

NEIGHBORS FOR REFUGEES

December 2023

Dear neighbor,

Please join me in doing a short thought exercise.

Picture in your mind your typical day. Maybe you've spent the day at work or with the kids. After a delicious dinner, you help your kids with their homework. A bit later, you tuck your kids into their beds after reading them bedtime stories. Finally, you crawl into a nice warm, comfy bed. You fluff your pillows and open a book by your favorite author, while trying to forget about all the things on your to-do list for the morning. Got that image?

Now, imagine when you wake up, you're lying on a cot under a thin blanket in a tent in who knows where, and it's cold as hell. Your kids are wearing the same clothes they've worn for the last week and they're shivering. Instead of a cheese Danish and a vente latte from Starbucks on your way to the office or dropping your kids off at school, all you'll get that morning is a piece or two of bread and some weak tea. Everything you cherish, all the knickknacks in your home are gone and all you have left are memories. All you have is what you are wearing and what could fit into a backpack.



If you were able to really picture those two images, you might get a glimpse into what our refugee families go through. We speak of them fleeing their homes because of violence or persecution, but that's a bit abstract and impersonal. What they really go through is much more personal and heart wrenching – they have had to give up everything they have and had known to flee to a refugee camp. Even if they are lucky and land in a developed country or even in the U.S., they are now faced with starting their lives over from scratch, in a place where they don't speak the language or know the ropes.

I hope you can put yourself in their shoes, if only for a moment. If you did, imagine further the joy and relief you would feel when someone is there to help you start your new life with a new place to call home, provide food and clothing, help finding a job or to learn English. That someone could be you, by giving to Neighbors for Refugees.

Please help Neighbors help new refugee families start their new life in the U.S. by donating and getting involved. [make donating and getting involved links to appropriate sites]

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank D. Pierson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "F" and a long, sweeping underline.

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](#).