

GOOD NEWS



SEE PAGES 4-5

New Beginnings...



Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley serves people of all faiths in Auglaize, Champaign, Darke, Greene, Logan, Mercer, Miami, Montgomery, Preble and Shelby Counties.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



*“The future starts today, not tomorrow.”
- St. John Paul II*

How true are St. John Paul II’s words. To quote another popular phrase, “Carpe Diem” – Seize the Day.

As we embark on a time of new beginnings for our organization, it is imperative that we seize every opportunity to use the resources we have been given to make a difference in the lives we touch.

Our new pantry space is fully operational, and it fills us with such joy to see how it is already impacting our work. The benefits of our dry and protected unloading area will be even more apparent in the coming months of colder weather. The renovated office spaces are much more inviting and streamlined for efficiency. The elevator creating access for everyone to all three floors of our building is a much-needed addition.

As we welcome visitors to our new spaces, we embrace the opportunity to offer immediate help at the new welcome desk. Whether it is answering a question or directing someone to a community resource, our welcome center volunteers and interns will be trained, knowledgeable and ready to respond. Thanks to the support of donors who made this dream possible, we are continuing to serve and support all who come to our doors.

Not only has the Generations Campaign made these physical changes to our building possible, but the growth in programming has been striking. The Campaign earmarked funding for Next Steps, ECHO, and Life Essentials Guardianship and all three programs have met or exceeded their expansion goals. Next Steps, our partnership with Sinclair Community College, has quadrupled its caseload of students. ECHO school-based mental health counseling program is now in two Shelby County schools, impacting hundreds of young learners. Guardianship services have expanded to include Miami and Shelby Counties as well as Montgomery and Greene.

With the completion of our expanded and renovated Eckerle Center, we have taken a significant step forward with a facility that meets the needs of our clients, but also invites us to dream, engage, and serve even more deeply in our community. With grateful hearts, we do celebrate. We also recognize that our programs will continue to grow and evolve as needed. Now is not the time to rest on our laurels. Those who are hungry, who are hurt or lonely, who seek refuge or comfort, are among us. Our hearts and our doors are wide open.

Warm regards,
Laura J. Roesch
Laura J. Roesch

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CSSMV holds Ribbon Cutting on June 27, 2024

ANNUAL MEETING HELD AT SINCLAIR

The Conference Center at Sinclair Community College was the setting for the 2024 CSSMV Annual Meeting and Luncheon on April 25. The event celebrated outgoing and incoming board members, highlighted accomplishments of the past year, and recognized 2023 award winners.



Board members Jody Armstrong, Matt Scarr, and Dennis Percy

After lunch, Board Chair Jody Armstrong began the program by recognizing outgoing Board of Directors members Beth Esposito, Sister Linda Pleiman, Norm Shearer, and Rachel Prindle for their service. Armstrong also welcomed new Board members Sister Edna Hess, Kenneth Marcellus, Michael Whalen, Tywan Corbitt Sr., and Matt Scarr.

CEO Laura Roesch continued the program by introducing the award winners.



Ryan Maier and Kathy Sell

Kathy Sell, Northern Counties Director, presented the 2023 Community Partner Award to Ryan Maier, Superintendent of the Hardin-Houston School District in Shelby County, for his support of CSSMV's ECHO in-school counseling program. When CSSMV adopted the model for rural public schools, Hardin-Houston was the first school to commit. Superintendent Maier has become a strong supporter of this partnership that is now impacting hundreds of students at Hardin-Houston and Russia Schools.

The 2023 Business Leadership Award was presented by Director of Social Services Mary Reid to the PLE Group. PLE and CSSMV have partnered for more than 20 years to keep staff, volunteers, and clients safe at our Center for Families. PLE provides security officers as well as cameras, monitors, and alarms. Off-duty Dayton Police officers hired by PLE provide security during supervised



Laura Roesch and Craig Hoschover of PLE

visitation and exchange services, supporting our mission to keep our children and families safe.

The Rising Star Award is presented to a client who has overcome obstacles in realizing their dream. Reid presented the 2023 Rising Star Award to Faustin Ndagijimana who arrived in Dayton in August 2020 with his mother and brother through the CSSMV Refugee Resettlement Program. He acclimated quickly to his new surroundings and graduated as valedictorian of the Business Technology High School. Today, he is a student at Sinclair majoring in Social Work and interning at CSSMV to offer support to newly arrived refugees.



Faustin Ndagijimana and Mary Reid



Dave Richard and Laura Roesch

Roesch presented the 2023 Leadership Award to past Board chair Dave Richard, who has been a tireless advocate for CSSMV, active in volunteering, fundraising, and representing the Board. His leadership has inspired countless others to support and embrace the agency.

Roesch presented the 2023 Excellence in Impact Award to Senior Executive Administrator Christie Linard. This award was created to recognize a staff member who has made an outstanding contribution to the agency. In addition to providing high-quality support to the CEO, Board of Directors, and various committees, Linard oversees quality assurance initiatives and serves as the administrator for the Apricot case management systems and the project manager for accreditation efforts. Her contributions to CSSMV are invaluable.



Christie Linard and Laura Roesch

Following the presentation of awards, Roesch spoke about the impact of the Generations Campaign and how the agency has been blessed in the past year.

RIBBON CUTTING MARKS COMPLETION OF PANTRY ADDITION AND RENOVATION



On June 27, 2024, Catholic Social Services welcomed supporters and community members to an official ribbon cutting and blessing of the new pantry space and renovated building at 922 W. Riverview Avenue. The crowd gathered under a tent on a beautiful sunny day to celebrate the culmination of several years of dreaming, planning, fundraising, and construction. Most Reverend Dennis M. Schnurr, Archbishop of Cincinnati, led the group in prayer, sprinkled the building with holy water, and blessed all in attendance. He then joined CEO Laura Roesch, Board Chair Jody Armstrong, Campaign Cabinet Representative Dave Richard, Director of Social Services Mary Reid, Family Stabilization and Success Program Manager Tamara Gaddis-Strozier, Pantry Floor Coordinator Donald Issac, and the Jane Reece Neighborhood President Porothea Dennis to cut the ribbon and invite everyone to tour the new space.





SOCIAL MEDIA DURING LENT SPOTLIGHTS

COMMUNITY “LOVE IN ACTION”

For the second year, “Love in Action” postings ran on CSSMV’s Facebook page during the season of Lent. The purpose is to highlight the acts of love and kindness happening throughout our communities during the 40 days of preparation for Easter.

This year’s posts included many community organizations like St. Albert the Great Catholic Parish Garden Guild using organic methods to provide fresh and healthy foods for those in need; Christ Child Society of Dayton’s layette program for newborns providing over 1,400 layettes to equip moms and babies with onesies, pacifiers, sleepers, blankets, and wipes; and Dayton Whiz Kids, a weekly afterschool mentor program sponsored by the Community Methodist Church in Riverside, guiding children to God’s love through games, lessons, and crafts.

Our most impressive posts came from area Catholic schools, teaching their students the benefits of volunteerism and instilling lifelong interest in the rewards of giving back.

Once a month, Carroll High School hosts “With God’s Grace” drive-thru mobile food pantry. The pantry parks on school grounds while student, faculty and parent volunteers provide nourishing meals free of charge to neighbors in need, serving approximately 90 families each month.

Key Club members at Alter High School nourish both body and soul with their “Lasagna Love” project, making two lasagnas each week for families in need. Many requests are due to illness, family finances, or disability, but the message they send in return is simple: feed families and spread kindness.

Teen Leadership Corps students at Lehman Catholic High School welcomed veterans to a free dinner in the school cafeteria. Each veteran received a packet of letters written

by Lehman, Holy Angels, Piqua Catholic, and St. Patrick Schools, thanking them for their service. After dinner, the veterans were guests at a boys’ basketball game between Lehman and Troy Christian.

The Student Council at Chaminade Julianne High School turned their gym into a blood donation room. Sponsored by Solvita, this year’s CJ Community Blood Drive collected 60 pints of blood, with 39 first-time donors, saving 180 lives.

Students at St. Peter Elementary in Huber Heights honored World Down Syndrome Day by wearing mismatched socks as a reminder that we are all loved and accepted by God. As Mother Teresa said, anyone among us can be “Jesus in Disguise.”

Sidney super volunteer Judy Zimmerman taught 7th grade students at Holy Angels School how to make jump ropes from old t-shirts. By braiding strips of material, the students made 15 ropes and then “tested” them. The jump ropes were placed in shoeboxes with other small gifts for children in need in Central and South America as part of Cross Catholic Outreach.

“Peacemakers” from Mother Brunner Catholic School and St. Albert the Great School joined forces to clean and sort toys at Hannah’s Treasure Chest in Dayton. The students launched a Pennies 4 Peace campaign to challenge each other to collect coins (not necessarily just pennies) to help the Treasure Chest, collecting over \$500. ECHO Mental Health Counselors from the University of Dayton who serve area Catholic schools began the Peacemaker program in 2007 at Mary Queen of Peace School. Now there are 11 schools with 102 Peacemakers who meet annually for leadership training.



CJ Blood drive



Love in action at Carroll



Pennies for peace

VOLUNTEERS TAKE CENTER STAGE

CSSMV took time out of a busy spring to recognize and celebrate volunteers with its annual Volunteer Banquet in May. Recognizing these achievements every year reminds us that there are so many wonderful people who commit their time, talent, and treasure to help us do our work.



Ted Hecht received a Pam Fenn award and a certificate for five years of service.

Recognized for five years of service to the agency were Deborah Adler-Codeluppi (Refugee Resettlement), Eileen Flynn (Front Desk), Theresa Grant (Erma's House), Ted Hecht (Pantry), Sister Linda Pleiman (Board member), Betty Blue (RideConnect), and Danny Mangelsdorf (Front Desk).

Recognized for ten years of service were Peggy Seboldt (Erma's House), Sheryl Betche (Erma's House), and Pamela Lubbers (Pantry).

Eight Pamela Fenn Outstanding Volunteer Awards were also presented. These annual awards honor the memory of Pamela Fenn, Catholic Social Services' Director of Volunteer Services, who passed away in February 1994. In her 16 years with the agency, Fenn expanded the program to include more than 500 volunteers and was also responsible for the high standards and quality of the program.

The 2024 Pamela Fenn Award for the Family Stabilization and Success Program was presented to Ted Hecht, pantry

volunteer. The Refugee Resettlement Program presented its award to Kurt Horner, who teaches employment classes for refugee clients.

The Pregnancy and Parenting Program presented a Pamela Fenn Award to Cecile Ingabire for her internship work. Ann Kolb received the Transportation Resources award for driving over 4,270 miles and volunteering 217 hours for RideConnect.

For the Northern Counties, Kathy Sell presented a Pamela Fenn Award to Kathy Nichols, a tireless volunteer for over 20 years. A member of the Northern Advisory Council, Kathy has also been involved on the committee for the Northern Counties fundraiser since it began.

The Pamela Fenn Award for Erma's House was presented to Peggy Seboldt. Sister Linda Pleiman, who also volunteers at Erma's House, received a Pamela Fenn Award for her work on the CSSMV Board of Directors.

The last Pamela Fenn Award of the evening was presented to Rose Yazhyan. Rose volunteered in the Northern Counties office, then made trips to Dayton to volunteer with Refugee Resettlement with the help of a RideConnect volunteer who provided transportation.



Peggy Seboldt received a Pam Fenn award and a certificate for 10 years of service.

CSSMV is always looking for volunteers!

Many CSSMV programs depend on the expertise and enthusiasm of volunteers. Some examples of what you could do include stocking items in the pantry, setting up housing for a refugee family, serving on our board or event committees, staffing the front desk at the new Welcome Center, or driving for RideConnect.

To find out more, visit our website (cssmv.org) and click on the "You Can Help" tab. There you can learn about the opportunities and how to apply. All prospective volunteers must fill out an application and complete the training required for your area of interest.

RESTRUCTURE BRINGS NEW STAFF TO MARKETING/DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT



Iris Juergens

CSSMV is pleased to welcome Iris Juergens as the new Director of Development and Marketing. This person serves on our Executive Team and plays a crucial role in advancing our mission and promoting our agency to our donors and the community at large.

Juergens has held leadership roles in several local organizations including the Boy Scouts of America, Dayton Metro Library, American Red Cross, and St. Leonard Franciscan Community Foundation. She has also served on the Ohio Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs, the Central State University Board of Trustees, and the Dayton Human Relations Council.

“I was attracted to Catholic Social Services because of its mission,” said Juergens. “The idea of bringing people to that mission and working with donors who are looking to do more made this position a really good fit for me.”

Juergens holds an Executive Certificate in Public Leadership from the Harvard Kennedy School. After only a few months at the agency, she said her greatest challenge has been learning about the history and structure of the programs as she builds relationships with the donor base.

“So far it has been above and beyond my expectations,” she said. “You can tell that the staff is coming from the heart, and I like how the agency continues to adapt to address the greatest needs. We are set up for great success.”

A proud graduate of the University of Texas, Juergens still has strong ties to her Texas roots. She cheers for the Houston Astros and the UT Longhorns and has family and friends in Texas. She and her husband John enjoy the arts and ballroom dancing.

The second new member of the Development and Marketing Team is Marlena Gantz. Her role of Operations Manager is a new position, created to merge event management and everyday operational support of the marketing/development staff.

Gantz, the former Marlena Hoendorf, received a management degree from the University of Dayton. Soon after starting her job at Catholic Social Services in February, she married her husband, Andrew.

Gantz comes to her position with a great deal of management and event experience after serving as director of marketing at two Catholic schools – Catholic Central in Springfield and Mother Teresa Elementary in Middletown. She has also been an athletic coach and was a Game Day intern with the Cincinnati Bengals.



Marlena Gantz

“I think my background in the schools showed me how important it is to serve,” said Gantz. “The CSSMV mission of faith, charity and service is perfectly aligned with my own values.”

Overseeing CSSMV events is a big undertaking and Gantz feels that the

challenge comes with understanding the engagement piece for each event. She knows there must be an effort to draw younger generations as we create ways to support our agency.

“The Jazz Party is a well-established event, and the committee is very organized and dedicated,” said Gantz. “We want to bring that same energy to our Shine Dayton and Golf events. There are definitely opportunities to grow our donor base and spread the word about our great work to other pockets of our community through strategic event planning.”

DONOR SOCIETIES RECOGNIZE THOSE WHO SUPPORT CSSMV

Every donation, no matter how large or small, impacts the work of our agency. It is not the amount that counts but the heart with which it is given. Even the smallest amounts add up to make a big difference for those we serve.

We know that some can give more than others and when they do, we feel especially blessed. For those donors whose gift is \$1,000 or more over the course of a year, we provide special recognition in our annual report to show our gratitude, listing their names as members of our 1921 Society.

The name comes from the year 1921 when Catholic Charities of Cincinnati established a branch office to serve the people of Dayton. The Dayton region needed services following the Great Flu Epidemic and a wave of immigration but providing help from 50 miles away was not practical. A trip from Cincinnati to Dayton in those days was not the quick trip up Interstate 75 that it is today.

Although we did not establish ourselves as a separate organization and officially become Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley until 1967, those early years laid the foundation of the work we do today, so we consider 1921 the year we began our journey to serve the Miami Valley region.

Many people want the comfort that comes from knowing they will not be forgotten after they pass away. Whether this means jotting down recipes or recording personal stories, they are ensuring that family history will not be lost.

For people who have the financial means to do so, leaving a legacy can mean so much more than passing down a family photo album. It is a way to provide not only for one's own loved ones but for others in their community. Many organizations welcome gifts that surpass occasional or annual donations and allow people to provide a legacy for generations to come.

At Catholic Social Services, those who have made a pledge to make CSSMV part of their financial planning for the future are made members of the Good Shepherd Legacy Society.

Most of us can relate to the Biblical image of Christ as the Good Shepherd, the one who cares deeply for His sheep. The 23rd Psalm is a well-known and often-quoted verse, painting a picture of comfort and security that many find in their religious faith.

Friends and benefactors of CSSMV are shepherding the work of our agency through their gifts, and that is especially true when that is a legacy gift. Such gifts help to ensure that our work will continue to impact future generations.

Realized estate gifts are currently directed to attract and develop a skilled workforce. Funds are available to staff who wish to update certifications or pursue an undergraduate or advanced degree in their field, ensuring that they can maintain and expand their professional expertise. Attracting and retaining talented and dedicated employees insures the future of CSSMV. When the fund reaches \$2M, the Board and leadership team will work together to prioritize new areas of focus for the gifts.

To make a gift of any amount to Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley, visit our website – cssmv.org – and click on the “Donate Now” tab or use the convenient envelope included in this issue of Good News.

For more information about joining the Good Shepherd Legacy Society, please contact our Director of Development & Marketing, Iris Juergens, at 937.223.7217 ext.1142.

PASSPORT SERVICES HELP OLDER ADULTS

When the CSSMV Northern Counties Office was opened in Sidney in 1976 as a small satellite office serving Auglaize, Darke, Mercer, Miami, and Shelby Counties, we had no idea it was positioned to become home to one of the agency's largest programs.

In the 1980s, the State of Ohio was searching for a way to effectively use public funding to serve low-income older adults at home as an alternative to placing them in an institutional setting. The result was a Medicaid waiver program called PASSPORT – Pre-Admission Screening Systems Providing Options and Resources Today.

As the state studied the feasibility of the program, Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley applied and was asked to be a pilot site for rural areas. The Area Agency on Aging in Columbus piloted the urban program.

Deemed successful, the program was rolled out in all Ohio counties under the management of Area Agencies on Aging. In partnership with Area Agency 2 based in Dayton, Catholic Social Services retained the counties where it had piloted the program - Champaign, Darke, Logan, Miami, Preble, and Shelby.

Today, forty years later, much of the work in the Northern Counties Office involves assessment and case management for PASSPORT. Surprisingly, many Ohioans are unaware that this state program for low-income older adults even exists.

PASSPORT is for adults aged 60 and older who may need the level of care provided in a nursing home but hope to stay in their own homes. It is a statewide program funded by Medicaid so participants must be Medicaid-eligible.

The first step is an assessment by a nurse or social worker who determines if the older adult would qualify according to level of care requirements. The local Job and Family Services then determines Medicaid eligibility and approves enrollment. Once enrolled, an individual is assigned a care manager who develops a care plan with customized services to help the individual remain safely at home. The care manager makes sure that needs are met with quality services and revises the care plan as needs change.



Catholic Social Services contracts with over 100 providers who bring the needed services into the home. Services include personal care, home-delivered meals, emergency response systems, home medical supplies, minor home modification, and transportation to adult day care.

Care managers make periodic visits to assess the delivery of services. Observation of the client helps care managers determine if more services are needed or if there are physical or mental changes to address. They can also assist with placement and transition to a facility if that is the best option.

Care managers at CSSMV work with roughly 1,100 older adults each month across the six counties. It takes a team to manage all facets of the program so the agency employs over 40 care managers and support staff in the Northern Counties office. Quality of services is consistently high; the last Medicaid audit showed no findings.

“PASSPORT is a lifeline for so many older adults,” said Kathy Sell, Northern Counties Director. “We face so many challenges with rule changes to the program, but the joy we experience with our clients makes it all worth it. As our population ages, these services are becoming more needed. We are blessed to provide these services.”

PARTICIPANT DIRECTION CREATES MORE OPTIONS FOR CAREGIVERS



“There are only four kinds of people in the world – those who have been caregivers, those who are currently caregivers, those who will be caregivers, and those who will need caregivers.”

This quote, attributed to the late Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter, sums up how people really do need people. Yet as our population ages and more and more of us need care, who will our caregivers be?

According to a 2023 report by AARP, roughly 38 million Americans are providing unpaid care for older parents, spouses, partners, and friends with chronic, disabling, or serious health conditions. That care totals nearly 36 billion hours with a value of nearly \$600 billion.

These family caregivers are the backbone of the long-term care system, but over 60% are working a full-time or part-time job, and 30% are also caring for a child or grandchild. Many will eventually give up their jobs (and income) to become full-time caregivers.

The State of Ohio’s PASSPORT Medicaid Waiver program has been a life-saving alternative for older adults who risk nursing home placement. But a new wrinkle to the program called “Participant Direction” is an option that can give individuals more choice and control over how, when, and by whom they receive their services.

There are two service options that fall under participant direction – Choices-Home Care Attendant Service (C-HCAS) and Consumer-Directed Personal Care Service (CD-PCS).

With the most used option, C-HCAS, the participant sets the provider’s hourly wage with the help of a care manager. Tasks that can be performed include money management, personal care, house cleaning, meal preparation, and errands. The provider can also transport the participant with proof of license and insurance. With CD-PCS, the provider has an hourly pay rate set by the state. Most people in Ohio choose the C-HCAS option.

The participant must already be enrolled in PASSPORT, but then they can recruit and hire a person of their choice, meaning that they can hire the family member, spouse, or friend who has already been doing the caregiving for

free. Once selected, the caregiver must apply to become a C-HCAS provider and meet certification requirements.

PASSPORT care managers are still involved in assessing and contracting for services like medical supplies and emergency response equipment. They monitor the family caregiver like they would an outside provider.

“Participant Direction is a wonderful addition to the PASSPORT program because it puts the client in the driver’s seat,” said Kristina Aldora, LSW-CSSMV Quality Assurance Manager. “Many family members are forced to quit their jobs to assume caregiving roles, but now they can get paid for those hours. And it is much better for the client because there is already a connection. It is not a stranger coming into the home.”



Jean Dugan Center for Senior Services

Dedicated on
July 11, 2024



Jean Dugan was a champion of her faith and tireless advocate for CSSMV clients throughout the Northern Miami Valley region. She cared deeply about her community as a citizen, nurse and counselor. During her 19 total years with CSSMV and 10 years as Director of the Northern Counties Office, Jean helped countless older adults in rural areas enroll in services so they could receive in-home health services to improve their safety and quality of life. Thanks to Jean’s inspired leadership, this work continues today.

The renovated third floor of our Riverview Avenue location, now home to Guardianship Services, was recently dedicated in memory of Jean Dugan.

REFUGEE SERVICES SUPPORT NEW NEIGHBORS

Efforts to welcome the stranger began early in the history of CSSMV. The health and safety of a large European immigrant population in Dayton was one of the reasons that our agency was established in 1921.

In the 1970s, refugees arrived from Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos. In the 1990s, resettlement shifted from Asia to the Middle East as refugees from Kosovo and Bosnia were drawn to Dayton when the Peace Accords were signed here. In recent years, war and genocide have brought more arrivals from Africa, especially from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The fiscal year for Refugee Resettlement runs from October 1 through September 30. CSSMV has facilitated 243 arrivals since last October with an additional 43 booked to travel in August. Approximately 210 additional clients will arrive between August and September. Refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo currently make up 93% of those who settle in Dayton, followed by clients from Afghanistan, Sudan, Eritrea, Venezuela, and Iraq.

CSSMV provides refugees with housing support, enrollment in language and cultural orientation classes, employment focused services, school enrollment for children, and development of a self-sufficiency plan.

Before one can completely understand the Refugee Resettlement Program, one needs to understand some terminology.

REFUGEES are people who have been forced to leave their countries to escape war and persecution; they are unable to return home until conditions are safe. This definition originates from the 1951 Refugee Convention when a refugee was defined as someone with a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) determines whether a person seeking international protection meets the definition of a refugee. Those who obtain refugee status are given protections under international laws and lifesaving support from aid agencies, including the International Rescue Committee. Refugees resettled in the U.S. can become lawful permanent residents and apply for citizenship.



ASYLUM SEEKERS are also seeking international protection from dangers in their home country, but their claim for refugee status hasn't been determined legally. Asylum seekers must apply for protection in the country of destination—meaning they must arrive at or cross a border to apply. Once an asylum claim is recognized by a host country, they can gain refugee status.

IMMIGRANTS are people who make a conscious decision to leave their home and move to a foreign country with the intention of settling there. Immigrants often go through a lengthy vetting process. Many become lawful permanent residents and citizens. Unlike refugees, there are no barriers for them to return home.

Persons who worked with the U.S. Armed Forces or under Chief of Mission authority as a translator or interpreter in Iraq or Afghanistan can apply for a **SPECIAL IMMIGRANT VISA (SIV)** which allows for a fast track to US citizenship.

Ukrainians who arrived through Uniting for Ukraine or were paroled at the border between February 24, 2022, and September 30, 2023, have **UKRAINIAN HUMANITARIAN PAROLE (UHP)** status. This has now been extended through September 30, 2024. These persons must have a sponsor in the region to settle here, but CSSMV can help with employment services.

Other nationalities that can qualify for Humanitarian Parole and be eligible for some refugee services are typically coming from Afghanistan, Haiti, Cuba, Venezuela, and Nicaragua. Parole is an available tool under the Immigration and Nationality Act that allows certain individuals to enter the U.S. and stay temporarily without a visa when there are urgent humanitarian reasons.




REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT FACTS

Refugee: A person forced to flee their home country to escape war, violence or persecution.

Resettlement: Refugees who are resettled go to another country that has agreed to admit them and ultimately grant them permanent residence.

Why is refugee resettlement important? Resettlement is a life-saving solution for the most vulnerable refugees in the world, and is also an important way to share responsibility and support the countries that host the majority of the world's refugees.

5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

- ① Refugees do not apply for resettlement themselves. UNHCR identifies vulnerable cases to be considered for resettlement.
- ② Only the most vulnerable refugees are considered. All refugees who are referred must fit at least one category, some of which include:
 -  Physical protection needs
 -  Survivors of violence or torture
 -  Women & girls at risk
- ③ Countries decide which refugees to admit for resettlement.
- ④ Persons who have committed serious crimes or who might pose a security threat are not eligible for refugee status or resettlement.
- ⑤ Refugee resettlement saves lives.

RESETTLEMENT TO THE U.S. IN FISCAL YEAR 2023

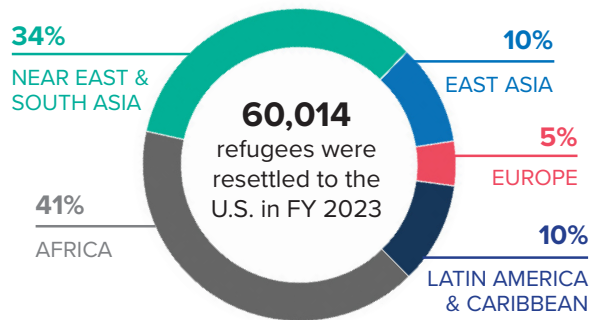
The United States has a long history of welcoming refugees and has historically been one of the largest refugee resettlement countries in the world. FY2023 data covers October 2022 - September 2023.

TOP STATES FOR RESETTLEMENT

1. Texas
2. New York
3. California
4. Pennsylvania
5. Arizona
6. North Carolina
7. Ohio
8. Kentucky
9. Michigan
10. Washington

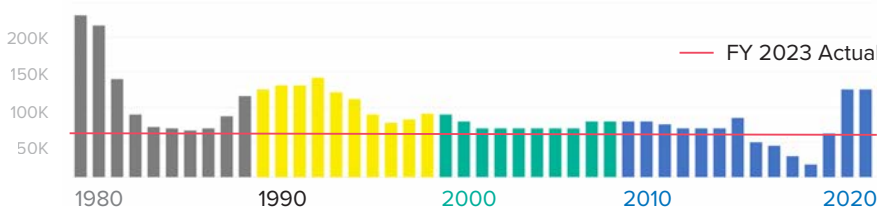
47 states received refugees for resettlement

REFUGEES RESETTLED TO THE U.S. BY REGION OF ORIGIN*



*includes refugees resettled with and without UNHCR assistance

U.S. REFUGEE ADMISSIONS CEILING



2022 GLOBAL FIGURES AT A GLANCE

There are **35.3 million** refugees worldwide






Only **1 in 309** are resettled

24 countries around the world accepted refugee resettlement submissions from 84 different countries of origin.

1.5 million refugees are in need of resettlement but **only 7% were resettled.**

U.S. RESETTLEMENT PROCESS

In addition to UNHCR's screening, the U.S. conducts its own vetting process to decide whether to accept a refugee for resettlement. The entire process can take up to 2 years.

-  UNHCR and NGO partners refer a refugee to be considered for resettlement and provides detailed background information.
-  The U.S. government screens the refugee and decides whether to admit them for resettlement. This process includes:
 - 8 U.S. government agencies
 - 5 Separate security databases
 - 6 Background checks
 - 2 In-person interviews
-  If the refugee is approved, the State Department assigns the case to one of 10 U.S. NGOs or a private sponsor.
-  Travel arrangements are coordinated by the International Organization for Migration and partners.
-  The NGO or private sponsor welcomes the refugee and helps them integrate and become economically self-sufficient in their new U.S. community.

TOP COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN FOR REFUGEES RESETTLED TO THE U.S.

- ① Democratic Republic of Congo
- ② Syria
- ③ Afghanistan
- ④ Myanmar

#INSPIRED BY

Each year in the summer issue, we shine a spotlight on those who help keep Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley a strong and steady presence in the community. In this issue, you will meet Heather, the head of our volunteer driver program; Pamela, a dedicated volunteer in the pantry; and India, a beneficiary of help from Next Steps.

HEATHER ROBISON, TRANSPORTATION COMMUNITY LIAISON



Heather Robinson

Heather Robison has become the face of RideConnect, CSSMV's volunteer driver program that supplies curb-to-curb transportation to medical and non-medical appointments for riders of all ages. The program now has 25 active drivers, most of whom have been recruited by Robison through extensive engagement efforts.

Since the first ride in July of 2021, RideConnect drivers have made over 3,000 trips covering almost 82,000 miles.

Born and raised in Fairborn, Robison graduated from Wright State University in 2006 with a degree in Communications. In the summers, she worked for the Fairborn Summer Food Program. She interned in Washington D.C. with Share Our Strength (now No Child Hungry) working to reduce food insecurities in families.

She then took a job with the American Cancer Society. "As a Mission Delivery Manager for ACS, I managed patient programs in a 33-county area," said Robison. "The programs ranged from peer-to-peer support to wigs and skin care, but one involved volunteers driving patients to appointments. I saw the great need, and the relief and appreciation from clients who were able to receive rides."

When the pandemic arrived, her position at ACS was eliminated. She had to find a new job that fueled her passion and found it at CSSMV.

"I wanted a career where I could help people and make an impact," said Robison. "In my role at CSSMV, I work with amazing volunteers who are so generous and caring. They show me the goodness of people everyday! It is truly inspiring."

Robison enjoys reading and traveling. She and husband Drew have a 3-year-old son named James, two dogs, and six fish.

PAMELA LUBBERS, PANTRY VOLUNTEER

For Pamela Lubbers, volunteering is a calling. Honored for 20 years of service to CSSMV at the recent volunteer banquet, Lubbers spent 19 of those years volunteering with the Respite Care program, visiting with an older adult for several hours once a week to give their caretaker a needed break. When that program was discontinued last year, Lubbers began volunteering in the pantry.



Pamela Lubbers

“I was between jobs and looking for something to do with my time,” she said. “I worked with many wonderful families doing Respite Care. Now I spend two Wednesdays a month at the pantry assisting clients in choosing their food items.”

“Pam has been a wonderful addition to our team,” said MaryPat Globig, Family Stabilization Assistant Manager. “We love her infectious smile and positive attitude. The people we serve are going through some tough times and being greeted by a smiling face who is willing to help and listen can change how someone feels for the entire day.”

CSSMV is not the only beneficiary of Lubbers’ time. She has volunteered with the Southminster Food Pantry and Centerville City Schools. She is very active at her church, Epiphany Lutheran, where she works in their pantry, and assists with the Christmas Adopt-a-Family program and Vacation Bible School.

When not volunteering, Lubbers works part time at Xenia United Presbyterian Church as a Financial Secretary. She and her husband Steve live in the Centerville area.

“I think it is so important to give back to the community,” said Lubbers. “God calls us to love him by serving others. He has blessed me with so much in my life, that I want to pass those blessings on to others.”

INDIA WHITE, NEXT STEPS CLIENT



India White

Sinclair student India White is a busy young lady. After recently completing her business degree, she is continuing to take classes, studying psychology. She runs her own catering company with a food truck, and her newest goal is to open her own group home to serve people of all ages with social needs.

“I am a mother, and I am making a better life for my child,” said White. It is easy to tell that her 13-year-old son is the light of her life.

Such ambitious plans can run into roadblocks and that is where CSSMV’s Next Steps program can help. “I had fallen short in paying some bills,” said White. “Being part of Next Steps really helped me financially. Fali (CSSMV Success Navigator Fali Busari) has been a great support for me.”

When White and her son attended the Christmas program for Next Steps clients, she was overwhelmed by the generosity of CSSMV. “We were asked to submit a list of needs, and my son received clothing, a skateboard, and a football. I got cleaning supplies, candles, and other items for my home.”

“At the party, there were several families who had little kids and it was really sweet to watch them receive gifts for Christmas,” White continued. “This program does a phenomenal job.”

CSSMV SERVICE LOCATIONS

Center for Families

1046 Brown Street
Dayton, OH
(937) 223-7217 or 800-300-2937

Eckerle Administration Center

922 W. Riverview Avenue
Dayton, OH
(937) 223-7217 or 800-300-2937

Northern Counties Office

100 S. Main Avenue, Suite 101
Sidney, OH
(937) 498-4593 or 833-289-0227



922 West Riverview Ave.
Dayton, OH 45402

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2024 EVENTS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

THE JAZZ PARTY

(SUPPORTING PREGNANCY & PARENTING SERVICES)

at Carillon Historical Park, Dayton

