

NEIGHBORS FOR REFUGEES

December 2022

Dear Neighbors,

The magnitude of the refugee problem can be discouraging. There are more than 100 million displaced persons in the world... more than **40 million of them are refugees** who have been forced to leave their own countries. That's more than at any time in history, and the number seems to be growing each year. Most recently, millions of Afghans and Ukrainians were added to these totals.

Against those numbers, the **35 families Neighbors has helped resettle, and the 100+ families who received one of our grants over the last 12 months**, feel like drops in the ocean. But I am not discouraged, because I know that with enough drops of rain even the tallest mountain can be laid low. **Your support helps erode the mountains of pain, fear, and despair that haunt the refugee experience.**

You can see this with each family your support has allowed Neighbors to help. You can see it each time a family starts a new life where they feel safe. You can see it in the joy in their faces when they enter their new home for the first time, or when they get jobs or see their kids do well in school or make new friends. You can see it in the relief on their faces when they see a doctor and start long-deferred treatment. You especially see it in the pride they feel when they can stand on their own two feet and no longer need our help.

But, **refugee families are not the only ones whose lives are changed.** Our volunteers are changed when they deliver furniture and household goods to turn an empty apartment into a home, when they help a mother learn English, when they tutor a child in math. And, they are especially changed the first time they shake a hand or give a hug to a newly arrived refugee.

Thank you! You enabled Neighbors to achieve this. Nothing Neighbors does could get done without your support. But we can't let up! In 2023, many Afghans, Ukrainians, and a new wave of Venezuelans will be coming as the U.S. continues to offer humanitarian parole status to refugees from those countries. These will be in addition to refugees from Syria, Sudan, Myanmar, El Salvador and other hot spots around the world, who continue to seek safety and opportunity here.

In response to this ongoing humanitarian disaster, Neighbors has set a fundraising goal of \$300,000 for 2023. This is an increase of 20% from 2022.

To achieve this ambitious goal, we need to raise at least \$100,000 by the end of this year.

The Neighbors board has already risen to the challenge and has pledged 50% of that goal. *The Neighbors board now challenges you to help us raise that other half!!*

As you contemplate a gift, we want you to know that we're a grassroots, entirely volunteer-run organization, which means **over 95% of the money we raise directly benefits refugees.**

All of us at Neighbors for Refugees wish you and your family a safe and joyous holiday season and a happy new year.

Sincerely,



Frank D. Pierson
President

P.S. Changing the world happens one family at a time. With your gift, together we are changing the world!



Open your phone's camera, hover over the image, and click to donate.