

NEIGHBORS FOR REFUGEES

December 2023

Please join me in this second of three thought experiments.

Imagine that you had to leave your house behind and could never return. When you leave, all you'll be able to take with you is a suitcase and a medium-sized duffel. You don't have time to sell anything. You simply have to pack up and go.

So ... What would you take? You'd probably start with some clothes – a change or two of underwear, socks, pants, and shirts. Given the time of year, maybe a warm sweater, maybe two. A couple pairs of shoes. Then throw in some toiletries. Your phone, laptop and chargers. What else? Blanket? Towel? Any dishes, silverware, pots, or pans? Remember, you're not going to a hotel, and you don't know what awaits you once you're out the door. What mementos or photos would you grab? Jewelry? Money?



Now that your bags are full and packed, it's time to go. You look around, feeling like you're forgetting something. You rub the tears from your eyes because you have to leave so much of your old life behind. You and your family step outside. As the mental door shuts behind you, I ask you to imagine the utter sense of loss ... the sense of not belonging ... the fear of not knowing what comes next or where your family will end up. That's what our refugee families feel when it's time for them to leave their homes behind.

Part of Neighbors for Refugees' work is to provide some of the things our families have left

behind. We know we can't really replace everything, but we can give them the basics, like furniture, household goods, food, clothing, so they can begin rebuilding their lives here. We ask that you join us and help give each of our families a new home.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank D. P." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Frank D. Pierson
Vice President for Development

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