

## Afghan Allies and the Refugee Resettlement Program

Prior to the U.S. withdrawal of its military forces from Afghanistan, Afghans-at-risk were evacuated safely on U.S. military flights to military bases in the Middle East and Europe for security screening and vetting. Those cleared by security screening with permission to travel to the United States have received additional processing and basic needs assistance at military bases in the U.S. Afghans of concern to the refugee resettlement program include Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders, SIV applicants in progress, refugees who worked with a U.S.-based entity and have been or will be able to travel outside of Afghanistan, and those unable to participate in these programs but who face significant danger if they remain in their country.

This last cohort of evacuees is eligible for admission to the U.S. for urgent humanitarian reasons under humanitarian parole, which allows for the opportunity to apply for asylum. Afghans with this status are traveling to military bases in the U.S. where they receive medical care and immunizations, apply for work authorization, and receive any additional necessary processing or services before traveling to their final destination. Currently, this population is not eligible for ORR and publicly funded benefits and services. They will receive initial resettlement services for up to 90 days through the U.S. resettlement program network via the new Afghan Placement and Assistance Program.

In Tennessee, we look forward to welcoming Afghans into our local communities and are grateful for the outpouring of offers of support. For ways you can help and how to connect with local refugee serving organizations, visit [TOR's website](#).

[Learn More](#)

## Welcoming Week

Welcoming Week is an annual celebration led by Welcoming America to showcase the growing movement of communities striving to be more welcoming places for all. By fostering mutual respect and cooperation between new and long-time residents, Welcoming Week brings together people across lines of difference toward greater prosperity for all.

Welcoming Week 2021 takes place September 10-19, with the theme **Belonging Begins With Us**. Follow our resettlement partners to see how Welcoming Week is being celebrated across Tennessee and to learn how you can create belonging in your communities.



## Welcoming a New VISTA Cohort

We are pleased to welcome a new cohort of AmeriCorps VISTA members this fall!

Three Refugee Youth Mentoring Program Coordinators entered a one-year term of service in Knoxville, Chattanooga, and Memphis. Refugee youth mentees and volunteer mentors both report achieving academic and career goals through their participation in the program, and their feedback has been valuable in moving the program forward.

In addition, TOR welcomed an English Language Tutoring Program Coordinator who will develop and coordinate resources for English language instruction across the state, including for volunteer tutors.

We are adding two new AmeriCorps VISTA positions to our statewide project this fall – a VISTA Leader, open to those who have completed a term of AmeriCorps, VISTA, or Peace Corps service, and a Resource Developer to support us and our network in building our capacity to serve increased refugee numbers in the future and to work effectively within a broader network of stakeholders.



## Looking Ahead to FFY 2022

We are proud to report that the Office for Refugee Resettlement (ORR) has selected TOR to continue to serve as the Replacement Designee for Tennessee.

We are awaiting word on our application to ORR for funding through the Refugee Career Pathways Program, as well as the projected numbers of refugees and SIVs to resettle to our state and any new resettlement agency partners.

## Get Connected

Follow us for the most up to date news and stories on social media



Tennessee Office for Refugees  
Catholic Charities of Tennessee, Inc.  
2806 McGavock Pike  
Nashville, TN 37214  
(615) 352-9520  
trefugees.org

Share this email:



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt out](#) using TrueRemove™

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

2806 McGavock Pike  
Nashville, TN | 37214 US

This email was sent to .  
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

emma