

Arrivals

Since the start of the fiscal year in October, 204 refugees have been resettled in Washtenaw County. 97 of these were just in April and May so volume has been extremely high these past few weeks! There are 216 more individuals planned for arrival locally between now and October, but it could be up to 300. The top countries of origin for Michigan are DRC, Venezuela, Colombia, Syria, El Salvador, Eritrea, Guatemala, Iran, Afghanistan, Burma, Pakistan, and Ukraine. The family sizes are averaging 4-5 individuals, and the top languages are Swahili, Spanish, Farsi, Tigrinya, Burmese, Arabic, and Pashto.

Donations

Washtenaw Refugee Welcome (WRW) is a nimble and flexible organization, constantly pivoting to help refugee families navigate their new lives in Michigan and stepping in to help during emergencies.

Last month, we made an emergency rent payment for a refugee family from Africa who had arrived in late 2022. This family welcomed its seventh member this Spring, but the pregnancy and birth had many complications. The father had been working hard making \$14.50 an hour to support the family, but when he had to miss work and spend extra funds on rides back and forth to the hospital, their already tight budget was completely eaten up and their landlord was actively threatening eviction. They had no friends or family to ask for help. Luckily, WRW was able to step in and pay the \$1,780 rent thanks to generous donations from supporters like you. Mother and baby are doing well and the family is working their way towards financial stability.

WRW is a 100% volunteer run organization which allows a vast majority of our funds to go to direct refugee support like this. Please consider a donation today to provide direct support to refugees in our community, fund WRW social events and programs, and cover our minimal operating expenses.

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

Upcoming Event: WRW Summer Spectacular Celebration

It's almost time for our annual summer event! Join us on **June 18th from 4-7pm** at **Southeast Area Park** (2901 E. Ellsworth Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48108). Domino's Pizza will be providing pizza and there will be Kona Ice, soccer with Ann Arbor AFC, and other fun! Please consider bringing lawn chairs and any outdoor games you have. Please [RSVP!](#)



Refugee children enjoying crafts at last year's WRW summer event

Upcoming Event: The Migrant and Refugee Crisis

**REAL TALK...
THE MIGRANT AND REFUGEE CRISIS**

CONNECT COMMUNITY

Interfaith Round Table

RYAN HUNTER, Community Outreach Coordinator, Jewish Family Services
DANIEL SOZA, Capacity Builder, Samaritan Refugee Youth Services
EMMELINE WEINERT, Co-Founder & President of Washtenaw Refugee Welcome
RYAN FAHEY, Domestic Programs Manager, Mercy USA

Join us for a panel and community conversation on Sunday, June 11. Panelists would share who immigrants are, why they come to the U.S., what are their current needs during this antagonistic climate towards immigrants, how faith communities are responding to this need, and what our shared responsibility is to address the issue.

SOCIAL HOUR 4:30-5:30 PM
After the discussion, attendees will have a social hour to strengthen community relationships. Please bring a dish (preferably vegetarian) or snack to share if you can. RT will provide some refreshments.

SUNDAY, JUNE 11 3:00-4:30 PM
REGISTER HERE
<https://bit.ly/refugeetalk>

Zion Lutheran Church
1501 West Liberty St.
Ann Arbor

The **Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County** will be hosting a panel and community conversation on **Sunday, June 11** at **Zion Lutheran Church** (1501 West Liberty Street Ann Arbor, MI 48103.) Panelists will share who immigrants are, why they come to the U.S., what are their current needs during this antagonistic climate towards immigrants, how faith communities are responding to this need, and what our shared responsibility is to address the issue. Our very own **Emmeline Weinert** (Co-Founder & President of WRW) will be one of the panelists.

[Register now](#)

Event Recap: Valentine Making Event

We had a great time in February making Valentines with refugee families! This annual event really shares the love and is a fun time to make Valentines Day cards for new friends, schoolmates, teachers and family. Many new connections were made while families enjoyed pizza donated by Domino's Pizza. Check out some of the wonderful art that was created!



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
- Upright vacuum cleaners (in good condition)
- Countertop microwaves (in good condition)
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Pads
- Diapers
- Laundry detergent
- Dish soap
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Toilet paper
- Hand soap

Donation Stats

In the past few months we have delivered essential personal care items such as diapers, laundry detergent, and dish soap to over 70 local refugee families, and have provided car seats and infant supplies to five pregnant refugee women. We have assisted with clothing for many of the new arrivals last month, and in the colder first few months of 2022 we provided coats and boots to almost 50 refugees locally

Thank you!

Thank you to all of our regular donors. We appreciate your willingness to think of us as you have items to donate.

We especially thank **Delta Kappa Gamma Alpha Rho Chapter** for organizing a May diaper drive and a continuing thank you to **Corrigan Moving Systems** and **St. Luke's Episcopal Church** in Ypsilanti for providing storage space for WRW.

Thank you to **Common Cycle** for providing bikes, helmets and locks to refugees.

Also, thank you to **Domino's Pizza** for your continued support providing food for our events, and to **Ann Arbor AFC** for being willing to attend our Summer Celebration again this year.