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World Relief to Expand Refugee Resettlement Program to Eight New Locations

(Baltimore, MD) September 1, 2023 –Today, World Relief announces a significant expansion of its US programs that partner with local churches to serve refugees and other immigrants. By next month, World Relief will have opened four new office locations as well as partnered with other missionally-aligned organizations to begin refugee resettlement in four additional locations.

“We’re excited to welcome and support more refugees and other immigrants as we open in new communities,” said **World Relief Senior Vice President of US Programs Aerlande Wontamo**. “In the midst of an unprecedented global displacement crisis, we’re eager to do more — in more places — to help refugees to rebuild their lives in the United States.”

The new World Relief office locations are in:

- Austin, Texas
- Baltimore, Maryland
- Eau Claire, Wisconsin
- Scott’s County, Iowa

World Relief will also be facilitating refugee resettlement in four other communities through affiliated organizations:

- [Send Relief](#) in Boston, Massachusetts
- [Beyond90](#) in Jacksonville, Florida
- [Mission Adelante](#) in Kansas City, Kansas
- [Alliance for Refugees](#) in Plainsboro, New Jersey

This expansion follows the opening of new World Relief offices in [Dallas, Texas](#), [San Diego, California](#) and [Olympia, Washington](#) earlier this year. World Relief will also be expanding refugee resettlement in other communities throughout the United States – beyond the locations where it has physical office locations – through the [Welcome Corps](#), an innovative new private sponsorship process. World Relief was recently announced as a Private Sponsorship Organization authorized to equip teams from local churches or other community groups in the process of welcoming refugee families to communities where there may not be any refugee resettlement organization.

Just over six years ago, World Relief regrettably [announced](#) the closure of several long standing World Relief offices and the layoff of many staff, largely as a consequence of dramatic changes to U.S. refugee policies. The expansion announced today is both possible and needed as the U.S. has once again resumed refugee resettlement at levels closer to the historic norm, and as the State Department has indicated its intention to further increase resettlement in the year to come.

This expansion is also possible because of the support of local churches, who serve as a central partner in World Relief’s work throughout the world. The U.S. expansion announced today comes as public support for refugee resettlement among evangelical Christians has experienced a dramatic reversal. In [2018](#), just 25 percent of white evangelicals expressed support for refugee resettlement, but by 2022, [multiple polls](#) found white evangelical support for refugee resettlement at 68 percent, while [support](#) among Americans with evangelical beliefs of all ethnicities was 73 percent.

“For more than forty years, the public-private partnership between the government, civil society and local churches has been instrumental in fulfilling our calling to love and welcome our newest neighbors to communities across the United States. We are excited that as public policy has once again become more welcoming, evangelical Christians are showing a resurgence in interest in creating communities of welcome, creating an extraordinary opportunity for growth and rebuilding of the program,” observed **Myal Greene, President and CEO of World Relief**. “We cannot fulfill our mission without the partnership of local churches, and we’re eager to engage local churches in each of these new communities as we begin refugee resettlement. And since our long-term ability to welcome refugees depends upon governmental policies, we urge presidential candidates and Members of Congress of all parties to heed the voices of evangelical Christians and other Americans who are eager to see the continued rebuilding and expansion of the U.S. refugee resettlement program.”

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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

