



NEW AMERICANS

75% OF THE REFUGEES SAMARITAS HELPS TO RESETTLE ARE SELF-SUFFICIENT WITHIN 180 DAYS OF ARRIVAL

Imagine what it would be like to be forced to flee your home country and arrive in a new place, finding a new place to live, enrolling your children in school and securing employment while learning a completely new language and culture.

Samaritas works closely with volunteers, social service providers, employers and communities to help refugees overcome the many challenges they face.



SEARCHING FOR SAFETY

More than 25.4 million refugees around the world are fleeing war, terrorism, religious persecution, and other forms of danger. These are people of all ages being forced from their own countries by war or political unrest. Many are families with young children who will spend years in refugee camps before they are granted permission to enter the United States. They arrive with little more than the clothes on their backs.

Refugees come here seeking protection and a chance to build a new life. They are eager to learn, work and become productive contributors to society. As they become settled, they build businesses, create jobs, revitalize neighborhoods, fuel the economy and strengthen the tax base, ultimately enriching their communities. Refugees want to become self-sufficient and to give back to their communities. Samaritas helps make a new life possible with our New American services program.

Following a forty-year U.S. history with an average of above 90,000 refugee applications accepted annually, 2020 is on track to be a record low year with no more than 18,000 accepted nation-wide. We will continue to welcome all those displaced by terror and persecution in their homes of origin. Welcoming the stranger is something we believe our Mission calls us to do, and we ask you to stand with us to help make our New Americans feel welcome and valued in their new home.

"I'm proud that I have employees that came here as refugees because when other refugees hear their stories of success, it's going to give them more confidence. They're going to say We are in the right place. We can do this too. And this is happening through you guys, so I thank you for that."

~ Albert Yousif - A2Z Facilities and Maintenance CEO and refugee from Iraq

MAKING AN IMPACT

In FY 2020, under 18,000 refugees were resettled in the United States, a record low under a refugee ceiling of 30,000. Refugees admitted were mostly Christian (79 percent) while Muslims accounted for 16 percent. The top five countries of origin were: Congo (DRC and ROC combined), Myanmar (Burma), Ukraine, Eritrea, and Afghanistan. Both FY 2019 and FY 2020 ceiling determinations (30,000 and 18,000 respectively) are the lowest ceilings since Congress passed the Refugee Act of 1980. The positive economic impact of immigrants and refugees in Michigan is vast. Samaritas provides each refugee with the support to obtain self-sufficiency and become contributors to society within one year of arrival. This includes:

-  Provide furnished housing & financial assistance
-  Aid families in obtaining medical care
-  Help parents enroll their children in school
-  Assist adults in applying for social security cards and other critical documents
-  Learn English
-  Acquire skills for living and working in the U.S.
-  Obtain transportation
-  Utilize job placement resources
-  Integrate culturally and socially into their new community

WHERE WE *Serve*



CALHOUN
GENESEE
KALAMAZOO
KENT

INGHAM
MACOMB
OAKLAND
WAYNE

“Now, I am a new person. I am free and the fear of tomorrow is gone. I am a full-time employee at the same Chicken Shack restaurant where Samaritas placed me. I bring a paycheck home and can support myself and my children, pay rent and buy the things we need. My children are flourishing too. I continue to learn English and to take care of my family, and myself knowing that for us there is only one way to go: forward.”

- *Benedicte, Samaritas New American*

Connect with Samaritas



To get involved or make a gift to Samaritas, please contact Kelli Dobner at (586) 823-0544 or email her at kdobn@samaritas.org.