

Arrivals

As of August 2021, with the withdrawal of the US military from Afghanistan, the State Department approved 34,500 Special Immigrant Visas for persons in Afghanistan who assisted the military, to protect those individuals and their families from being targeted by the Taliban. As of this week, Washtenaw County has welcomed 300 of those SIV recipients since the very first family's arrival in Ypsilanti on October 4th. There has been a pause on regular refugee resettlement due to the influx of SIV families, but as of this week, regular refugee resettlement has resumed, with the arrival of two families (six individuals) this week. There are six more refugee families with arrivals scheduled the first week of March (18 individuals). There will be a second wave of 150 more SIV families from Afghanistan arriving in Washtenaw County between March and June, along with regular refugee resettlement. We appreciate your support and assistance in helping welcome these families to our communities!

Needs Update

Washtenaw is welcoming many expectant and new refugee mothers in need of car seats. WRW will be purchasing new car seats for some of these moms in need. Please go to [our website](#) and make a monetary donation to help support this effort. Please note, we will not be using used car seats and WRW will purchase an approved, age-appropriate car seat for each family with the funds raised. Thank you for helping these new moms keep their sweethearts safe on the road.

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

MUST BE NEW, not used

Towels (bath, wash cloth, hand towels)	Laundry basket
Sheet sets (queen, twin)	Light bulbs
Pillows	Dish soap
Blankets (queen, twin)	Deodorant
Laundry detergent	Shaving cream
Paper towels	Razors
Kitchen sponges	Brushes, combs
Trash cans (kitchen, bathroom)	Shampoo, conditioner
Trash bags	Diapers - Sizes 5, 6, 7
Toilet paper	

CAN BE USED, clean, in great condition

Countertop microwaves
Pressure cookers
Fans

Special Thanks



We would like to thank the people of **the city of Chelsea** for their generous contributions of school and art supplies for refugee children. These donations were collected as part of their 2022 Martin Luther King Jr. Day event.

Artist in Residence

We'd like to showcase some artwork from one of our refugees, a 15-year-old girl from Syria.



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

Volunteers drove 1,500 miles within Washtenaw County picking up and dropping off donations in 2021.

We distributed 8 donated microwaves in the last quarter.

St. Luke's Episcopal in Ypsilanti purchased 3 new microwaves.

Business Spotlight



[Kenana Scarves](#) is a local business owned by Nour Alnajar, a Syrian refugee and mother of 6. You can check out her scarves at the **University of Michigan** on **February 24th** during an event hosted by MRAP.

