

INSPIRITUS MINISTRIES

By Pastor Ann Bassett

Did you know?

During the past 12 months, Inspiritus Nashville distributed 69,491 meals through the food pantry, gardens, summer lunches and Building Healthy Family Lunches. That is 4,234 unduplicated individuals served. Also 14,120 Personal Care/Household items were distributed. All this during a pandemic with a staff of 3 and a whole lot of volunteers.

On behalf of John Moeller . . .

*I am excited to share with you that the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, a division of the U.S. State Department, has approved Inspiritus to open two new refugee resettlement programs, one in Birmingham, Alabama and another in **Nashville, Tennessee**. These new locations are in addition to our current programs in Atlanta and Savannah, Georgia. The State Department has stated they would like Inspiritus to get these new programs up and running as soon as possible.*

*In Birmingham, our refugee work will build on our current work with unaccompanied minors. In **Nashville**, in addition to the work with unaccompanied minors, the refugee work will join the suite of other Inspiritus programs offered across middle Tennessee.*

*In light of the Afghan crisis, the State Department has created a temporary program to resettle recently evacuated Afghans. Known as the Afghan Placement & Assistance Program (APA), this brand-new emergency case management program provides resettlement assistance to recently evacuated Afghans for a period of 90 days. Inspiritus has been asked to do this work in Atlanta, Birmingham, **Nashville** and Savannah. We are currently evaluating our capacity to respond in all of these cities.*

The APA program will facilitate the resettlement of tens of thousands of Afghanis who are either already in the United States on military bases or who have yet to arrive from Afghanistan. The APA program runs through March 31, 2022. Unlike the traditional refugee resettlement program, the recently evacuated Afghans will not be eligible for any services beyond an initial 90-day window of government support (Medicaid, SNAP, or other Office of Refugee Resettlement funded programs). Inspiritus will rely heavily on community support to address the unmet needs of our Afghan allies.

*Since the work in **Nashville** and Birmingham is springing up suddenly and COVID-19 remains an ever-present danger, we are planning a soft opening at each site with a “grand opening” to follow later this winter or spring. This will allow time for the Inspiritus staff to build its new capacities in both cities while we also attempt to begin resettling those who come through the APA program across our footprint.*

To learn more, or find out how you or your group can get involved with Inspiritus Refugee and Immigrant Services (RIS) programs, please feel free to reach out to our COO, Michelle Angalet, our RIS Program Director, [[http://Aimee%20Zangandou](mailto:Aimee%20Zangandou)]Aimee Zangandou , or myself or visit www.weinspirit.org. In addition, please follow us on social media (@weareinspiritus). More information about the federal government coordinated response can be found [here](#).

In the meantime, please pray for our dedicated Inspiritus staff. Once we have our staff in place for these new locations there will be plenty of ways you and your group can get involved and support the work!