

AFGHAN ARRIVAL HELP

You'd like to help the newly arrived and incoming Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Holders (SIVs) and their families but unsure how? First, thank you for thinking of **Catholic Charities Migration & Refugee Services**! Ours is one of three resettlement agencies in northern Virginia designated by the State Department to receive and place the newly arrived Afghan refugees. Every little bit of your help has an impact, and we appreciate your interest and generosity. Below are the **best ways to help**:

1. **(URGENT) Temporary & Long-Term Housing** - If you know of friends or others *who own properties for rent*, it would help to provide stable housing for families as quickly as possible. MRS provides financial support towards rent but without credit or work history, it can be difficult to secure leasing for newly arriving SIV families. Our families benefit greatly from being near their family and friends in the area and so we are urgently looking for housing in:
 - a. **Fredericksburg, VA**
 - b. **Sterling, VA**
 - c. **Woodbridge, VA**

If you have contacts in *other areas of Northern Virginia*, please send them along – we are trying to work with ALL housing leads!

2. **New, household items/furnishings to outfit apartments** for the new arrivals. The intersection of COVID19 coupled with the State Department requirements for outfitting refugee housing translates into delivering as many new items to the families as possible. MRS's AMAZON link to the list of household furnishings needs is below:

<https://a.co/3CwylQ9>

*Feel free to use this list as a guide at other stores such as at **Bed, Bath & Beyond, Burlington, or Big Lots** – they have many similar/equivalent items. (Please send items to: **MRS/Catholic Charities, 80 N. Glebe Road, Arlington, VA 22203 | tel: 703.520.4011.**)*

3. **(Very) Gently Used Furniture** (Pictures are very helpful to determine if we can accept donations!) – currently, we can **ONLY ACCEPT**:

- a. Dining Room Tables & Chairs
- b. Medium to small sofas, couches

We will arrange with you to pick-up and drop-off, preferably directly to the new apartments found for arrivals. Please be patient – as you can imagine our staff & warehouse space are stretched to the limit.

Contact: [Belayneh Loppisso](mailto:Belayneh.Loppisso@cdda.net) | Belayneh.Loppisso@cdda.net | [571.292.2259](tel:571.292.2259)

Again, thank you for your interest and help! If you any have questions, please email: lourdes.iglesias@cdda.net for further information.

Lourdes Iglesias

Community Engagement Specialist, Migration and Refugee Services (MRS)

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington

Migration and Refugee Services

8247 Shoppers Square

Manassas, VA 20111 office: 703.520.4011 | website: www.cdda.net

<https://www.cdda.net/give-help/donate-goods-and-transportation/help-immigrants-and-refugees/>



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Hello,

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with Migration and Refugee Services! Please take a look at our available volunteer opportunities located at the link below:

<https://volunteer.cdda.net/custom/501/>

Be sure to click "Migration and Refugee Services" from the Ministry drop down menu on the left-hand side of the screen. Once you find an opportunity that looks to be a good fit for you, please sign up! Click on the "more details" button listed under the opportunity, and then the blue "Sign Up" button on the left-hand side of the Program Details page!

If you have any questions about completing the Volunteer Application, please contact volunteer.newcomer@cdda.net. Thank you again for your generosity, and have a wonderful day.

Migration & Refugee Services
Catholic Charities
Diocese of Arlington