



Immigration and Refugee Services – ELCA Global Refuge

Recently, the U.S. government has stopped grants and funding for immigration and refugee resettlement. Questions and misinformation have surrounded the issue of immigration and the work the ELCA (and other organizations) does in this area. So, as Mission Interpreters, we hope to bring clarity and accurate information about Immigrants and Refugees and the services provided by the ELCA. This work is completed by the branch of the ELCA called Global Refuge.

This is not new. For more than 85 years, Global Refuge (formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service) has provided the resources, guidance, and community to help forge a way forward for New Americans. They are committed to helping people reimagine the possibilities while providing a soft place to land.

With more than 1,000 partners and 50,000 volunteers, Global Refuge is the largest faith-based national nonprofit exclusively dedicated to helping restore a sense of home to immigrants and refugees. Since 1939, we've built a legacy of compassion by walking alongside more than 800,000 new neighbors as they rebuild their lives in the United States.

The Facts:

Disinformation and hateful rhetoric about immigrants and refugees are everywhere...on social media, in political speeches, on the news, and beyond. Combat myths with the facts, statistics, and stories that prove that immigrants and refugees make the United States a better place. [Click here to learn the facts about immigrants and refugees and work to counter harmful narratives.](#)

Global Refuge Services- what do they do?

Many immigrants and refugees arrive in the United States with nothing more than the bags they could carry, and resettling is about far more than just finding a place to live. Global Refuge is committed to walking alongside newcomers as they become valued and empowered members of our community. Global Refuge does this by helping them find a place to live, connect with services and resources, learn a new language, enroll in school, and meet a new community.

From there, Global Refuge works with individuals and families to build a strong economic foundation, from financial literacy to employment and job search assistance. They also connect with local employers to build positive hiring and workplace relationships.

Many English Lutheran Church members can remember the work locally for welcoming Vietnamese, Hmong, and other refugees over the years. This is not an issue foreign to La Crosse or ELC. So, it's important to know the facts as we continue to welcome Immigrants and Refugees into our community.