



# REFUGEES NEED YOUR SUPPORT

War, instability, and oppression force many around the world to seek safety. The Archdiocese of Seattle is honored to be one of six agencies nationwide participating in Welcome Circles for Refugees, a program developed by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Migration & Refugee Services. Communities and individuals throughout the Archdiocese of Seattle have sponsored approximately 100 refugees since we launched the Welcome Circle Program in September 2022.

Today, Welcome Circles in Western Washington are supporting 27 refugee families from Ukraine, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Venezuela, and Eritrea, among others.

## What is a Welcome Circle?

A Welcome Circle is a caring group of 5-20 people who pool their resources and accompany a family into housing, employment, benefits, healthcare, transportation, and help refugee families become financially stable. They assist families for two years, though most stabilize in the first six months. Most importantly, a Welcome Circle serves as friends and navigators during this journey. Additionally, staff at the Archdiocese of Seattle provide tools and resources to support Welcome Circles and their sponsored refugee families throughout assimilation.

## How are Refugees Sponsored?

Welcome Circles within the Archdiocese of Seattle currently support 27 families. The need to sponsor more refugee families continues to grow. When a Welcome Circle wants to sponsor a family, they must go through a certification process and the federal government requires they raise a minimum of \$2,250. There are many low-income people in our communities who wish to start a Welcome Circle, but do not have the funding to get started. That's why we're asking for your help today.



Last fall, Julia Yemelianova and her two young children arrived from Ukraine and were embraced by the St. Jude Welcome Circle.

**“You may not realize what a big difference you’ve made in the life of one refugee family.”**

—*Julia Yemelianova*

[Read her story.](#)

**Support the refugee fund. All gifts matter.**

**DONATE TODAY**

*Donations will not sponsor specific individual families.*

*Donations that surpass the goal will support the greatest needs of the Welcome Circle Program.*

## Questions?

Contact Chris Koehler, Director of Missions & Immigrant Affairs

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