for newcomers.

Fargo Welcome Center

 **290**
refugees resettled

 **504**
other immigrants served

The **Refugee Agriculture Partnership Program (RAPP)**, Fargo’s community gardening initiative for refugee families, had a transformative year. Fifteen families worked with the RAPP team to produce an impressive 1,698 pounds of fresh food, taking an active role in every aspect of production from seed sourcing to food preservation. The garden also engaged 20+ refugee and other immigrant youth, who participated in 10 educational sessions focused on gardening, safety, and nutrition.

Building on the success of previous years, infrastructure improvements included the addition of 30 raised beds, which enhanced accessibility and production, and the start of a new soil health initiative in collaboration with North Dakota State University. The garden’s signature cultural crops flourished, bringing a taste of home to participants and leading to the establishment of a seed library—ensuring long-term adaptation and preservation of culturally significant vegetables, spices, and more.



 [Watch the garden's story](#)

Therese’s story:

the power of resilience

Therese* arrived in San Antonio after fleeing the Democratic Republic of Congo with high hopes for a brighter future.

Like many refugees, however, she struggled to adjust to her new environment—a transition made more difficult by a prolonged delay in accessing a Social Security card. The three-and-a-half-month stall was not just frustrating, but paralyzing, leaving her unable to move forward with the essential steps to build a new life: securing a job, accessing social services, and receiving temporary financial assistance.

But Therese remained resilient—bolstered by the Global Refuge team, who never left her side. When her Social Security card finally came, she immediately visited a staffing agency with her case manager and was offered a job on the spot. She continues to work with the company, earning a steady income and supporting herself as she rebuilds her life.

**Names have been changed to protect anonymity.*

San Antonio Welcome Center

 **191**
refugees resettled

 **450**
other immigrants served



Bashir’s story:

paying it forward

When Bashir* arrived in Baltimore after fleeing Afghanistan in May, he was alone, unsure, and separated from his family.

But with help from the Global Refuge Baltimore Welcome Center, he connected with other Afghan families, found community, and started settling into his new life.

Bashir quickly stepped up to help others—volunteering to teach newcomers how to use public transportation and using his language skills to help Spanish-speaking families. With one-on-one support from our team, he found a job at a local bakery and was recently promoted to management. In November, his family finally came to join him in the U.S.—truly turning Baltimore into his new home.

Baltimore Welcome Center

 **216**
refugees resettled

 **671**
other immigrants served

 **209**
participants in mental health program



 See our Welcome Centers at work



Camino a Casa staff serve families in remote areas across Guatemala.



Services include:

- family reunification
- mental health and family counseling services
- educational support
- vocational training
- financial literacy
- mentorship and peer support programs
- referrals to medical and legal assistance

OUR PROGRAMS

Camino a Casa builds a path to a better life at home.

After launching in 2023, Global Refugee’s Camino a Casa program has grown exponentially, partnering with 25+ local organizations to serve youth and families in cities **across Guatemala and Mexico.**

The program provides support for young people who return to their home countries after attempting to migrate and seeks to empower youth and their communities to thrive at home.



981

participants served through case management, clinical services, and training



654

clinical sessions provided to youth and their family members



\$65K

provided in direct assistance to clients to assist with health care, household, and educational needs

Juan's **story:**

a journey home, with new hope

Sixteen-year-old Juan didn't want to see his mother struggle anymore. After his father fell ill, she worked around the clock to support the family. Hoping to help, Juan made the difficult decision to migrate to the U.S. alone at the end of his 10th-grade year. "Sadly, I couldn't cross," he said.

Each year, thousands of youth from Central America and Mexico migrate due to poverty, violence, and instability. For those who return, reintegration can be tough—many face pressure to work, while also dealing with trauma from the journey and challenges at home.

Thanks to Global Refuge's Camino a Casa program, Juan enrolled in college and received a laptop to complete assignments. He works as a bricklayer's assistant during the week and studies on weekends.

"It's been a great help because not everybody would give you the chance to pursue your dreams and continue your education," he said.

With the support of Global Refuge, Juan has decided to stay in Guatemala and is determined to make a difference in his community.

"My wish is to work with people, learn about empathy, do things with love, and do things right," he shares. "I want to be a social worker."



[▶ Watch Juan's story](#)

*Photo credit: Javier Aparicio and Oscar Leiva,
Silverlight Photo & Video*

“ My wish is to work
with people, learn
about empathy,
do things with
love, and do
things right. ”





OUR PROGRAMS

Children & Family Services provide the care every child deserves.



20,029
children and families served

When children arrive in the United States without a parent or legal guardian, Global Refuge is there to provide a soft landing and a temporary home.



287
individualized trainings for foster care programs

Our **trauma-informed foster care and family reunification services** ensure children are safe and cared for as they find their footing in the U.S.—whether they are meeting family already here, as most are, or being welcomed into foster families.



50
states
provided family reunification services

Global Refuge maintains a national network of case managers whose focus is to ensure children and families are connected to community resources. Our case managers work to empower families with the services they need to thrive—furthering their education, obtaining legal representation, accessing health care, and building community connections.

Omid's **story:**

a journey to hope

Omid* was only 15 years old when he fled his home country of Afghanistan to escape the Taliban. Though he arrived in the United States with few belongings, he carried the heavy weight of his trauma—the turmoil of his home country, the fear and uncertainty of life in a new place, and the grief for the family and friends he left behind.

With the help of Global Refuge and our partner Creative Solutions for Kids and Families in Southern California (CSKF), Omid was soon welcomed by a foster family. His foster parents and CSKF staff helped him access legal services, receive clinical care, and enroll in school.

The transition was difficult. Omid struggled to trust his family and the staff supporting him, weighed down by pain and loss. He was afraid of being abandoned and still adjusting to a new culture and a life without his family back home.

But his foster parents—and the Global Refuge network—were there every step of the way. Through compassion, mental health services, collaboration with his school, and respect for his religion and culture, the team saw Omid through the difficult times. The trauma-informed care he received allowed him to trust that he was safe, valued, and cared for in his new home. Though there were still hard days, he became more comfortable and is now optimistic about what his future in the United States will hold.

**Name has been changed to protect anonymity.*



OUR PROGRAMS

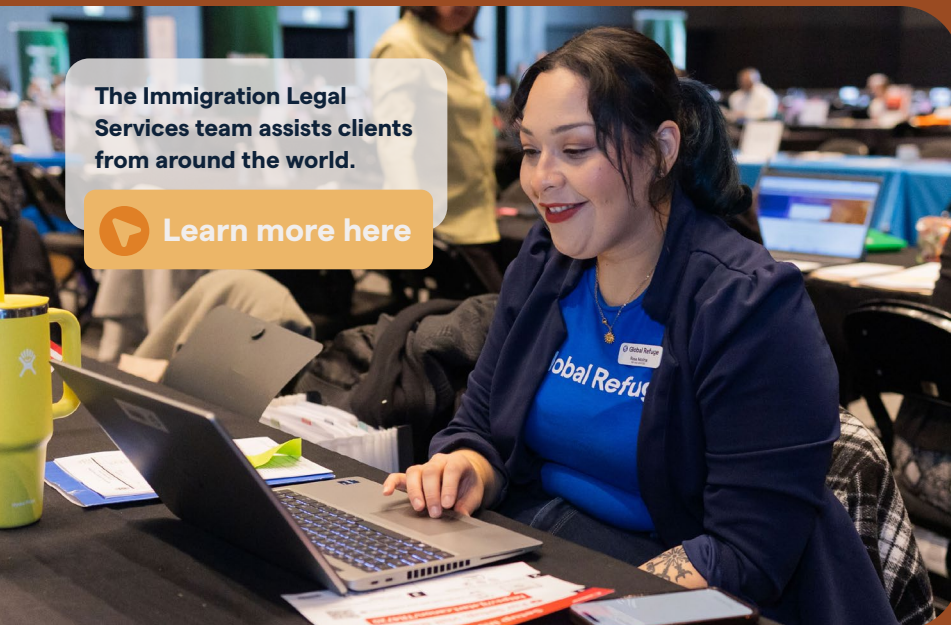
immigration legal services help navigate a difficult path.

The U.S. immigration legal system is extremely complex and challenging to navigate. Newcomers often struggle to access immigration benefits due to cost burdens, language and cultural barriers, and case backlogs. Our Legal Services team aims to **break down these barriers**.

Our immigration legal services program offers high-quality immigration legal services from a trauma-informed and culturally proficient perspective, helping newcomers regain agency and achieve stability for themselves and their families in the United States and abroad.

The Immigration Legal Services team assists clients from around the world.

[Learn more here](#)



Amir and Aisha's **story:**

a way forward after unthinkable loss

Amir and Aisha's* mother was one of the tens of thousands of Afghan citizens who served as interpreters, translators, and in other key roles during our military's two-decade mission in Afghanistan. These brave men and women risked their lives to help our country—and in return, the U.S. government promised to protect them and their children by issuing Special Immigrant Visas for Afghan allies, including Amir and Aisha's parents.

But a week before the family was set to leave for America, the children's mother and father were brutally murdered by the Taliban, leaving Amir and Aisha alone, vulnerable, and in grave danger.

Their aunt Nasreen* stepped in to raise them, but struggled to provide for them—she was just a young adult herself and had no family in Afghanistan to help her. After the fall of the Afghan government to the Taliban in 2021, Nasreen knew they needed to escape. She courageously relocated the children to Pakistan while she and her U.S.-based family tried to navigate a complex and uncertain immigration process. When the U.S. family met the Global Refugee team, they were desperately seeking help because Nasreen's and the children's lives were at risk once again in Pakistan.

The Global Refugee Immigration Legal Services team was asked by the U.S. government to help the family in

their immigration processes. Over the next six months, our team advocated for the children—requesting the State Department review their eligibility for a new visa category and coordinating with federal agencies in the planning of their relocation and arrival to the U.S.

In October 2024, the family arrived safely in the United States. As they settled into their new community, Global Refugee continued to work with partner organizations to ensure the children received ongoing support, including assistance in enrolling in school.

"Global Refugee considers it an honor to have assisted this family given all they have sacrificed," says Jill Marie Bussey, Global Refugee Director for Legal Affairs. "Our team will continue fighting for children like Amir and Aisha and helping them access the legal protections our country has promised them."

**Names have been changed to protect anonymity.*

OUR COMMUNITY

serving our newest neighbors



Louise, a former refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo, spends her free time in a wellness garden operated by partner organization Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains (LFSRM).

[▶ Watch her story](#)

Photo credit: Adria Malcolm

OUR COMMUNITY

advocacy changes the conversation.

At Global Refuge, we know that serving refugees and other immigrants on the ground is essential—but it’s not enough.

Our **Advocacy and Policy team** works with constituents and lawmakers at the local, state, and national level to advocate for just, humane policies that support our newest neighbors and honor their inherent dignity.



A member of the Global Refuge Advocacy team meets with a member of congress.

advocacy in action
Global Refuge co-led coalition efforts to support the passage of authorization language for the Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts, an office in the State Department critical to continued Afghan relocation.

The Advocacy team also hosted a Congressional staff briefing on climate resilience with opening remarks from Senator Ed Markey of Massachusetts, the lead lawmaker on the Climate Displaced Persons Act.



 **5,238**
messages sent to lawmakers

 **9,208**
supporters engaged

2024 highlights
In collaboration with the ELCA, Global Refuge facilitated meetings for youth participants representing nine states around the country. Participants advocated on a range of issues, highlighting America’s historic identity as a place of refuge for the persecuted.

The team published the **State and Local Advocacy Toolkit** to support the vital area of state-level policy development.



Each year, the Mobilization & Faith Relations team runs the **Hope for the Holidays** program, delivering cards to refugees and other immigrants.

 **300**
participating communities

 **10,000+**
cards written

“ **Participating in Hope for the Holidays has allowed our congregation to share God’s love, joy, and hope, and to make a difference in the lives of immigrants. Writing and sharing these cards brings even greater meaning to Advent, Christmas, and the understanding of God’s love for all people!** ”

ST. JOHN’S LUTHERAN CHURCH,
BLOOMINGTON, IL

OUR COMMUNITY

we are empowering communities of faith to make real change.

As Global Refuge’s national network grew, we were excited to expand our mission even further with help from welcoming communities across the country.

Our **Mobilization & Faith Relations team** worked to educate and engage congregations, faith communities, and community groups of all kinds—helping dispel disinformation, foster connections, and provide opportunities for volunteering, advocacy, prayer, and more.

In addition to popular programs like Hope for the Holidays and Fresh Change, we worked to provide a host of helpful resources, like our “Journey to Welcome” educational simulation exercise, and inspire deeper engagement through our Circle of Welcome and Ambassador Programs.


1,174
active volunteers


56
visits to congregations across the country


\$595K
given by faith communities


\$118K
of in-kind donations from faith communities

Celestin’s story:

coming together in faith to welcome newcomers

When Andrea Williams heard through her church that Global Refuge partner Canopy NWA needed volunteers to help support a refugee family from Rwanda, she felt called to step up. She and members of her congregation formed a Circle of Welcome team—committing to help the family settle into life in the small community of Siloam Springs, Arkansas.

The group immediately got to work helping the family of seven—a single mother and her six children—adjust to everyday life in their community.

“We did walking tours when they were first here—showing them things like where they were possibly going to go to school and where the playground is,” Andrea said. “It can be lonely and isolating when you come to a new place. It’s comforting just knowing that there’s somebody who’s willing to walk with you through all these new and scary experiences.”

The oldest of the six siblings, Celestin, took on a father-like role, helping guide his younger brothers and sisters through their completely new life.

“When we reached the United States, it was kind of hard without speaking English,” he said. “I decided to watch YouTube, internet, and American interviews to improve my English.”

Transportation was another major challenge. Siloam Springs has no public transportation, which made it difficult for Celestin and his mom to find and get to work. Once again, the community and congregation stepped up, finding a donor willing to give the family a car.

Now that his family is comfortably settled in their new town, Celestin sees great things ahead.

“I have a big future. I have big dreams,” he said. “I want to achieve it.”



[▶ Watch Celestin’s story](#)



OUR COMMUNITY

corporate and foundation partnerships *deepen our impact.*

We are proud to work with partners across the country to help support newcomers and the communities they call home.

After assistance with enrollment from Global Refuge partner Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains, Ariz accompanies his daughter Rahil on her first day of school in the United States.



\$2.8M
in corporate and foundation donations



100%
donor retention from 2023



18
new funding partners



A commitment to community investment

A key preliminary funder for New American Lending, **Truist Foundation** provided a significant grant to bolster outreach and lending services for clients along the East Coast. The commitment has allowed New American Lending to grow exponentially and build new partnerships across the country to continue the work of providing accessible loans and financial education services to newcomers.



Bringing together agents of change

The **T. Rowe Price Foundation** created and supported a cohort of nonprofits, including Global Refuge's Baltimore Welcome Center, in the East Baltimore neighborhood where their new global headquarters were established. Through multi-year funding and ongoing cohort collaboration meetings, T. Rowe Price has helped streamline support for underserved individuals and families, including many members of the immigrant community.



Focused care for the Baltimore community

The Baltimore-based **Abell Foundation** renewed their support for our Baltimore Welcome Center programming and expanded to include the New American Lending program, allowing Global Refuge to better serve new Baltimoreans with individualized case management, employment support, economic empowerment, and access to capital.



Generosity that inspires growth and impact

Global Refuge is proud to have launched a partnership with **Islamic Relief USA** in 2024. IRUSA has provided a generous grant in support of our Camino a Casa program, serving repatriated youth in Guatemala.



Bringing together agents of change

The **France-Merrick Foundation** provided funding to New American Lending, joining other corporate and foundation partners in increasing economic opportunity for refugees and other immigrants.



Partnering in the work of welcome, and beyond

During the holiday season, **LifeStraw** provided nearly 90% of items needed for Global Refuge’s well-being kits for newly arrived refugees and immigrants—including hundreds of LifeStraw filtration bottles. The team also donated personal filtration straws to our Camino a Casa clients in Guatemala and home water-filtration pitchers to clients served through our Baltimore Welcome Center and launched a Giving Tuesday fundraising campaign on the LifeStraw website.

“ **We were drawn to Global Refuge because of the organization’s commitment to dignity, care, and the long-term well-being of newcomers.** ”

VITO CASTELGRANDE, LIFESTRAW’S
SOCIAL IMPACT & SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER





Ables Landscapes’ **story:**

employment that changes lives forever

Ables Landscapes in Charleston, SC is dedicated to fostering a welcoming workplace and helping refugees achieve economic independence through the Global Refuge Preferred Refugee Employer (PRE) program.



To qualify as a PRE, a company must meet at least five of Global Refuge’s refugee employment best practices, including: free transportation, refugee-specific new hire orientation, housing assistance or childcare subsidies, English classes, mentorship, and more.

“I didn’t realize how empowering other people’s dreams would be for me,” said Morgan, Ables Landscapes Dream Manager and Recruiter. Morgan works with refugee employees to help them set personal and professional goals for their new lives in the U.S. In the Ables Landscapes office is a huge pin board filled with those employee goals and accomplishments to celebrate wins and inspire others.

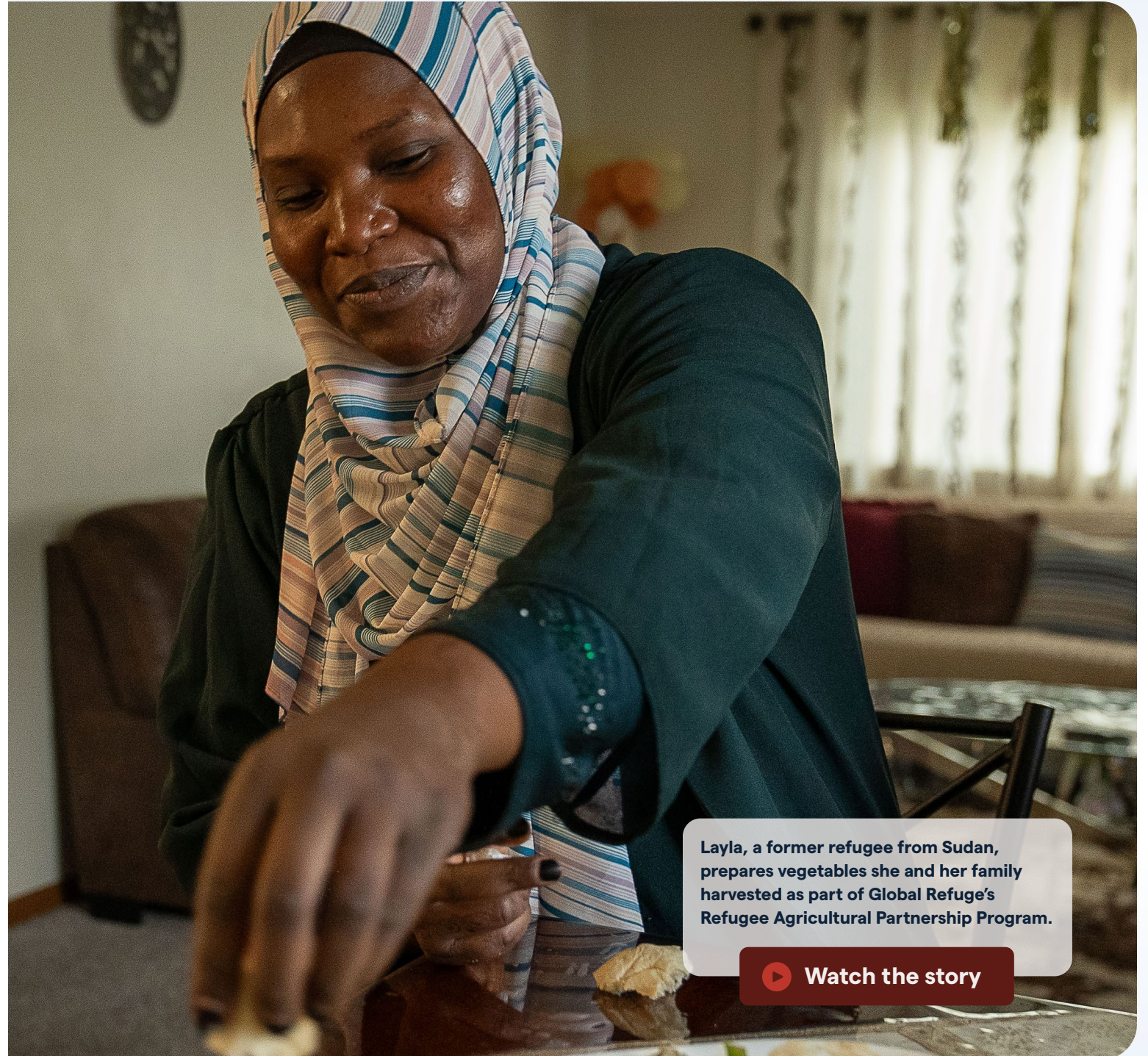
“This work is providing a better future for my grandson,” says maintenance crew member Roxi, who came to the U.S. as a refugee from Guatemala. “It’s been a great help, a huge blessing in my life.”

By opening their doors to refugee talent and becoming a Preferred Refugee Employer, Ables is enriching its workforce and receiving ongoing support and training from Global Refuge. Their employees are gaining meaningful employment and a solid foundation for success in their new country.

 **Learn more**

OUR SUPPORTERS

powering the work of welcome



Layla, a former refugee from Sudan, prepares vegetables she and her family harvested as part of Global Refuge's Refugee Agricultural Partnership Program.

[Watch the story](#)



OUR SUPPORTERS

donors make the work of welcome possible.

Our donors have always been a driving force behind our mission, helping us fund innovative programming that makes a better life possible for refugees and other immigrants. But after the 2024 election, it became clear that major changes were coming. As the landscape began to shift, we knew we had to **prepare for policies that could drastically impact the communities we serve**. And we knew we couldn't do it without our donors.

Global Refuge donors stepped forward without hesitation. Thanks to the generosity of our most loyal supporters, we finished the year with even stronger support for our privately funded programs and even more confidence in knowing we have a committed and compassionate network standing with us and the families we serve.


\$10.2M
in private
donations


10,242
individual
donors

“ Our amazing community of supporters makes it possible for us to move forward despite the challenges that come our way. ”

- ANDREW G. STEELE,
CHIEF DEVELOPMENT AND MOBILIZATION OFFICER



racing for refuge

This year brought a Global Refuge first:
having our logo featured on a racecar!

The Yesnick family graciously offered to use their visibility and recognition in the racing community to encourage others to make our country more welcoming for refugees and other immigrants.



building empathy for a new generation

Astrid Schmidt-King wears many hats—professor, immigration attorney, volunteer, advocate, and dedicated supporter of Global Refuge. As a Global Refuge Ambassador, she dedicates her time and talents to help prepare refugees and other immigrants for the workforce through resumé building, job interview prep, confidence-building, and coaching.

Astrid also gets her students at Loyola University Maryland involved. She invites interested students to participate in Global Refuge volunteer activities like writing cards of support and encouragement for refugee families. She’s inspired by her students’ enthusiasm about the impact they can make.

“You plant the seeds, and you hope these are the people who will start making changes to help more families in the future,” says Astrid. “To see students gain awareness that they can make change, it really inspires me to keep doing what I’m doing.”

music with a mission

When Trúc Hồ and Diệu Quyên arrived in the United States as refugees from Vietnam in the 1970s, they had to rebuild their lives—but they didn’t leave the Vietnamese culture they loved behind.

The musician and broadcaster retained close ties to their home country and to others who went through the refugee resettlement experience, as well as the communities that welcomed them. And when Afghan and Ukrainian refugees began arriving in 2021 and 2022, they knew they wanted to help.

They did so by hosting a live concert fundraiser, raising over \$200,000 to support Global Refuge and help new arrivals find safety and stability—just as they once did.



Financial Statement

Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2024

Based on audited financial statements

Statement of Activities & Changes in Net Assets
for the year ended December 31, 2024

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	2024	2023
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$31,577	\$29,987
Investments	37,630	33,669
U.S. Govt Receivable	34,495	37,152
Other Assets	6,023	3,713
Investment In Lutheran Center Corp	3,100	3,243
Total Assets	\$112,825	\$107,764
Liabilities and Net Assets	2024	2023
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable & Other Liabilities	\$43,851	\$44,023
Long-term Debt	956	1,273
Total Liabilities	\$44,807	\$45,296
Net Assets		
Without Donor Restrictions	\$66,197	\$61,973
With Donor Restrictions	1,821	495
Total Net Assets	\$68,018	\$62,468
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$112,825	\$107,764

Statement of Activities & Changes in Net Assets

Support & Revenue	2024	2023
Contributions-Private Sources	\$9,952	\$7,761
U.S. Government and State	291,935	221,476
Fees and Other Revenue	1,691	1,585
Total Support and Revenue	\$303,578	\$230,822
Expenses	2024	2023
Expenses	\$283,382	\$215,586
Program Services	16,335	11,979
Management and General	3,549	3,250
Total Expenses	\$303,266	\$230,815
Change in Net Assets	\$5,550	\$5,947
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	62,468	56,521
Net Assets, End of Year	\$68,018	\$62,468

Board of Directors*

*As of December 31, 2024

Executive Committee

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Port Discovery Children’s Museum
(Retired)
BALTIMORE, MD

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Vice Chair
Lever for Change
CHICAGO, IL

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Hilton Worldwide
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ELCA Churchwide Office
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New Hope Lutheran Church
COLUMBIA, MD

Mr. Clarence Smith
Huntington National Bank (Retired)
MINNETONKA, MN



Members of the Board celebrated the new brand while convening in Baltimore.

President’s Council*

*As of December 31, 2024

Abe Minkara
Legacy Knight

Angela Chee
Zen Media

Angela Dejene
Dejene Communications

Anne Richard
US State Department (Retired)

Bryn Parchman
Global Refuge Board Chair
Port Discovery Children’s
Museum (Retired)

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Make-A-Wish
Greater Bay Area Foundation

Christine Grumm
Chris Grumm
Consulting Group

Christopher Davis
Ford Foundation

Cindy Howton
Red Branch LLC

Daya Khalsa
Anchorum St. Vincent

Diane Batchik
Global Refuge Board Member
Diane Batchik Consulting

Donald Manekin
Seawall Development

Donna Kinzer
DK Healthcare Consulting

Edgar Hatcher
The Hatcher Group

Frederick Black
Blackstar Strategies

Habib Enayetullah
Global Refuge Board Member
Hilton Worldwide

Jeff Bermel
Bermel Consulting

Jim Longenecker
South Baltimore Gateway
Partnership

Joanna Peña-Bickley
Vibes AI

José Antonio Tijierno
Hispanic Heritage Foundation

Judy Diers
Diers Consulting

Karen Kress
Conservation Nation

Kathy Collins
Rice University (Retired)

Laurel Vicklund
Peregrine

LeRoy Pingho
Great Elm Solutions, Inc.

Linda Stoterau
Faith Leader

Lori Lovelace
The Vessel

Mary Forell-Davis
Retired Pastor

Matt Jordan
Covercraft

Michael Hansen
Consultant (Retired)

Michele Speaks
Global Refuge Board Secretary
Warnock Foundation

Muhsin Hassan
Global Refuge Board Member
Lever for Change

Dr. Nara Altmann
Columbia University

Paul Miles
We Raise Foundation

Reinhard Ziegler
The Vessel

Rogers Smith
University of Pennsylvania

Rufus Lusk
Lusk Family LLC

Sarah Gerth van den Berg
City Seminary of New York

Sean Long
Endeavor Energy

Sheela Murthy Esq.
Murthy Law

Sindy Benavides
Aquí: The Accountability
Movement

Sridhar Pratapa Prasad
Bridgespan

Sylvia Black
Blackstar Strategies

Thomas Grevlos
Pastor (Retired)

Thomas Regnante
JPMorganChase

Tim Wennes
Business Leader

William McKibben
350.org

William Swanson
*Former Global Refuge
Board Member*





looking ahead

Stronger-than-ever support from our donors, innovative partnerships, and a record number of clients served made 2024 an extraordinary year for Global Refuge. Unfortunately, 2025 has been significantly more challenging. Extreme reductions in funding, the passage of anti-immigrant legislation, and the suspension of the refugee resettlement program have caused seismic shifts in our operations and in the country at large. But the work of welcome continues.

At Global Refuge, standing up for children and families fleeing violence and persecution is at the heart of who we are. We have been around for 85+ years, through multiple administrations, political movements, and historic moments—and this one is no exception. We remain steadfast in our mission, called by our Lutheran DNA to welcome the stranger and support those seeking refuge. We know that refugees and other immigrants make this country stronger—contributing significantly to the workforce, the economy, and the social fabric of the United States. They are neighbors and friends, fellow congregants, colleagues and classmates. We will always be here to welcome them.

Learn more at globalrefuge.org/act-now.



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!

We couldn't do this work without you.

[DONATE NOW](#)



Global Refuge

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