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
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.

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 nearly 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

**STEP 1**
The United States Committee on Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) notifies IINE of imminent refugee arrivals.

**STEP 2**
IINE case managers secure and prepare temporary housing, greet arriving refugees at the airport, and orient them to their new home.

**STEP 3**
During a 90-day period, IINE case managers connect refugees to social services, administer the allocated payment from the U.S. Department of State, and connect them to transitional cash.

**STEP 4**
Once their most urgent needs are met, IINE case managers refer new arrivals to the next set of services they will need on their path toward self-sufficiency, including IINE’s English language instruction, our comprehensive employment services, and our naturalization and legal services.

**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.](#)

**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 immigrants provided with case management services by IINE
- **613** Number of clients who accessed legal immigration services
- **1410** Number of volunteers assisting with Afghan resettlement

**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**

**PURCHASE A SPONSORSHIP**
**REGISTER TO ATTEND**