



Who are refugees?

Refugees are victims of war, political upheaval, religious, economic or ethnic persecution. They are forced to leave homes, families, friends, jobs and possessions to stay alive. Most flee to neighboring countries where they are confined to refugee camps for many years. A fortunate few have an opportunity to resettle in other countries, often far from their homeland and with many challenges like a language barriers, culture differences, different job opportunities and educational requirements. (ccdoc.org)

How do they come to the United States?

Each year the President sets a target number for refugee admissions. Nine voluntary agencies operating in the U.S. take portions of that target number and divide it amongst their affiliate offices throughout the country. Catholic Charities is an affiliate of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, which resettles approximately 30% of the refugees that arrive each year. Each refugee participates in an extensive interview and screening process before arriving in the U.S. (usccb.org)

What is refugee resettlement?

The primary goal of the resettlement process is to help refugees work toward self-sufficiency and become contributing members of society and, eventually, attain their citizenship. Catholic Charities provides services to help refugees adapt to their adopted homeland by becoming self-sustaining and productive members of their community.

These services include:

- assistance with housing
- social services
- health care referrals
- school registration
- community and cultural orientation
- budgeting and financial education

In time, refugees become small business owners, engaged voters, and active participants in creating a rich and diverse community.