

# Can Your Congregation Help Support A Refugee Family?

**The Urgent Need:** In late January 2025 the U.S. government took two actions: It discontinued the entrance of almost all refugees into the U.S., and it ceased all funding for resettlement for newly arrived refugees. The nine non-profit resettlement agencies throughout the country no longer have federal funds to provide rent, living expenses, or assistance in job-search, connections to public benefits, or guidance in finding healthcare providers. There are hundreds of refugee families in the DMV area that have visas from the State Department and arrived in the U.S. between November and late January, but who are living in apartments with no way to pay rent, no money for food or basic necessities, and have only limited access to local, state, and private services. Many of these refugees do not speak English, and when they do their English is often very rudimentary.

**Lewinsville Presbyterian Church's Response:** Since 2022 Lewinsville's Refugee Resettlement Team (RRT) has partnered with Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSSNCA), one of the official refugee resettlement agencies. We have helped resettle four families (three Afghan, one El Salvadoran). Now we are helping a Ukrainian family with basic expenses after the federal government suspended the Temporary Protective Status Program that enabled Ukrainians to flee their war-torn country.

**Our Appeal:** We invite your congregation to help support a family for a few weeks or even with a one-time donation. Members of our RRT are willing to put you in touch with Lutheran Social Services and provide more information about how your congregation might help. For example:

- You may be able to pay the rent for a family until the parents find employment.
- You may be able to provide funds for groceries.
- You may be able to help furnish an apartment.

Feel free to contact Betty Douglass or Layne Brubaker for more information.

**CONTACT:**

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For more information about the challenges of LSSNCA due to the pause to refugee resettlement program and its funding freeze, please refer to this article:

<https://apnews.com/article/afghan-refugees-eviction-trump-foreign-aid-cuts-ef1c6ceabdeca71a212e9b230c0c5fed>



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