

## **How to help Afghan refugees**

The Peace Building Committee has been in touch with Rotarian Earl Tilly, who is interested in welcoming Afghan refugee families to settle here in the Wenatchee Valley. We are in the process of determining if that is realistic, as the state and service groups are focused on settling refugees in cities with existing Afghan populations, with mosques, etc. Which means mostly in the Puget Sound area.

So for now, if we are not hosting a family in our spare bedrooms, what can we in Wenatchee do to help the refugees?

The [AFGHAN REFUGEE COLLECTIVE](http://afghanrefugeecollective.org) is a coordinated effort of many social service organizations based in the Puget Sound region, including MAPS-MCRC (Muslim Community Resources Center), MAPS-AMEN (American Muslim Empowerment Network), Kits For Peace, Afghan Health Initiative, WA Immigrant Solidarity Network, Afghans Of Seattle, Immigrant Women's Community Center, Afghan Diaspora Hub, and other community-based organizations, working with authorized resettlement agencies (e.g., International Rescue Committee, World Relief, etc.). To learn more: [afghanrefugeecollective.org](http://afghanrefugeecollective.org)

If you would like to be involved in this work, [fill out this form](#). You will receive an email once every two weeks or so that provides resources and ways to take action. You will also be contacted to follow up on specific ways you indicated that you would be able to contribute. (You can also contact the state's Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance by email at [ORIAinfo@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:ORIAinfo@dshs.wa.gov) for more recommended ways to help.)

**Donations are the best way to help at the moment.** Donate to the [Emergency Afghan Refugee Fund](#), a joint campaign by MAPS-MCRC (Muslim Community Resource Center), Afghan Health Initiative, SCM Medical Missions, Kits For Peace, Refugee Women's Alliance, Afghans Of Seattle, Immigrant Women's Community Center, Viets4Afghans, and more. All of the funds received from this campaign will be used to support the emergency housing and other needs of Afghan refugees, including rent, furniture, household goods, hygiene kits, gift cards, and more. Contributions are tax deductible.

Here are other campaigns you may wish to also financially support:

- [Afghan Health Initiative](#) Campaign
- [International Rescue Committee](#) Welcome WA Fund
- [World Relief](#) Campaign
- [Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service](#) Campaign
- [CAIR-WA](#) Fund to Help Afghans Pay Immigration Fees

## **Other ways to help:**

- Send gift cards (Costco, WinCo, Safeway, Fred Meyer, Amazon, Target) in any denomination to Kits for Peace at [15600 NE 8th Street Suite B1](#) PMB 453 Bellevue, WA 98008
- Donate welcome items or gift cards to [World Relief](#)
- Donate items to the [IRC Amazon Wish List](#) or the [Jewish Family Services Amazon Wish List](#)
- Volunteer with [Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services](#) or [World Relief](#)
- Medical professionals can sign up to volunteer with [Healthcare Workers for Afghan Refugees](#)
- Lawyers can provide legal help to Afghans applying for humanitarian parole with [CAIR-WA](#), or through [The Afghan Resources Project](#), or through [Human Rights First](#)
- [Sponsor Afghans](#) applying for humanitarian parole

If you would like to be looped into conversations with local Rotarians interested in helping out, send me an email: [kelli.scott@mail.house.gov](mailto:kelli.scott@mail.house.gov)

- Kelli Scott