



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Refuge Lansing

Stories of resettlement in mid-Michigan

TRAVELING EXHIBIT

Hosted by St Stephen Lutheran Church, Lansing MI

Sunday, September 9 through Wednesday, September 12

Join us for Synod Eucharist on Wednesday, September 12, 11:30am.

Stay for lunch (free-will offering to cover costs).

View the display and hear the presentation.

(RSVP requested – annstravros@mittensynod.org or 517-321-5066)

Refuge Lansing is a storytelling project celebrating decades of refugee resettlement in mid-Michigan. These are stories about families who have fled violence and persecution in their home countries and are now an integral part of the Lansing region - buying homes, starting businesses, sending their children to local schools, and adding to the diverse quilt that makes us such a unique, welcoming community.

Our Mission

In early 2017, the federal government severely restricted the number of refugees allowed into this country. Refuge Lansing is a grassroots, community response to this climate of fear and intimidation facing immigrants and refugees in our current political context. More than two dozen creative professionals volunteered to work with refugee families in Greater Lansing to share their stories.

Our mission is a call to action. We encourage our community to continue supporting resettlement efforts through donations, volunteer work and advocacy. Our goal is to celebrate everything refugees add to our community, and to create a sense of empathy, hope, understanding and welcome.

The Exhibit

The traveling exhibit consists of a book, informational materials, and easy-to-assemble displays (fourteen 20" x 30" storyboards with easels). The companion art book is integral to the exhibit, with in-depth stories, photographs and information about resettlement in the Lansing area. We'll provide 'display only' copies for the exhibit, and we'll have them available at your event for a minimum \$25 donation to any of our four partner refugee agencies.

About Refugee Resettlement

Each year the U.S. government admits a defined number of refugees, and the Lansing area welcomes some of them as our new neighbors. There are approximately 20,000 newcomers in Greater Lansing, with roughly 700 new arrivals each year.

Refugees are people who have been forced to flee their homes and are unable to return home due to well-founded fears of persecution based on race, religion, nationality (or lack thereof), or political views. With fierce courage and determination, they begin the process of starting anew.

Supporting this effort locally are agencies doing the critical work of serving refugees: St. Vincent Catholic Charities, Samaritas Refugee Youth Services, The Global Institute of Lansing, and the Refugee Development Center. All four are committed to ensuring that our newest neighbors are supported as they learn to navigate and thrive in their new community.

Refugees play a vital role in Michigan's growth — economically, socially and culturally — helping make our state strong and prosperous. They are business owners, homeowners, taxpayers, students, teachers and neighbors. We are honored to support our new neighbors as they become rooted and contributing members of the community.