



## **News Release**

August 23, 2021

**Contact: Sue Farley**

**727-418-2787**

**[Susan.Farley@gcjfcs.org](mailto:Susan.Farley@gcjfcs.org)**

## **Gulf Coast JFCS Welcoming Afghan Refugees to Tampa Bay**

As a continuation of our commitment to resettling Refugees fleeing their home countries due to persecution and violence, Gulf Coast is welcoming the arrival of Afghan refugees to our Tampa Bay community following the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan and the subsequent mass evacuations of Afghan citizens.

Gulf Coast JFCS Refugee assistance programs exemplify Jewish values including “welcoming the stranger” from which the organization was founded nearly fifty years ago. Prior to the Afghan emergency, demand for Gulf Coast JFCS Refugee Services was increasing rapidly due to the current Administration’s increase in the Refugee admissions ceiling. Through its’ Refugee Services, Gulf Coast JFCS provides comprehensive resources to support successful integration of individuals and families, including airport reception, housing health screenings, community orientations, school admission, and assistance finding employment and child care.

“Gulf Coast JFCS exists to uplift lives for all people, from babies to seniors, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, culture or gender identity. We are steadfast in our commitment to assist and equip refugees with the tools and resources to effectively assimilate, become self-sufficient and empowered to thrive in their new communities,” remarks Dr. Sandra Braham, President and CEO. “We anticipate assisting dozens of Afghan Refugees as well as hundreds more from other countries in the weeks and months ahead.”

To respond to this increased demand for refugee resettlement services, Gulf Coast JFCS has launched a special Refugee Assistance Fund to direct philanthropic contributions to help refugees settle and find safety, comfort and happiness in their new communities. Contributions to this fund will help fill gaps in funding immediate resettling expenses such as housing, food, clothing, job seeking, and child care assistance. Finding affordable, safe housing is especially a challenge in this current housing market.

Those who wish to contribute to the Gulf Coast JFCS Refugee Assistance Fund or assist in some other capacity, please visit <https://gulfcoastjewishfamilyandcommunityservices.org/refassist/> or contact Sue Farley, Vice President for Development, [Susan.Farley@gcjfcs.org](mailto:Susan.Farley@gcjfcs.org).

14041 Icot Boulevard, Clearwater, FL 33760  
Phone: 727.479.1800 • [gcjfcs.org](http://gcjfcs.org)



*Gulf Coast JFCS a non-religious 501(c)3 nonprofit established in 1969 to assist those in need within the Jewish Community, including Holocaust Survivors living in the Gulf Coast Region, and incorporated in 1974 when the agency expanded its reach to help all people in need, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity or gender identity. Our mission is to “protect the vulnerable, empower individuals and strengthen families. We accomplish this through a comprehensive network of more than 40 programs spanning child welfare and adoption, behavioral health, elder and disabled services, employment services, Jewish Family Services, Refugee Services, and community assistance initiatives. Within Refugee Services are multiple programs ranging from resettlement, job training, case management, interpreter services, and micro-enterprise/business development. Last year, nearly 37,000 Floridians benefited from one or more Gulf Coast JFCS programs.*