

2025 Impact Report

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

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

Message from the Director

Dear friends,

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

Between July and December 2024, CWS offices 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. **From October 2024 through January 2025, our staff and volunteers welcomed almost 160 refugees to the greater Harrisonburg area, working day and night knowing that the door might soon close.**

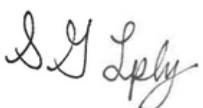
Then everything changed in January. In my 25 years of working in this field, I have never seen such strong actions taken against refugees, the non-profits that serve them, and the communities that welcome them. Federal funding was frozen. The United States Refugee Admissions Program was stopped. Contracts were canceled. In early February, these policies 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 finally received funds for work we had done as far back as December.]

Your quick and generous gifts to our emergency appeal and your willingness to serve as community sponsors and volunteers 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. And increased immigration enforcement activities in Virginia 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 I am 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, voice and a safe place to call home.

With gratitude and hope,



Susannah Lepley
CWS Virginia State Director
& Harrisonburg Office Director

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What did good neighbors do this year?

\$350,000+

private contributions

143

volunteers

45

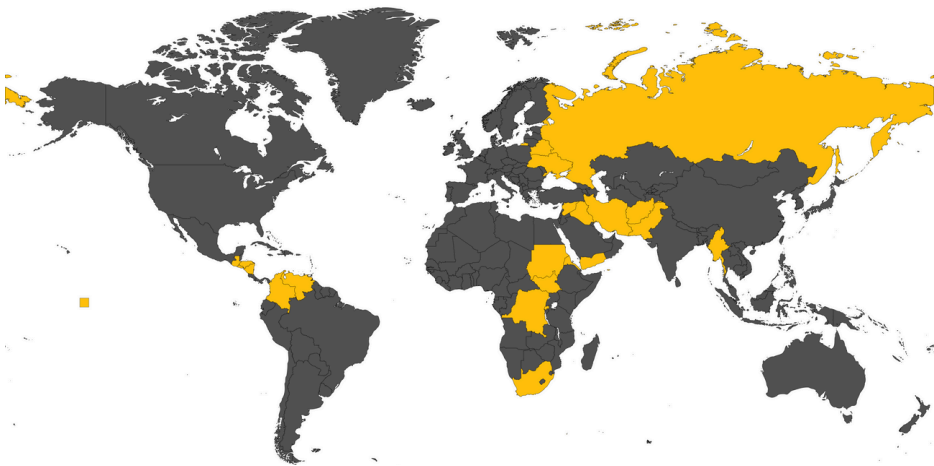
home set-ups

\$560,000+

in-kind donations

...and so much more.

Who are our new neighbors?



22

countries of origin

1,500+

total immigrants served

186

resettled refugees

75%

women & children

\$845,747

time-limited **direct assistance** granted to newly arrived refugees



filed **770 immigration applications**, including green card, citizenship, asylum, and family reunification applications



30 refugee children and youth participated in computer coding camp and **43 youth** participated in Black's Run Clean Up



provided individual and group therapy to **35 individuals**



assisted with **278 job placements**

\$18.55

avg starting wage



provided intensive case management to **69 refugees**



assisted **30 clients** to enroll in technical and vocational skills training programs and **209 adults** through job readiness trainings, like GED and digital literacy

✓

mobilized **1,090 new Americans** in Virginia through phone banking to exercise their voice and vote

✓

organized state and national **Refugee Advocacy Days**

✓

organized **55 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 Virginia!

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