

# How we welcome refugees and immigrants

North Dakota has welcomed newcomers from all over the world in partnership with Global Refuge (formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service) for 85 years. Our work touches the lives of immigrants and refugees from arrival at the airport through employment in a meaningful career and beyond. Accompanying New Americans on their journey is part of what we call “the long welcome,” which nurtures community support and recognizes the incredible impact of immigrants and refugees in our state and beyond.



*Global Refuge is a nonprofit serving newcomers seeking safety, support, and a share in the American dream. We have been a leader in resettlement for 85 years, dedicated to supporting immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees through advocacy, care, and empowerment to restore a sense of home.*

# We provide a warm welcome and a firm footing for newcomers.

Global Refuge is one of 10 national agencies that partners with the U.S. government to resettle newly arriving refugees. When a refugee first arrives at the airport, they are greeted by Global Refuge staff and brought to a home or apartment that has been prepared for them in advance – stocked with modest furniture, culturally familiar foods, and all the basic amenities of an American home.

Over the next few months, case managers support the individual or family in learning to navigate their new community. Adults are enrolled in English-language classes, children are enrolled in school, and Global Refuge partners direct newcomers to community resources. They are introduced to new neighbors and church and community groups who provide lasting support and companionship for years to come.

## Preferred Communities

This intensive case management program helps extremely vulnerable individuals overcome barriers as they acclimate to life in the U.S. and learn to manage the difficulties they face on their own. This includes those with serious medical conditions, women at risk, elderly refugees, and those with other challenging needs that require special attention.

## Refugee Support Services

We help our clients gain economic independence by helping them find and maintain employment, preferably within a year of being enrolled in the program. Our services focus on skills development, job training and certification, and placement, while addressing barriers to employment through English-language instruction, cash assistance, interpretation and translation, day care for children, and more.

## Matching Grant Program

Global Refuge provides employment and case management services to refugees, asylees, and other immigrants with the goal of economic self-sufficiency through employment within six months of enrollment.

## Employer Engagement Program

Through partnerships with local employers, Global Refuge helps refugees get familiar with the U.S. workplace, develop and improve job skills, strengthen their English-language ability, and advance their careers.

## Services for Older Refugees

The Services for Older Refugees Program ensures that refugees aged 60 and older have access to applicable services for the aging and provides qualifying newcomers with appropriate services not currently available in the community—supporting physical and emotional health, integration into new communities, and independent living.

## Refugee Agricultural Partnership Program

This program helps refugees improve their livelihoods and attain economic self-sufficiency through training and education in agriculture and food systems.

Participants learn about farming production techniques, safety, health, and nutrition. Access to plots of land puts newly learned skills into practice, and participants receive business-related training in retail, developing business plans, and financial literacy.

## Our Work in Action:



A former Sudanese refugee, Fargo-Moorhead resident **Matuor Dot Alier** aims to keep doors open for others by serving on the Global Refuge board.



# 75%

of Global Refuge Fargo staff are immigrants or former refugees.



# 2021

Global Refuge opened a field office in Fargo, following the closure of Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota.

“We arrived in the country of safety... We were so happy.”

Sharif and Khadeeja (pictured on front), Syrian refugees resettled by Global Refuge