

ENews 1/25/22 Afghan Update

Urgent need to Welcome a Stranger and Build the Beloved Community

In August, 74,000 Afghan Allies (individuals and their families who worked for the US Gov't or humanitarian NGOs) were evacuated from Kabul and transported to Safe Havens at US Military bases. 56,000 of our Allies have been resettled in communities across the US, including Sacramento, which is already home to the largest Afghan community in the US. Also, 10 families have been resettled in Sonoma County and are being hosted by individuals from St John's, Petaluma and Incarnation, Santa Rosa. [Click here](#) for Press Democrat article about their work.

This effort has maxed out the 9 official resettlement agencies, including our own Episcopal Migration Ministries ([EMM](#)). The 18,000 Allies remaining at the Safe Havens desperately want to get on with their lives and be settled in a new home.

Here's where a group of individuals, or a church, can help. Recognizing the urgent need to resettle the remaining Allies, the State Department along with the 9 resettlement agencies, and the Rockefeller Foundation created and launched the Sponsor Circle program. Sponsor Circles will be matched with and directly resettle an Afghan family. The Circles will perform the functions of the resettlement agencies. Each Circle will be paired with an umbrella agency (EMM is one of the umbrella agencies) who will help the Circle with the process.

The steps to organize a Circle, apply to become a Circle, and the responsibilities of a Circle are explained on the [Sponsor Circles.org](#) website. All it takes is 5 individuals, with a heart to Welcome a Stranger and to Build the Beloved Community, to form and begin a Circle. There is much help available from the Sponsor Circle network to guide you in the process.

The Afghan Resettlement Team looks forward to connecting with interested folks in the Diocese and sharing more about this life changing (for the Afghans and the Circle participants) opportunity.

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