



How to Support Afghans Arriving in the DMV Area

Tens of thousands of Afghans who were evacuated from Kabul have arrived in the DMV area (DC/MD/VA).

From buying gift cards to driving new arrivals to appointments to donating spare airline miles, KAMA DC volunteers have compiled a list of ways that you can support Afghans arriving in the DMV area.

KAMA DC volunteers will continue to update this list as the situation changes. Please let us know if there are other resources we should add to this page or if any information is inaccurate by emailing info@kamadc.org.

Last updated: February 22, at 5 apm

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Highlights

- **KAMA DC's Afghan refugees podcast**
 - KAMA DC released a four-part special mini-series of KAMA DC's "Journeys" podcast featuring Afghans living in the area every Friday during February. [Listen here.](#)
- **Afghan-American Women's Association** is a women-led organization local to the DMV area which is looking for donations and volunteers. [See more here.](#)

Donate money

Donating cash is often the most effective way of meeting the needs of local organizations that are welcoming Afghans.

- **Afghans of DC**
 - Afghans of DC has an active [GoFundMe page](#), where they also post about needed donations
- **Afghan-American Women's Association (AAWA)**
 - A women-led organization local to the DMV area which is well positioned to help provide cultural connections, concrete support, and other services.
 - [Donate here.](#)
- **All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS)**
 - ADAMS are coordinating with mosques and relief groups in northern Virginia to coordinate efforts for immediate and long-term needs.
 - [Donate here](#), specifying "ADAMS Relief Fund - Afghan Evacuees"
- **Catholic Charities Migration and Refugee Services**
 - Supports the resettlement of Afghan refugees, particularly those who assisted American personnel in Afghanistan, in northern Virginia.
 - They have [a helpful guide](#) about different ways to support and donate to Special Immigrant Visa holders.
 - [Donate online here](#) and mark "migration and refugee services" under "a specific program."
- **Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC)**



- Supports the resettlement of Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders in the DMV.
- You can [donate here](#).
- **Fresh Start Refugee Assistance Center**
 - [Fresh Start](#) is a local non-profit that provides support for immigrants and refugees in the DMV area. Fresh Start approaches the resettlement process in a holistic manner and understands that “resettlement” goes beyond the initial 90-day support that is typically provided by resettlement organizations. Fresh Start services are broken into three categories: resettlement, education, community integration.
 - You can [donate here](#).
- **Global Impact**
 - The Afghanistan Refugee Crisis fund distributes donations to organizations responding to the crisis. The organizations include those working on refugee resettlement and those that have programming in Afghanistan.
 - You can provide a [one-time or recurring donation](#) of any amount.
- **Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)**
 - A non-profit that has dedicated more than 100 years to helping refugees escape prosecution and safely resettle.
 - You can [donate online here](#).
- **Homes Not Borders**
 - A non-profit that helps furnish refugees’ homes.
 - [Donate through Paypal](#) here.
- **International Rescue Committee (IRC)**
 - With its office in Silver Spring, IRC has supported the resettlement of Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders in the DMV.
 - More information on [the work the Silver Spring office](#) does.
 - The IRC has set up a “[Welcome to Maryland](#)” fund to support the resettlement of Afghans in the area. You can donate to the fund online.
- **Islamic Relief USA**
 - A non-profit based in Alexandria, is taking donations to provide food aid to displaced families.
 - You can [donate online here](#).
- **LIRS (Lutheran Immigrant and Refugee Service)**



- A faith-based non-profit dedicated to serving vulnerable immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees is accepting monetary donations to basic needs assistance to Afghan Allies.
- [You can donate online here.](#)
- **Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSSNCA)**
 - LSSNCA is supporting the resettlement of Afghans in Northern Virginia.
 - You may read further on the support provided by LSSNCA to arriving Afghan allies [here](#).
 - You can [donate online here](#)
- **Muslim Association of Virginia**
 - The Muslim Association of Virginia is gathering refugee assistance donations through [this site](#).
 - The group's [Facebook page](#) is updated regularly with in-kind donations needed. New and like-new items only.
- **Muslim Family Center**
 - Muslim family center is working to accelerate Afghan families' journey to self-sufficiency and stability. Link to donation page [here](#).
- **Pars Equality Center**
 - Par's Afghan Support Project is on the front line of connecting Afghans to free/pro bono legal assistance.
 - Donations are critical to cover visa application fees and for PARS to train/hire/certify staff to process the initial intake of applications efficiently. Make your 501(c)(3) tax-deductible donation via the PARS facebook page [here](#).
- **Solutions in Hometown Connections (SHC)**
 - SHC has developed programs to engage newly resettled women who have young children and stay with them at home. They have an English Language Learner Program which engages women in learning while providing their children with age appropriate early childhood engagement.
 - Afghan SIVs make up more than 80 percent of the population SHC works with.
 - Find out more about what they do and donate [online here](#).
- **Upwardly Global**
 - Upwardly Global has supported over 1,900 Afghans and SIVs to integrate into the workforce, and is poised to support thousands more to restart their careers.
 - [Support their Haven Fund](#) which focuses on emergent needs.
- **World Central Kitchen**



- WCK is supporting Afghanistan fleeing the country at various locations around the world – including Washington, DC and Spain – WCK is activating to support with fresh, hot meals. Through a combination of cooking out of their kitchen in Madrid and utilizing local restaurants in other locations, WCK teams will provide Afghan refugees with comforting meals as flights land.
- Support their [Afghan refugee fund](#)

Donate goods, points, housing, or space

Some organizations are looking for more than just cash donations. Below is a list of goods and other assets that they are looking for.

- **Airbnb** has partnered with refugee agencies to connect refugees with temporary places to stay. If you have available space, you can be connected here with refugees and refugee agencies.
 - [Link](#) to where you can find out more.
- **Arlington Neighbors Welcoming Afghans** is a Facebook Group that aims to connect members of the community who would like to help with donations of furniture or other household goods, toys and clothing. Follow their [Facebook Group](#) for up-to-date donation needs.
- **Catholic Charities Migration and Refugee Services** are collecting various donation items. You may find opportunities to support Afghan refugees [here](#).
 - They are in **urgent need** of identifying long-term housing in the following locations. If you have a lead, please contact lourdes.iglesias@ccda.net.
 - Fredericksburg, MD
 - Sterling, VA
 - Woodbridge, VA
 - Any lightly used household items and furniture are also welcome. Please refer to their [Amazon Wishlist](#) and [this flyer](#) for more information.
- **Dar Al Noor Mosque** is collecting Qurans, prayer rugs and SIM cards/prepaid phones. Please support your local businesses when purchasing these and drop them off at:
 - Dar Al Noor, 5404 Hoadly Rd, Manassas, VA 20112
- **ECDC** has an [Amazon wishlist](#) of much-needed goods for new arrivals in the VA area.
 - They are asking for a range of items, from kitchenware to strollers.
- **Good Neighbors Capitol Hill**



- Good Neighbors is a coalition of congregations and others from the Capitol Hill and Cheverly, Md communities, and has been working with Afghan immigrants for the past 4 years.
- You can contact them through an email [here](#) regarding furnishings and supplies and volunteer opportunities to help immigrants.
- At this point, they are looking for the following items which may change.
Contact them to arrange drop off or to have someone pick up items.
 - Bunk beds with mattress
 - Twin beds with mattress
 - Twin bed sheet sets
 - Microwaves
 - Vacuum cleaners
- They are also in urgent need of storage space where they can keep the donated items. They are looking for individuals or business owners who are willing to donate a space about the size of a 2-car garage for at least 6 months.
 - Contact Marcia Hoexter at mhoexter@gmail.com or (703) 282-7329
- **Health Point Foundation** is occasionally holding donation drives. Please refer to their [Instagram page](#) for any current drop-off opportunities. You may also visit their Linktree page to view their [Amazon Wishlist](#).
- **Homes Not Borders** need everything to make a house a home from towels and kitchen utensils to coffee tables and dressers.
 - UPDATE: Homes Not Borders are ONLY accepting furniture - no small items, please.
 - See [more information here](#), including a complete list of what they need here, schedule a pick-up, or drop off furniture at their warehouse (3610 East Street Landover, MD) between 10am and 2pm Monday to Saturday.
- **The IRC and Homes Not Borders** also have an [Amazon wishlist](#).
 - They are currently asking for a range of items, including Amazon gift cards.
- **Kind Works** are accepting donations to help set up homes for newly arriving families. They need [furniture and other home goods](#) as well as [food for filling pantries](#).
 - They are also looking for sewing machines and [computers and other devices](#).
 - To arrange a delivery, email deb.lang@dokindworks.org
- **Lapis** is intermittently holding donation drives. Please visit their [Instagram page](#) to view any current events.



- **Lauleh Aslani**, whose sister is an ER doctor volunteering at Dulles to do medical screenings for the arriving refugees, has set up an [Amazon wishlist of children's sneakers](#) to donate.
- **LSSNCA** needs donations of furniture and supplies to help people get settled.
 - Read their guide on what they accept and how to donate [here](#).
 - They have an urgent need for electronic devices. Visit their in-kind donation page [here](#).
 - NOTE: LSS is not currently accepting used items. They are also unable to currently accept clothing, furniture, food, toys, or books. If you are interested in donating, please provide contributions through their [Amazon Wish List](#).
 - **For CLOTHING DONATIONS ONLY, please drop off at the following partner locations:**
 - Dar Al Hijrah Islamic Center – 3159 Row Street, Falls Church, VA 22044
 - Dar Al Noor for Prince William County – 5404 Hoadly Rd. Manassas, VA 20112
- **Miles 4 Migrants** is seeking donations of airline miles, credit card points, or travel vouchers which they can use for refugees. Link to Miles 4 Migrants [here](#).
 - Pledge your miles, points, or vouchers, then they find a match for your pledge.
- **NOVA Afghan Refugee Crisis Committee** is collecting warm winter clothing, coats, shoes, baby wipes, strollers, car seats and duffle bags/luggage in new or excellent condition for Afghanistan refugees arriving at Fort Pickett.
 - Contact afghanrefugeecrisis@gmail.com for more details.
 - They also have an [Amazon wishlist](#).
- **REACT DC**, a local nonprofit that was recently formed to help resettle Afghan refugee families in the DC area has been resettling multiple families per month and are in need of volunteers who are willing to lift furniture! If you would be willing to help out (with this or other tasks like social media engagement), please reach out to them at info@reactdc.org.
- **St. Thomas' Parish** in Dupont Circle is doing a clothing and toy collection on Sundays (12:00-2:00pm) and Wednesdays (4:00-6:00pm).
 - It is located at 1517 18th St. NW.
 - For more information about what they accept, see the [flyer here](#).



Volunteer

With large numbers of Afghans arriving, several organizations are looking for extra pairs of hands to assist those who have recently arrived. If you aren't able to donate but have some free time, here are some ways you might want to volunteer.

- **Afghan-American Women's Association (AAWA)**
 - This women-led organization is local to the DMV area and is looking for local volunteers as well as people who can provide local services.
 - See [more information here](#) and contact them [here](#).
- **Afghanistan Youth Relief Foundation** has weekly volunteer sign-ups for sorting through donations and lifting/moving boxes. Sign up [here](#).
- **Catholic Charities** have a variety of volunteer positions in Arlington, Fredericksburg, and Manassas listed [here](#), including drivers, mentors, companions, employment assistants, and tutors.
 - Click "Migration and Refugee Services" and the relevant city from the drop down menu on the left-hand side of the screen, then click "more details" and then the blue sign up button on the left-hand side of the screen.
 - If you have questions about completing a volunteer application, please contact volunteer.newcomer@ccda.net.
- The **Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC)** is welcoming volunteers to support Afghans. The various volunteer opportunities available may be found [here](#).
- **Fresh Start Refugee Assistance Center** is looking for volunteers to host donation drives, sort donations, help with grocery runs, and transportation to appointments.
 - See [more information here](#).
- The **IRC Silver Spring office** has a number of volunteer opportunities, including housing set up, leading an effort to fully furnish a new home, family mentors, and more.
 - Sign up for an upcoming [volunteer orientation here](#) (held the second Tuesday of each month from 6:30-8pm on Zoom).
 - See [volunteer opportunities here](#).
- **Homes Not Borders** has a variety of volunteer opportunities available. Please visit [this page](#) and refer below to view the positions and complete the interest form.
 - Humanitarian Parole Sponsors
 - Furniture Movers
 - Storage Organizers



- Home Set-Up
- Woodworking and Sewing Teachers and Supervisors
- **LIRS (Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service)** is looking for volunteers in the DMV area to respond to various urgent needs.
 - Volunteer opportunities include:
 - Setting up apartments
 - Picking up new arrivals from the airport
 - Assisting with meals
 - Assisting with transportation
 - Mentorship
 - Tutoring
 - ESL assistance
 - Writing to your congressional representatives
 - Fill out [this form](#) to express your interest in volunteering as an individual or with a group.
- **Muslim Family Center**
 - Muslim Family Center needs volunteers to help mentor refugee families as they transition. Link to page where you can volunteer [here](#).
- **Mustafa Center** has a [volunteer sign-up sheet](#) to help refugees in the upcoming weeks and months with resettling to the DMV area, ranging from translation and airport pickup to foster care and legal services.
- **No One Left Behind** has an urgent need of virtual data entry help
 - Help convert passport and other biographical information into the Excel format that they send to the State Department and Congress (computer required)
 - To get started, please contact seank@nooneleft.org
 - In your email, please include: your First & Last name, phone number, email address, location, city & state.
- **NOVA RAFT (Resettling Afghan Families Together)** is collecting furniture donations on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Sundays. They need people to move furniture from donors' homes to their storage facilities in Springfield
 - Meeting location is in West Springfield. Sign up to help [here](#), and follow their [Facebook Group](#) for more information and updates.
- **NOVA Friends of Refugees and One Journey** are building a centralized and coordinated database of people interested in volunteering in different ways.
 - [Fill out this form](#) to register your interest in volunteering.



- If you have any questions, reach out to 1journeyfestival@gmail.com.
- **Peace Corps Community For Refugees** is looking for volunteers to assist Afghans resettled. Fill out [this form](#).
- Volunteer to **teach ESL at Quantico Marine Base**. Classes will be from 2-4 pm Monday through Thursday for a 6-week period. We ask you to commit to the full 6-week program. Volunteers are asked to teach 2, 3, or if possible, even 4 days a week. If you are interested in volunteering for ESL Teacher, please send an email to this email to Nanette: nanettebouvier@gmail.com with the following information:
 - Legal Name
 - Phone Number
 - Email Address
 - Which program you're interested in (ESL or Child Care)
 - What days you would commit to volunteer
 - Whether you approve to allow us to make your email address available to the other members of the team
- **Refugee Council USA** connects volunteers interested in supporting refugees with local organizations all over the country. In DC and Virginia, they support **ECDC's African Community Center** to help connect people with volunteer opportunities
 - [Link](#) to where you can volunteer. Volunteer opportunities include:
 - Mentoring
 - Transportation assistance
 - Workshop Assistance
 - Support gathering donations (in-kind or monetary)/ Donation drives
- **Upwardly Global** is looking for volunteers to conduct 1:1 mock interviews, review resumes, share industry knowledge, and make introductions to Afghans and other immigrants and refugees. [Apply here](#).

Leverage your skills and networks

If you can't donate or volunteer but know others who can, you can help out by connecting them to local organizations.

- **Afghan Diaspora for Equality and Progress** is a non-profit organization consisting of Afghan-American professionals, scholars, and activists from across the country. They



have provided a list of resources that people can use to support immigration relief for Afghans. The list can be found [here](#).

- **ECDC** is looking for leads on landlords who will rent apartments to newly settled Afghans who do not have proof of income.
 - Contact volunteer@ecdacus.org
- The **Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)** is searching for volunteers who can assist newly-arriving Afghan families. If you are able to provide temporary or permanent housing or would like to support in other ways please complete [this form](#).
- **LSSNCA** has a variety of initiatives to help recently resettled Afghan refugees:
 - They are looking for people willing to open their homes and become foster parents for unaccompanied Afghan children. **Mustafa Center** recently shared [this informational flyer](#) that explains more about applying to be a foster parent.
 - To learn more contact Patricia Britt at BrittP@LSSNCA.org for inquiries from DC and Maryland, contact Edna Myers at MyersE@lssnca.org for inquiries in Northern Virginia, or fill out LSSNCA's [inquiry form](#).
- **Upwardly Global** is looking for companies that can hire Afghans to fill critical professional roles through paid workforce opportunities, hiring, and top line training and credentials that connect immigrants skills to current labor market needs.
 - Email epteam@upwardlyglobal.org
- **USAHello** is a free online center for information and education for refugees, asylum seekers, immigrants and welcoming communities. You can find resources that will help refugees receive education, legal representation, work opportunities, etc. Link to USAHello [here](#).
- Pro bono work with **Pars**:
 - Assist income-eligible Afghans (i.e., people who cannot afford U.S. attorneys) to prepare applications and affidavits for (i) humanitarian parole (generally available to those who have a compelling emergency), (ii) special immigrant visas (available to those who worked directly with U.S. forces), or (iii) family-based sponsorship (available to those whose families are already present and established in the U.S.).
 - Email afghansupport@parsequalitycenter.org to inquire about serving through pro bono legal work.
- **Virginia Health Care Foundation** is offering free SignUpNow Virtual Trainings to help Afghan refugees and others sign up for Medicaid insurance. Register [here](#).



- SignUpNow workshops include information on the NEW eligibility for Afghan evacuees, and NEW FAMIS Prenatal Coverage (for undocumented pregnant women), as well as the “ins and outs” of the eligibility requirements, application procedures, and post-enrollment information for Virginia’s Medicaid/FAMIS programs. Space is still available for the following workshop dates:
 - February 1; February 15; February 24.
- **We The Action** connects lawyers to non-profit organizations to drive social change. They are calling to action any Dari, Pashto, and Farsi speakers to serve as translators and interpreters as well as any lawyers interested in providing Pro Bono assistance. For more information, please visit [this page](#) to submit your email address.
- **The Young Center for Immigrant Children’s Rights** is looking for volunteers who speak Persian (Farsi/Dari), Pashto, or Uzbeki to help serve unaccompanied children from Afghanistan as a child advocate.
 - [More information on volunteer requirements](#) and [link to submit an interest form](#).

Resources for Afghans living in the DMV area

We have created a separate guide for Afghans living in the Washington DC Metro Area who are trying to get their families and friends in Afghanistan to safety. This guide includes information for those currently in Afghanistan, and a variety of resources for Afghans who live in the DMV area, including legal resources and mental health information.

Please [view the guide here](#).

About KAMA DC

[KAMA DC](#) is a grassroots non-profit organization in Washington, DC which provides a platform for immigrants in the DMV area to share their skills, stories, and ideas.

KAMA DC is run entirely by volunteers who are passionate about building ties, facilitating cultural exchanges, and starting conversations. We highlight the skills and stories that immigrants bring to our community by hosting skills based workshops, cooking classes,



storytelling nights, film screenings, and more. We also have a [podcast](#) and run the [Immigrants of the DMV](#) instagram account, where someone from an immigrant community in the DMV area takes over the account each Sunday.

Follow us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#).