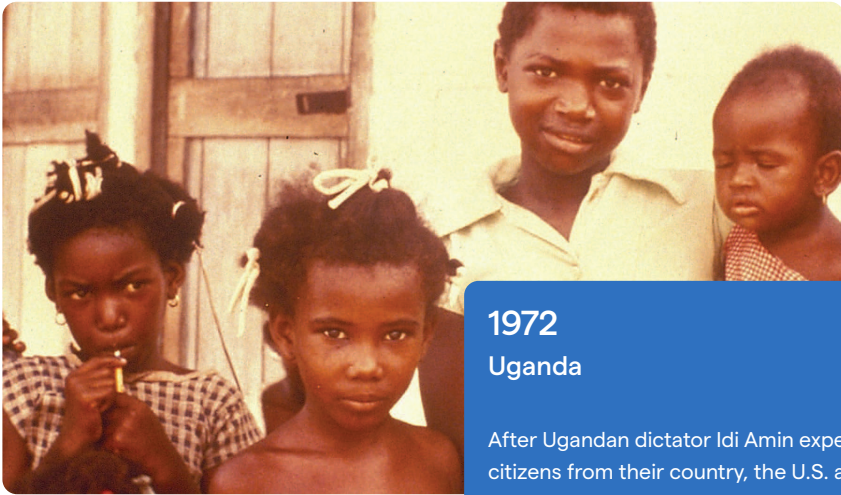


Open arms in times of crisis

Decade after decade since 1939, crises have pushed Global Refuge to turn compassion into competence. As conflict caused thousands to flee their homelands for safety, peace, and opportunity elsewhere, we became experts in the work of welcome. For more than 85 years, we have provided support to over 750,000 refugees and immigrants. Our staff, affiliates, and volunteers have helped to resettle families devastated by war and to reunite children and parents traumatized by family separation. Today, the long welcome begins with a warm meal, a plush toy, and a soft bed. We walk alongside refugees, immigrants, asylum seekers, and unaccompanied children as they become coworkers, classmates, neighbors, and friends.



Generations of welcome



1972 Uganda

After Ugandan dictator Idi Amin expels 75,000 citizens from their country, the U.S. accepts 2,000 as humanitarian parolees. We welcome 600 new arrivals as a result.



1990s The Balkans

We help restore a sense of home to some of the more than 1.5 million civilians displaced by armed conflict, ethnic cleansing, and aerial bombings in the former Yugoslavia.



1939

The organization is founded by Lutherans to resettle Lutheran refugees.

1940s-1950s Europe

We resettle 30,263 displaced people from Germany and Eastern Europe at the end of World War II. In 1956, more than 50,000 people flee Hungary. We welcome over 1,500 refugees.

1959 Cuba

Fidel Castro's rise to power triggers an exodus of people from Cuba. We assist in the resettlement of 100,000 Cubans who were airlifted to Florida.

1975 Vietnam

Within weeks of the fall of Saigon, we grow exponentially, transforming from a four-person team into a crisis-response organization with a staff that is 100 strong. By year's end, we have overseen the resettlement of more than 15,000 Vietnamese refugees. In the words of staffer Dan Larsen, who found families across the U.S. to host Vietnamese refugee families, "It's not just a job – it's a calling."



2010s

Around the World

We continue the legacy of compassion by welcoming refugees from Syria, Afghanistan, Burma, Tibet, Thailand, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ukraine and beyond.



2020s

Our present and everlasting commitment

With the capacity to respond to crisis built into our DNA, Global Refuge now has the expertise and commitment to help newcomers not just survive, but thrive. We continue to focus on refugee resettlement, welcome and respite for asylum seekers, and family reunification and foster care—while also calling for action on climate disaster displacement and launching lending, career placement, and other innovative initiatives focused on inclusion and empowerment. We are more prepared than ever to open our arms in welcome. The work of the last 85 years is only the beginning.

Contact Global Refuge today to learn more about the work of welcome and become a part of our history.



2018

We are one of only two organizations called upon by the U.S. Government to address the family separation crisis at the U.S.-Mexico border.

2000s

Sudan

We begin welcoming the “Lost Boys and Girls” — young Sudanese refugees separated from their families while fleeing civil war.



2021

Afghanistan

We respond immediately to the fall of the Afghan government to Taliban control, resettling more than 14,000 Afghan evacuees in communities across the country.



Global Refuge, formerly known as Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, is a nonprofit serving newcomers seeking safety, support, and a share in the American dream. For 85 years, we have welcomed more than 750,000 of those seeking refuge from around the globe, upholding a legacy of compassion and grace for people in crisis. We walk alongside individuals, families, and children as they begin their new lives in the United States through our work in refugee resettlement, welcome and respite services for asylum seekers, economic empowerment and employment, and family unification for unaccompanied children.

At Global Refuge, welcoming newcomers isn't just our duty—it's an inherent part of our identity, rooted in our Lutheran heritage and inspired values and serving as a testament to our unwavering commitment to those in search of refuge.

Learn more about our legacy of welcome at globalrefuge.org/history.

Global Refuge is a 501(c)3 organization with a 100% rating from Charity Navigator and a GuideStar Platinum transparency rating. Ninety-one percent of every gift supports programs that have a direct impact on immigrants and refugees.

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