

Arrivals

As of last month, 1,700 refugees just from Afghanistan are starting new lives in Michigan, in addition to the traditional resettlement families that have resumed resettlement. In the entire past decade, only about 500 refugees from Afghanistan have been resettled in our state, so this sudden sharp increase has been challenging in many ways but also very rewarding and wonderful to see them make connections in this country and start their new lives! Refugees are mostly being settled in Washtenaw, Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Ingham, Kalamazoo, and Kent county.

We've been getting families from Somalia and Syria to Washtenaw County, but due to extreme difficulty securing housing, a lot of them are being resettled to Wayne County instead, being moved to Canton or Dearborn. If anyone has any leads or connections to landlords who are willing to rent to new arriving refugees, please reach out to use at wrwcommunications@gmail.com. This has always been a dire need and now more than ever!

Summer Spectacular Celebration

We are getting together to celebrate summer and you're invited! If you can make it, please [RSVP](#). Here are the event details:



WRW SUMMER SPECTACULAR CELEBRATION

COME CELEBRATE THE START OF SUMMER WITH US

Take a break from the summer heat and enjoy the outdoors with our refugee families! Pizza, popsicles, and fun will be provided. Please consider bringing lawn chairs or any outdoor games you have.

Summer FUN

WHEN: Thursday, June 23rd from 5-8PM

**WHERE: Southeast Area Park
1351 E. Ellsworth Rd, Ann Arbor MI 48108**




Needs Update

Thank you so much for continuing to support our refugees needs by donating the items they need!

If you can donate any of the items listed below, please contact wrwcommunications@gmail.com to arrange drop-off.

Needed items

- Laundry detergent
- Shampoo
- Toilet paper
- Dish soap
- Hand soap
- Tissues
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Fans
- Bikes, Big Wheels and Tricycles
- Countertop microwaves (clean and in excellent condition)

Special Thanks

We would like to thank the following for their incredible support of our refugee families:

- **Common Cycle** for providing bikes to children and adults
- **Ann Arbor Bicycle Club** for providing helmets and locks
- **Corrigan Moving Systems** of Ann Arbor and **St. Luke's Episcopal** in Ypsilanti for providing storage facilities
- To those who donated lawnmowers and garden tools for our families who are responsible for the property of their rental homes
- All of our donors who make what we do possible

Special thanks to **Deb Schreck**, the librarian at **Scarlett Middle School**, and the students in the **Scarlett Project LIT Book Club** who organized a donation project because of their reading of "When Stars Are Scattered" which is about two boys and their life in a Kenyan refugee camp.



Donations

Washtenaw Refugee Welcome is a 501(c)(3) organization. We keep overhead fees at a minimum so that the majority of your donations go to directly supporting refugees in the area.

To send a donation, go to washtenawrefugeewelcome.org or send a check to 1501 W Liberty St. Ann Arbor, MI 48103.

Donation Stats

We delivered diapers and consumables to 29 refugee families due to the generosity of our donors.



We also delivered 7 lawn mowers to refugees who are responsible for their lawn care.

Common Cycle delivered 5 bikes to local refugees.

Business Spotlight



Pretty Petit Confections is a local business owned by a refugee named Hasna Marza. Check out her delicious home-baked Middle Eastern desserts. You can [order her butter cookies /petit fours through JFS Made](#). Click the "Order here" button and select the last product listed. Check out their other refugee-created goods while you're at it!



Artist in Residence

Since Mother's Day happened recently, it seemed appropriate to showcase this artwork created by an 11-year-old refugee girl.

