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# Washtenaw Refugee Welcome

Newsletter | Spring 2024

## Arrivals



WRW continues to collaborate with other agencies and service providers in the area, connecting refugees with needed resources. Here are some of the recent refugee resettlement statistics, from our [2023 Annual Report](#):

- In FY23 (Oct 2022-Sept 2023) Michigan served almost 9k individuals, including refugees, asylum seekers, sponsorships and Special Immigrant Visas (SIV).
- Washtenaw County received 10% of Michigan refugee arrivals this past fiscal year, the third highest county after Kent and Ottawa.
- FY24 arrivals (Oct 2023 - Feb 2024) in Washtenaw County are around 150 individuals (around 50 cases) and mostly refugees, but a few SIVs. The capacity for the year is 350.
- 21 families arrived in February 2024 alone, nearly triple where we were last year at this time.
- Ukrainian sponsorship applications (separate from JFS resettlements) are over 8k, making Michigan the 10th highest for Ukrainian resettlement. An estimated 4k have arrived already, with 4k more expected.

- The largest populations for local resettlement include: Syria, Afghanistan, DRC, and smaller numbers from Iran, Iraq, Yemen, Venezuela, Somalia and Egypt.
  - Michigan has seen the arrival of a significant number of asylum seekers who are not eligible for public benefits. Most come to Michigan after arriving in Chicago or NYC. These folks mostly come from Nicaragua, Venezuela, Ecuador and some African nations.
  - Since the start of the fiscal year there have been 500+ Cuban and Haitian migrant arrivals pursuing asylum, and the expectation is about 2k for the fiscal year.
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## Summer Spectacular Celebration

Join us for our annual celebration of World Refugee Day! This is an informal pizza and popsicle party and everyone is invited. Refugee families who are new to the area and those who have been here several years will be mingling with long-time residents.



### When

Saturday, June 22nd, 2024  
3-5pm

### Where

Parkridge Park  
791 Harriet Street  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197



Kids will have access to the park equipment and play fields so feel free to bring balls, lawn games, etc. We encourage folks to bring folding chairs and blankets and extra to share if you can.

Please RSVP using the button below so we can prepare to bring enough pizza and popsicles. Let us know if you can help with set up or clean up too!

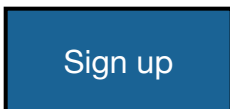
When you sign up, we are also asking if anyone would be willing to bring drinks to share (no alcohol, please!) and if anyone can help give rides to refugee families without transportation. If you are interested in driving, we will follow up to get some documentation from you before approving you as a driver. We look forward to seeing you there!



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## Monthly Refugee Meet-Ups

We will be doing Monthly Refugee Meet-Ups every 2nd Saturday of the month for the rest of the year. If you are interested in bringing a craft or the snack for the event or just want to stop by and say hello, please sign up.



In February, families/volunteers were able to socialize and make Valentines. In March, Washtenaw Literacy attended to speak with refugees about

the programming they have to help them increase their English skills.



In May, our meet up is the day before Mothers Day, and we'd like to host a glam day. To support that, please consider donating items such as:

- Makeup
- Face lotion
- Face wash
- Makeup bags
- Body lotion
- Manicure or pedicure kits
- Scarves
- Shawls
- Jewelry

★  
*Glam*  
★

And in June, we'll be celebrating Father's Day and would love donations of things like:

- Tools
- Athletic gear
- Shaving supplies
- Grilling tools

To donate, reach out to [wrvcommunications@gmail.com](mailto:wrvcommunications@gmail.com) or drop off the items at 1014 N Congress St Ypsilanti, MI 48197.

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## Donations



We are looking for the following items:

- Diapers of all sizes
- Pack 'n Play/portable crib
- Consumable items from our [Amazon wishlist](#)
- Clean and working microwave
- Clean and working vacuum cleaner

Amazon  
Wishlist

Donate via  
PayPal

Donate via  
Venmo

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## Featured Refugee-Owned Business



**Sublprint** is a t-shirt and accessory printing company, owned by **Guadalupe Carranza de Leon**. She's 24 and has been working hard to support her disabled parents. Here's what the website has to say:

“We are a women's owned heat transfer printing company based in the Ann Arbor area, specializing in sublimation. We take pride in offering custom apparel and unique products, ranging from t-shirts and hats to coffee cups and water bottles. Our mission is to provide our clients with high-quality products tailored to their unique needs. We are dedicated to creating a personalized experience for each customer, ensuring that they are completely satisfied with the end result.”

Visit [subliprintannarbor.com](http://subliprintannarbor.com)

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## Featured Artist



This coloring of Minnie Mouse is by Mary, a 5 year old girl from Syria. Nice work, Mary!



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