

HELP ARRIVING AFGHAN FAMILIES

[HELP US HELP THEM](#)

You'd like to help the newly arrived and incoming Afghan Special Immigrant Visa holders (SIVs) and their families but are unsure how? First, thank you for thinking of **Catholic Charities Migration & Refugee Services**! Ours is one of three resettlement agencies in northern Virginia designated by the State Department to receive and place the newly arrived Afghan refugees. Every little bit of your help has an impact, and we appreciate your interest and generosity. Below are the **best ways to help**:

1. **(URGENT) Long-Term Housing** - If you know of friends or others *who own properties for rent*, it will help to provide stable housing for families as quickly as possible. MRS provides financial support towards rent but without credit or work history, it can be difficult to secure leasing for newly arriving SIV families. Our families benefit greatly from being near their family and friends in the area and so we are urgently looking for housing in:
 - **Alexandria, VA**
 - **Fredericksburg, VA**
 - **Sterling, VA**
 - **Woodbridge, VA**

If you have contacts in *other areas of Northern Virginia*, please send them along – we are trying to work with ALL housing leads! email: Lourdes.Iglesias@ccda.net

2. **New, household items/furnishings to outfit apartments** for Afghan families. The intersection of COVID19 coupled with the State Department requirements for outfitting refugee housing translates into delivering as many new items to the families as possible. To link to MRS's Amazon Wishlist:

[AMAZON WISHLIST](#)

Feel free to use this list as a guide at other stores such as **Bed, Bath & Beyond, Macy's, Kohl's, Burlington**, or **Big Lots** – they have many similar/equivalent items. *Currently, we are concentrating on small, household, kitchen, and bedding items.* For those donations **not purchased through AMAZON** please: **MRS/Catholic Charities, 80 North Glebe Road, Arlington, VA 22203 | office: 703.520.4011.**

3. **Store Gift Cards** - Gift cards for **Target, Walmart** or **Safeway** are welcome! We distribute these cards to families so that they can purchase personal items, household needs, and groceries. (suggested denominations, \$25 or \$50) – Mail/drop cards to **MRS/Catholic Charities, 80 North Glebe Road, Arlington, VA 22203 | office: 703.520.4011**, ATTN: Lourdes Iglesias

Please join the Catholic Charities Newcomer Services Facebook Group to *stay up to date on the latest information, news and resources*: [Join NEWCOMER SERVICES FACEBOOK GROUP](#)

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[TO MAKE A DONATION: MRS/Catholic Charities](#)

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Hello,

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with Migration and Refugee Services! Please look at our available volunteer opportunities located at the link below:

[VOLUNTEER / BRING LOVE](#)

Be sure to click "Migration and Refugee Services" from the Ministry drop down menu on the left-hand side of the screen. Once you find an opportunity that looks to be a good fit for you, please sign up! Click on the "more details" button listed under the opportunity, and then the blue "Sign Up" button on the left-hand side of the Program Details page!

If you have any questions about completing the Volunteer Application, please contact volunteer.newcomer@ccda.net. Thank you again for your generosity and have a wonderful day.

Migration & Refugee Services
Catholic Charities
Diocese of
Arlington