

Good Neighbors Capitol Hill Ministry

For nearly a decade, **Capitol Hill Presbyterian** has been part of the Good Neighbors Capitol Hill ministry helping set up homes for refugee families. Our Pastor Rachel Landers Vaagenes likes to remind our congregation that for families who arrive here with next to nothing, entering a home stocked full of furniture, food and supplies to start their new lives in America is a small, but important, act of welcome.



All of this was thrown into chaos by the recent Presidential Executive Order that [cut off funding](#) for families who have already entered the US. Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSSNCA), the organization we work with, has 400 people, mostly Afghan families under Special Immigrant Visa status, who were approved for resettlement and have arrived in the past 90 days. With expected government funding abruptly pulled from them, LSSNCA is in dire financial need of support for its refugee work.

We also had an immediate crisis of three Afghan families who were in jeopardy of not being able to move into their apartments because of concern over how the rent was going to be paid. So in an emergency meeting of the church's service committee, we decided to set up [an emergency fundraiser](#) to help LSSNCA - and we reached our goal of \$25,000 in the first week! Funds raised have gone to the LSSNCA, who is committed to ensuring that these families do not get evicted, and that they continue to receive the wrap-around services that LSSNCA provides: employment support, school and benefits enrollment, case management, etc.

We have created yard signs that are going up at many of our Good Neighbors Capitol Hill congregations and across DC to show our support for refugees. And we have raised our goal to \$50,000!

If folks want to donate directly to LSSNCA, they can go to: [Donate Today | Families & Children in Washington DC, Maryland & Virginia \(https://lssnca.org/donate/\)](#). In the 'In Honor Of' or the 'Comments' section, please note 'GNCH Fundraiser' so we can keep track.

We are grateful to be part of an effort to create a better, more loving America during this time.