

# NEIGHBORS FOR REFUGEES

December 2023

Please join me in this third and final thought experiment.

I want you to think back to a time when you moved somewhere new, maybe that first day at university or to a new city for a new job. Remember how you felt? The uncertainty ... the fear of not making it or fitting in ... feeling lonely ... thinking maybe you made a mistake! Maybe you've gotten lost a couple of times? You miss your favorite place to eat and getting together with your friends for a beer or two.

Now try to imagine getting off a plane in a country where few people speak English. You walk out into the terminal and see a couple of strangers standing there with a sign with your name on it. You and your family pile into an SUV with the suitcases that hold everything you own and off you go. Sometime later you stop outside a building. You look around and nothing looks familiar. Soon you're in a new apartment. It's



clean and warm – much better than the refugee camp in which you've been living for the last few months or years. Later, after everyone has gone and you and your family are alone, you lie in bed finding it hard to sleep even though you're exhausted. All you can think about is what is going to happen to your family? How will you be able to take care of them? Feed them? Get a job? Educate your kids? Learn English? Maybe it would have been better to stay where you were. No. That place was not safe and there was no future there.

Neighbors for Refugees' role is to address all those concerns our families face. We help them learn the ropes, find work, learn English, help the kids in school and much more. Our volunteers spend many months helping our families make the transition to living here as smooth as possible. It's inspiring to see how far they come in just a few months – they find their way around, the kids are in school, they have jobs. Perhaps you'd like to be part of that.

Please help Neighbors help new refugee families start their new life in the U.S. by donating and getting involved.

Sincerely,

Frank D. Pierson  
Vice President for Development

PS, we would love to hear from you. Please contact us at [info@neighborsforrefugees.org](mailto:info@neighborsforrefugees.org), call me at 914.310.3146, or visit our [website](#).