

“When the fighting came close to **our home**, we ran. There was fighting behind us and **shooting**. People died along the way. **We ran** and walked from **town to town** – more than **200 miles**.”

– Vietnamese refugee



Marylyn G. Hewitt, SFO | The Michigan Catholic

Contact the Office of Refugee resettlement today to share your time, talent, or treasure!

## Office of Refugee Resettlement

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# Welcoming the Other: Office of Refugee Resettlement

ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT

“For the **first** time in my life, I’m in a place where no one can hurt me because of who I am.”

– 23-year-old  
Iraqi refugee



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## Whom We Serve

The Archdiocese of Detroit began welcoming refugees in the aftermath of the Vietnam War. Since that time more than 16,000 refugees have been helped through the compassion and generosity of the people of this local church.

## Why We Serve

Because the Gospel demands it. Jesus' love for the weakest and most vulnerable members of society is brought to life in the service we provide to men, women, and children who are forced to flee their homelands to protect themselves from the violence of war, ethnic cleansing, and political or religious persecution.

We serve people of every ethnicity, nationality, and faith. In doing so, we stand firmly within the tradition of love of God and love of neighbor that is the foundation all of the world's major religions.

We serve to honor the lives of our own immigrant ancestors. Most Americans are the descendants of previous generations of displaced people who, just like today's refugees, risked their personal safety to obtain the rights and privileges that belong to every human being for their children and for future generations.

The Archdiocese of Detroit Office of Refugee Resettlement works with these newest Michigan residents to help ease their transition to life in the United States and to welcome them as Jesus would have done: *"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."*

Mt. 25:40

## How We Help

Our goal is to help refugee families become self-sufficient as quickly as possible. The services we provide are aimed toward that end. They include:

- Cultural orientation
- Opportunities to learn English
- Spoken word translation services
- Basic household goods and cash assistance
- Housing counseling
- Employment counseling & orientation
- Adjustment of status counseling

**"I lost 16 family members during the war, including children."**

– *Bosnian refugee*



## How You Can Help

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart ...and your neighbor as yourself."* Luke 10:25

- Share your time:
  - o Invite Refugee Resettlement staff to speak to your faith community, school, or community organization
  - o Help pick up and deliver used furniture for refugee families
  - o Assist with transportation to medical and social service appointments
  - o Provide translation services
  - o Assist Refugee Resettlement staff with office work
- Share your talent
  - o Assist a refugee with finding employment
  - o Teach what you know: household budgeting, parenting skills, comparative shopping, or dressing for success....
- Share your treasure
  - o Make a cash donation for the purchase of household goods for refugee families
  - o Help struggling families with security deposits or rent
  - o Prepare a welcome basket
  - o Donate gently used or new furniture to help set up an apartment
  - o Donate your car