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World Relief Announces Opening of New Location in Western Washington to Welcome Refugees to Thurston County

Olympia, WA (March 08, 2023) – World Relief is opening a new office location in Western Washington to provide refugee resettlement services to those in Thurston County. The grand opening of the Thurston County location will occur Friday, March 10 at the New Bridge Community Church from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., with the official ribbon-cutting ceremony set to occur at 10:30 am.

“We are thrilled to open this new office as an expansion of Western Washington’s efforts to welcome refugees and demonstrate God’s heart for displaced people,” **said Medard Ngueita, Executive Director of World Relief Western Washington.** “At World Relief, we walk alongside refugees and immigrants in the beginning stages of their move to Washington to help them rebuild a sense of home.”

World Relief’s Thurston County office will provide resettlement support for refugees entering the community by helping them secure safe housing and providing services such as cultural orientation and assistance in enrolling children in local schools. This new location anticipates welcoming at least 50 refugees in its first year of operation. As in all World Relief locations, the new Thurston County office will work closely with local churches and volunteers to facilitate the integration process. To welcome refugees as they first arrive in Western Washington, the office is seeking host home volunteers and cultural companions, along with community assistance in creating welcome kits that meet refugees’ most immediate needs.

“Refugees are a uniquely vulnerable group of people who need support when they first arrive in their new communities,” **said Aerlande Wontamo, Senior Vice President of US Programs at World Relief.** “World Relief aims to provide them with resources and support that empowers them to start their lives in the United States with confidence.”

This Thurston County office is the most recent addition to World Relief’s growing presence in Western Washington, as the new location joins offices in [King County](#) and [Whatcom County](#).

To learn more about World’s Relief’s work in Washington and how to get involved, please visit worldrelief.org.

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About World Relief

[World Relief](#) is a global Christian humanitarian organization whose mission is to empower the local church to serve the most vulnerable. The organization was founded in the aftermath of World War II to respond to the urgent humanitarian needs of war-torn Europe. Since then, for over 75 years, across 100 countries, World Relief has partnered with local churches and communities to develop sustainable, locally-driven solutions to some of the world's greatest problems. To learn more, visit worldrelief.org