

2025 Impact Report

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

holding fast to
a shared vision:
*a world where everyone
has food, a voice, and a
safe place to call home*

Message from Leadership

Dear friends,

This year has felt like a two-part story, full of highs and lows. Through it all, your support has kept our mission alive: welcoming refugees and immigrants to North Carolina.

Between July and December 2024, CWS offices in Burlington, Durham, Greensboro, and Wilmington worked with the U.S. State Department and partners across the country to rebuild the refugee resettlement program. Because of these efforts, the United States welcomed 100,000 refugees between October 2023 and September 2024. Many were family members of people already here, Afghan allies, and others who had waited for decades for their chance to arrive. **In November and December alone, our staff and volunteers welcomed almost 400 refugees to North Carolina, working day and night, knowing that the door might soon close.**

Then everything changed in January. In our collective 26 years with CWS, we have never seen such strong actions taken against refugees, the non-profits that serve them, and the communities that welcome them. Federal funding was frozen. The United States Refugee Admissions Program was stopped. Contracts were canceled. In early February, these polices together created a cash flow crisis that forced us to furlough two-thirds of our team. [Because government funding works on a reimbursement model, CWS and other non-profits front a lot of money to administer those programs, with the assumption that we'll be reimbursed in a timely manner. It wasn't until May that we received funds for work we had done as far back as December.]

Your quick and generous gifts to the Durham emergency appeal made sure families stayed fed, housed, and able to work. **You helped us keep going.**

The cash flow crisis has passed, but big changes remain that impact funding and the larger social service sector. Refugees who once qualified for food stamps are no longer eligible—with a loss of Medicaid to follow. Funding for legal help has been cut. And increased immigration enforcement activities in the Triangle have created real fear across immigrant communities. For the first time, refugees are calling our office and asking, "Is it safe to leave my house?"

These months have been heavy. But we are inspired—by the courage of immigrants and by the kindness of neighbors like you. Your everyday acts of endurance, advocacy, hospitality, and generosity hold fast to a shared vision: a world where every person has food, a voice, and a safe place to call home.

With gratitude and hope,



Megan Shepard
CWS North Carolina State Director



Beryl Murgor
CWS Durham Associate
Director, Integration Services



Joseph Furtick
CWS Durham Associate Director,
Immigration Legal Services

What did good neighbors do this year?

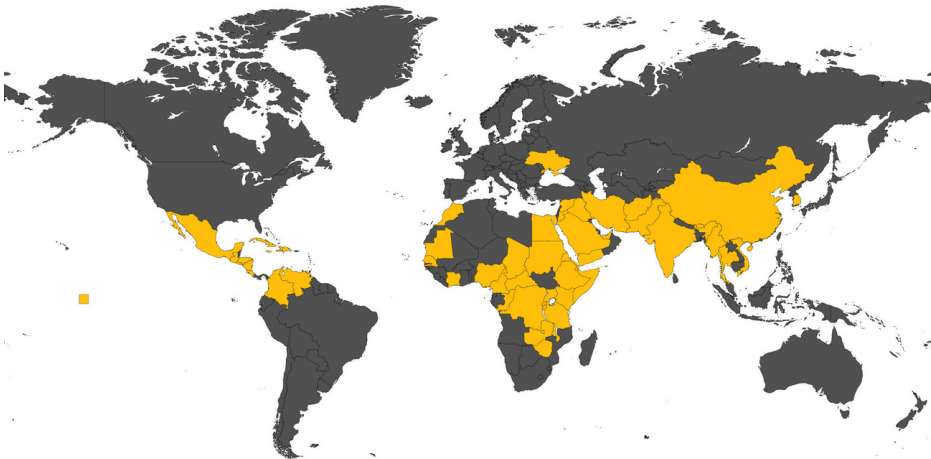
\$1,039,000+
private
contributions

147
volunteers

\$400,000+
in-kind
donations

...and so much more.

Who are our new neighbors?



56
countries
of origin

1,200+
total immigrants
served

290
resettled
refugees

60%
women
& children

\$129,466
granted through the
NC Immigrant Solidarity Fund



filed 875 immigration applications, including green card, citizenship, and family reunification applications



served 110 children and youth through free legal representation in immigration court



provided English language instruction and cultural orientation education services to 211 individuals



assisted with 242
job placements



assisted 12 refugees to
enroll in and complete
vocational training programs



provided intensive case management
to 738 refugees

\$14.98
1st US job
avg starting
wage

✓ mobilized 2,610 new American citizens through events, canvassing, and phone banking to exercise their voice and vote

✓ organized 15 meetings between refugee leaders and local, state, and federal elected officials to advocate for pro-immigrant policies



Thank you for helping to create a
more welcoming North Carolina!

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