



Dear Partners in welcome,

Grace and peace to you this synod assembly season. **At Global Refuge we remain committed to the work of welcome, no matter the challenges.** For more than 85 years, Global Refuge (formerly known as Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service) has championed the work of welcome by providing support to immigrants and refugees as they rebuild their lives in the United States. Founded by heartbroken Lutherans in the United States who felt called to provide a home for those fleeing violence during the World Wars, Global Refuge has continued this good work welcoming more than 850,000 newcomers since 1939.

Our mission states, "As a witness to God's love for all people, we stand with and advocate for migrants and refugees, transforming communities through ministries of service and justice." With help from Global Refuge, families are welcomed into their new homes with support from our case managers who ensure that adults are enrolled in English language classes, children are enrolled in school, and Global Refuge partners guide newly arrived refugees in using public transportation and accessing community resources.

In early 2025, Global Refuge and the 9 other national resettlement agencies received a **stop-work order** from the U.S. Department of State as it relates to our funding for the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, effectively cutting off vital support to families who have already lawfully resettled in the United States. In the time since then, we have witnessed an incredible increase in the amount of support we receive from faith communities and individuals. This additional financial support and volunteer support has enabled Global Refuge to continue services to our immigrant neighbors that would have otherwise been stopped. We are thrilled to say we continue serving immigrants through nearly all of the programs we had before, albeit at a smaller scale in some cases. Support from faith communities more than doubled in 2025, and new congregations from around the country are responding to the call to welcome. This support has not only enabled us to continue services as mentioned above, but it has also made us less vulnerable to shifts in government funding.

With the support of these new partners and Lutheran communities like yours, in 2025 we were able to...

- Serve **171** people through our new **Post-Arrival Stability and Empowerment (PASE) program** in Baltimore to fill urgent gaps left by stop-work orders and funding freezes.



# Global Refuge

- Empower and support **55 Clients** and **44 Businesses** through personal and business loans, with a total of **\$1.086 million dollars** funded.
- Serve **3,099** participants through the Camino A Casa program through training, case management, mental health services, and educational opportunities.
- Write and distribute **11,000 Hope for the Holidays cards** that provided messages of welcome and hope to newcomers.
- Mobilize the public to pack and ship **1,000 Neighbor Kits** to our clients, totaling a fair market value of **\$17,500**

In a political season rife with anti-immigrant rhetoric and messages that villainize newcomers, we have a unique opportunity to change this narrative and refocus on all the gifts newcomers bring to community. We invite you to join us in this work! [It is needed now more than ever.](#)

- **Join the Faith Alliance** – Global Refuge is proud to offer a new training for communities of faith who seek to safely welcome and embrace immigrants and refugees. This four-module series allows your faith community to learn together and make a commitment to welcome newcomers in your community <https://www.globalrefuge.org/faith-alliance/>
- **Hold a Vigil** – The new Vigil For the Taken resource offers an opportunity to name, recognize, and remember members of the community that are disappeared, detained, or deported. Whenever we lose precious members of our communities, we must stand together and affirm that every person deserves dignity and our support, and that no one should be forgotten. <https://www.globalrefuge.org/vigil-for-taken/>
- **Sing For Your Neighborhood** – *Here I Stand* is an original song written for the Vigil for the Taken mentioned above. It reads “Here I stand where my neighbor stood, holding peace for my neighborhood.” Written as a Taizé-like offering for the times we’re in, it is meant to equip neighbors with a song to “hold a candle” for those who have been harmed or removed from our communities. [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TeFtjoSQ\\_FWNd7rQu4UHkELeMpY7e66e/view?fbclid=IwY2xjawQ5BU1leHRuA2F1bQ1xMABicmIkETF4NIZ2Smp6Y2NCRllsS1N6c3J0YwZhchBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHljJ3IWmE8EYtDcfE8ozQcoHVvyl5OPYjCxRZSfl4BnKP0vKH7Qk\\_LFCxxa8\\_aem\\_XBFK4jpbwWWU6JnTBkeIlw](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TeFtjoSQ_FWNd7rQu4UHkELeMpY7e66e/view?fbclid=IwY2xjawQ5BU1leHRuA2F1bQ1xMABicmIkETF4NIZ2Smp6Y2NCRllsS1N6c3J0YwZhchBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHljJ3IWmE8EYtDcfE8ozQcoHVvyl5OPYjCxRZSfl4BnKP0vKH7Qk_LFCxxa8_aem_XBFK4jpbwWWU6JnTBkeIlw)
- **Support Refugees with a gift** – If you or communities you’re connected with are willing to support financially, please use and share this link: [www.globalrefuge.org/give](http://www.globalrefuge.org/give)
- **Learn more and Advocate** – Explore resources with more information about executive orders and accompanying actions: [www.globalrefuge.org/advocate](http://www.globalrefuge.org/advocate)



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- **Know Your Rights** – Our partners at AMMPARO have a great resource for communities to read about their rights and those of immigrants in their care. <https://resources.elca.org/ammparo/know-your-rights-2025/>
- **Explore Resources** – Visit our Congregational Resources page to explore all the resources available to you: [www.globalrefuge.org/congregations](http://www.globalrefuge.org/congregations)
- **Sign up for our Monthly E-newsletters** – Get the latest updates for faith leaders by emailing [outreach@globalrefuge.org](mailto:outreach@globalrefuge.org).

Thank you so very much for your support, we look forward to another year of partnership in welcome.

Go in peace. Welcome the stranger.

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