Gulf Coast JFCS
lives uplifted

Refugee Services

UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2023



Sept. 5 - Mayor Woody Brown of Largo awards proclamation for efforts with Welcoming Week 2023 to Gulf Coast JFCS Refugee Services, Largo Library, Palm Harbor Library, and Barbara S. Ponce Public Library.

"Whereas, our community's success depends on making sure that all residents feel welcome...new residents are a vital part of our community- bringing fresh perspectives and new ideas, starting businesses, and contributing to the vibrant diversity that we all value. "

More than 110 million individuals worldwide *have been forced to flee their homes amidst conflict, violence, persecution, and human rights violations.*

Closer to home, your generosity and compassion made it possible for **more than 1,600 refugees** and their families to write the next chapter of their lives in safety and with dignity. Gulf Coast JFCS Refugee Services supports the complex needs of individuals resettling in our region from first welcome through to self-sufficiency through the following programs:

GCJFCS Refugee Programs Offering Continuum of Care

Resettlement → **Integration** → **Self-Sufficiency**

- Refugee Preferred Communities
- Refugee Resettlement & Placement
- Ukrainian Initial Services

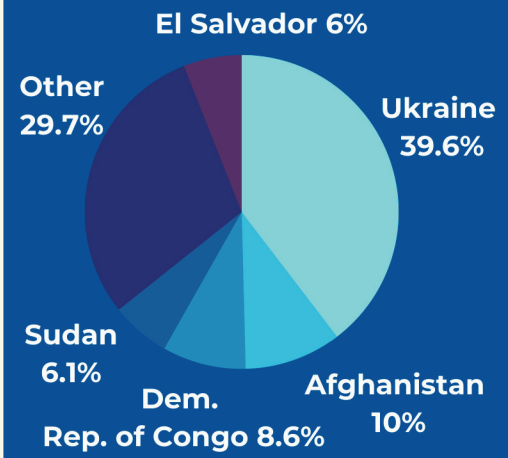
- Florida Center for Survivors of Torture
- Integrated Refugee Services

- Refugee Career Pathways
- Refugee Employment Match Grant
- Refugee Micro Enterprise Development

You helped uplift lives by:

- **Settling and placing 278 refugees from 24 countries** around the world.
- **Helping 238 survivors of torture connect** to intensive case management, support and educational groups, and an extensive provider network.
- Assisting **178 Ukrainians fleeing war** with temporary housing, childcare, schools, jobs, and overall cultural integration.
- Allowing **100 refugees to utilize mentoring and coaching**, obtain professional credentials or certifications, and assist with interview prep and job placement.
- Providing **284 refugees, asylees, Cuban and Haitian entrants, and Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders** with the resources to become economically self-sufficient.
- Making **legal services accessible to 200 asylum seekers** navigating complex legal processes and ensuring their rights are protected.

Assistance Provided by Gulf Coast JFCS Refugee Services by Country of Origin (7/1/22 - 6/30/23)



THROUGH OUR REFUGEE ASSISTANCE FUND, YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES NEW BEGINNINGS POSSIBLE

Daily living essentials are not basic to those who've had to leave everything behind.

Rent • Emergency Shelter • Utilities • Food • Transportation • Hygiene Kits • Bed/Mattresses • Clothing

= Nearly $135,000 Raised in Philanthropic Assistance to Refugee Services in FY 2023

LIVES UPLIFTED WITH YOUR SUPPORT

Building the American Dream and Giving Back



Your vital assistance created a path toward safety and new beginnings for many Ukrainian Parolees and their families. An amazing example is Anatolii Izghachov, who worked very hard to build a business through the Micro-Enterprise Development and Refugee Career Pathways program.

"Back in Ukraine, I worked as an independent contractor in the cargo transportation industry for over 15 years. Since my arrival, I've been developing relationships with several good transporters to know key performance measures in the U.S. As a new business owner in America, my primary goal is to stabilize my business and look forward to the opportunity to further establish my business." Anatolii now owns Shark Auto LLC providing hauling and transportation delivery services across the Southeast.

We need your help Welcoming the Stranger!

People are being displaced at historic rates and numbers are rising! Your financial support ensures our capacity to provide critical services.

WAYS TO HELP:

$6,000: Professional certifications and licenses.

$1,818: Housing, utility, and food insecurity support for 1 month for one household.

$200: Keep the lights on for a family for 1 month.

$100: Supplement groceries for 1 month.

$50: Provides school supplies for a child entering school for the very first time.

$18: Help pay for English classes for 1 semester.

SCAN ME

Learn more:
gcjfcs.org/refassist

Planting Community



Through your love and generous support, Gulf Coast JFCS created a local gardening program for refugees to build kehillah, connect with nature, reduce stress, and reconnect with cuisines from back home. Clients, staff, and volunteers prepped the land at the Beacon Community Garden, donated by our longtime community partner, Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater.

Rahmatullah Hamkar, an Afghan refugee evacuee resettled by Gulf Coast JFCS, tends to the garden regularly. "I enjoy working in the field, especially to grow plants. When I come back from, or before I go to work, I like to spend some time with the plants." The plan is to nurture and grow foods such as chili peppers, eggplant, shallots, okra, various herbs, and more.

"The entire Gulf Coast Refugee Services team has always been available to help me with whatever I need. And I am forever grateful to all of them. A thousand and a thousand thanks!"
– Nini, Columbian Refugee & client

To learn more on how to support:

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