

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

HELP AFGHAN REFUGEES RESETTLE IN OUR COMMUNITY

Afghan refugees are starting to arrive THIS WEEK (Nov. 8)! Catholic Charities Jacksonville has sent us lists of supplies/furniture the refugees will need, and we are coordinating with other ministries at our parish to collect everything. The youth ministry will collect needed cleaning supplies in a container in the church gathering area (kitchen area) during all masses this weekend.

Donations Begin at Masses This Weekend (Nov. 8)

Examples of needed items are as follows:

- laundry detergent
- buckets
- brooms
- mops
- liquid cleaning products
- trash bags
- plungers
- toilet brushes

We'll also take your leftover Halloween candy to be included in the welcome baskets! Pack it in a Ziploc bag and place in the marked bin.

Write a Welcome Note

Lastly, we will also gather welcome notes to include with our donations. Please write a note of welcome and either drop in the bin (if paper) or email to youth@olsspvb.org (to be printed). Feel free to include anything you think might be helpful to a family new to our area. You may want to include restaurant recommendations or your favorite stores to shop or even helpful tips about navigating the city! Remember, these families left their homes and belongings behind weeks ago and are just now arriving in a foreign country to start from scratch. Let's help them feel some love in Jacksonville!

Who are the refugees?

The recent situation in Afghanistan has created an urgent need for Catholic Charities Jacksonville to provide aid to those actively fleeing from the Taliban. There are tens of thousands of Afghans who have been displaced due to the danger posed by the shift in power in the country – and they've left everything behind to do so. The refugee services team is preparing to ensure each Afghan refugee family has a safe place to live, furniture, food and living staples waiting for them when they arrive in our community.

Catholic Charities is expecting to resettle 200 Afghan parolees in our community. It's important to note that the agency is also continuing to resettle refugees and SIVs through 2021 as well as an additional 150 refugees in 2022. See their website to learn more about the differences between the designations of refugee, SIV and parolee. Catholic Charities Jacksonville is thrilled to announce a \$75,000 matching gift from The Chartrand Family Fund designed to meet this increased need and support our organization's efforts to welcome Afghan refugees to Northeast Florida. Your contribution to the Refugee Match Challenge will be doubled by the Chartrands through the end of the calendar year. Scan the QR code to donate!



Catholic Charities agencies across the country have been helping resettle refugees from Afghanistan. The efforts are in line with the Catholic Church's teaching to "welcome the stranger among us."

Thanks,
Youth and Young Adult Ministries