



Diocese of Youngstown Catholic Charities Corporation

148 West Wood Street
Youngstown, OH 44502
330.766.8411

Providing Help. Creating Hope.

Reverend and Dear Members/Fellow:

A few of you have reached out to us over the past several weeks, asking what your parish community can do to assist with the resettlement of Afghan refugees in Northwestern Ohio. As you know, the Diocese of Youngstown does not sponsor a refugee resettlement program at the present time. However, the Diocese of Cleveland operates a very robust resettlement program that has been actively disrupted over the past couple of months with the arrival of approximately 75,000 refugees to the United States from Afghanistan.

I reached out to my colleagues in the Diocese of Cleveland and compiled the following list of ways we can live out our call to "welcome the stranger." These suggestions are also included on the attached flyer, which can be used as a bulletin insert or posted on your parish bulletin board.

- **Pray:** The Archdiocese of Cleveland has a Novena for Refugees that can be shared with your parishioners. https://www.catholic.org/prayer/catholic/refugees/2021/09/14/novena-for-refugees-english_1.pdf
- **Volunteer:** A variety of volunteer opportunities are available through the Diocese of Cleveland. Complete the volunteer form online by visiting <https://www.catholic.org/afghan-humanitarian-visit>
- **Donate:**
 - **Financial donations** are accepted online at <https://www.catholic.org/afghan-humanitarian-visit>. Checks can be made payable to "Migration and Refugee Services" and mailed to Migration and Refugee Services, 7800 Denison Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44102. Please make sure to add "Afghan Crisis" or "General Donation" in the memo line of your check. Gift cards to local department stores, grocery stores and restaurants can help people with basic needs, such as food, clothing, health and hygiene products, and other essential items. Gift cards can be mailed to the address above.
 - **Housing is needed**—apartments, single-family homes or congregational living facilities. Call 216-339-3737 Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for more information.
 - **Material Goods** are needed to get families set up in temporary and permanent housing. See the attached list of needed items (page 2 of the included flyer). Contact Hilary Lucas, Program Administrator for the Diocese of Cleveland's Migration and Refugee Services, at 216-339-3814 for additional information or to arrange for the transfer of donated goods.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns regarding this mailing at 330-766-8411, ext. 228 or rlucas@ccp.youngstowndiocese.org.

Thank you in advance for your prayer and support for the ministry of Catholic Charities throughout Northwestern Ohio.

Sincerely,

Rachel A. Weidich

Director, Diocese of Catholic Charities

www.catholic.org

