

A Message From the CEO

For more than 100 years, the International Institute of New England (IINE) has served as a beacon of hope for those fleeing persecution and war in their native lands. Refugee resettlement is at the core of our services for these new Americans.

Refugee resettlement includes finding and preparing temporary housing, meeting arrivals at the airport, and taking them to their first new homes.

It also includes ensuring that they have access to health services, food, and transitional assistance; orienting them to their new communities; enrolling their children in school; and staying in touch to provide the ongoing support they need.

Opportunities to provide resettlement services diminished during the Trump administration, when the federal government tragically slashed the number of refugees allowed entry into the U.S. to historic lows. Federal funding for resettlement programs dwindled, and essential community partnerships with landlords, employers, and religious groups languished.

Thankfully, resettlement services are being rebuilt. The current administration has lifted the cap on refugees by more than 100,000. We have also

seen a groundswell of community support as together we are meeting the formidable challenges of resettling at least 500 Afghans under threat from



the sudden rise of the Taliban, as well as providing services to hundreds of Haitian entrants fleeing a combination of political persecution and natural disasters. Over the next twelve months, IINE is so happy to share that we will welcome and support at least 700

refugees and persecuted immigrants who are making a new life in the U.S.—a 488% increase from last year.

In this inaugural issue of *Spotlight*, a quarterly publication sharing IINE's impact, we will focus on the urgent work of refugee resettlement.



Jeffrey Thielman
President and CEO
International Institute of New England



Kanyere, her mother, and her children are refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo, and were resettled by IINE in Nashua, New Hampshire in 2018.

About Resettlement

Working in partnership with government agencies and NGOs, the International Institute of New England resettles refugees, Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders, and Humanitarian Parolees.

The number of individuals resettled often changes with transitions in federal government leadership. Unfortunately, the U.S. has welcomed declining numbers of refugees since 1980 when the maximum number accepted—the refugee cap—peaked at 230,000. During the Trump administration, this limit was slashed to an all-time low of 15,000 individuals accepted per year. The Biden administration has lifted the admissions cap to 125,000.

IINE resettles refugees, SIVs, and humanitarian parolees in the communities surrounding our offices in Boston and Lowell, Massachusetts, and Manchester, New Hampshire. Federal funds for resettlement are awarded uniformly throughout the U.S. Regardless of the state in which an individual is resettled, refugees receive the same cash assistance and contracted core services from the U.S. Department of State during their first 90 days in the U.S.

Abdul Muqsed and Rubina, with their four children, arrived in Boston from Afghanistan in October 2021 and have been resettled in Cambridge, Massachusetts.



A Guide to Individuals Who Are Resettled in the U.S.*



REFUGEES

Individuals who have crossed an international border and have a well-founded fear of persecution.



SPECIAL IMMIGRANT VISA (SIV) HOLDERS

Individuals who have worked for the U.S. government or government contractors for at least a year. Visas cover their immediate families.



HUMANITARIAN PAROLEES

Individuals admitted to the U.S. on a temporary basis, usually a two-year visa, and who must work with an attorney to apply for asylum or adjust their status.

*Note: These are informal rather than legal definitions

U.S. government funding does not cover the full cost of food, clothing, and other basic needs in New England before refugees can secure a living wage income. In Massachusetts and New Hampshire, where the average cost for a two-bedroom apartment is \$1,800 per month (plus first month and last month's rent to secure the lease), housing expenses far exceed the government allocation. IINE helps to fill in these gaps through fundraising, donations, and volunteer assistance.

Our supporters make a tremendous difference in the lives of our clients by contributing much needed funds, in-kind donations such as food and clothing, and volunteer services such as transportation, meal delivery, and housing preparation. These are all vital components of resettlement.

AFGHAN RESETTLEMENT AND IINE

IINE has considerable experience working with Afghan refugees and SIVs, having resettled near-



Volunteers unload a truck of donated furniture for an apartment for newly resettled Afghan evacuees.

ly 350 individuals since 2014, mostly in Lowell, MA. The majority of incoming Afghan evacuees are recipients of Humanitarian Parole, and IINE is welcoming and resettling 425 evacuees in Massachusetts, and 75 in New Hampshire.

The Resettlement Process



What You Can Do?



VOLUNTEER

Volunteer to set up apartments, deliver meals, pick up arriving refugees at the airport, and more.

[Sign up here.](#)



GIVE GOODS

Learn about our current needs and make an in-kind donation. [Learn more.](#)



OFFER HOUSING

Got an apartment, guest house, or empty vacation home? We are looking for long-term (12 months or more) housing in Massachusetts and New Hampshire for newly arrived refugees. [Learn more.](#)



DONATE

Your donation today will help IINE provide immediate and long-term support to refugees, SIVs, and humanitarian parolees.

[Donate here.](#)

Learn More

- READ: [Refugee cap raised to 125,000](#)
- READ: [Afghan evacuees approved for federal refugee benefits](#)
- READ: [Massachusetts approves \\$12M for Afghan resettlement](#)
- WATCH: [The Road to Resettlement for Afghan Evacuees: An IINE Interview Series](#)

Impact Metrics

FROM OCTOBER 1, 2020 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

102

Number of refugees and Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders resettled by IINE



Number of refugees and immigrants provided with case management services by IINE



613

Number of clients who accessed legal immigration services



1410

FROM OCTOBER 1, 2021 TO DECEMBER 31, 2021

374



Number of Afghan evacuees and SIVs resettled by IINE

300

Number of volunteers assisting with Afghan resettlement



In fiscal year 2022, IINE expects to resettle at least **700** persecuted immigrants in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. This includes at least **500** Afghan evacuees—caught up in the most substantial mass evacuation in decades—as well as a rapid increase in Haitians fleeing both political persecution and natural disasters.



**INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY**

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2022

NOON, VIRTUALLY

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