



A CAMPAIGN FOR REFUGEEONE

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated September 22, 2020

1. Is RefugeeOne still welcoming refugees?

Yes! With your support, we welcomed more than 300 refugees and asylees last year, and we've welcomed a total of 2,400+ refugees in the past 5 years. Even during COVID-19, we continue to welcome refugee families at O'Hare each month.

2. What is RefugeeOne doing while arrivals are so much slower?

RefugeeOne has made strategic and creative changes to adapt since 2017, including:

- **Diversifying *who we serve*** – supporting asylees, unaccompanied children, and clients from smaller agencies in distress
- **Expanding *how we serve*** – adding programs for young adults, women in our Sewing Studio, parents of young children, refugees in need of dental care, and more
- **Extending *how long we serve*** – going beyond the first year to help clients for 5 years or more with job upgrades, therapy, tutoring, home ownership classes, and more
- **Engaging in meaningful *advocacy*** – to ensure our country remains a place of welcome and resumes resettlement at historic levels

3. How has COVID-19 impacted refugees?

Many refugees work in industries hit hardest by COVID-19, while others serve on the front lines. During the pandemic, we are working proactively to help families protect their health, apply for financial assistance, get jobs, communicate with landlords, access remote learning, strengthen their mental health, and get back on the path to self-reliance. Check out our website for more info.

4. Wait, someone donated a building to you?

Yes, they did! When our lease ended in August 2020, we moved to an office building that was (amazingly) donated to us. Although the 5,000-square foot building is sufficient with staff working remotely, it's not large enough to be our permanent home. The donor gave the building (valued at \$500,000) with no strings attached, allowing us to sell it when our permanent home is built and to pay down our loan.

5. How will November's election impact RefugeeOne?

Refugee admissions fluctuate every year at the President's discretion. In 2016, the U.S. resettled record numbers of refugees, only for admissions to be slashed to record lows in the years that followed. After nearly 40 years and many administrations, RefugeeOne is highly adaptive and prepared to continue serving refugees, asylees, and unaccompanied minors regardless of the outcome this—or any—election.



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6. Is this a good time for RefugeeOne to be buying?

Although the opportunity to relocate did not come by choice, we've used this opportunity to strengthen RefugeeOne's overall financial position by buying our own building. By owning, we aim to have mortgage payments similar to our previous monthly rent—with the added bonus of a long-term asset. Support from individuals like you reduces the amount of long-term financing required.

7. Is there a challenge grant opportunity to double my gift?

I'm glad you asked! We're excited to announce that three supporters pledged a total of \$325,000 in challenge grants for our campaign. That means every dollar you give up to \$325,000 will be matched! Talk to your campaign volunteer about what's still available.

8. Would a campaign gift be in addition to my current support?

Yes! We hope so. Supporters of RefugeeOne are asked to make a meaningful gift to the *Welcome Home* campaign over and above their ongoing, regular annual support. While we want to have strong support for this relocation, we must also continue to provide for programs serving RefugeeOne clients.

9. How much time do I have to fulfill my pledge and when do we begin making our contributions?

We invite supporters to respond, as able, with a 3-year commitment to this effort. However, one-time contributions and gifts made over a shorter timeframe are very much appreciated. We hope to secure as much of funding as quickly as possible to minimize the need for long-term financing.

10. Is it possible just to make gifts to the campaign without completing an intent form?

Yes, but documented responses, while never legally binding, give us an indication of what we can expect in planning for the future. Please complete the digital Statement of Intent form indicating how you intend to respond, regardless of the amount of your response.

11. Can I make a non-cash gift?

Yes. Gifts of property, appreciated stock, mutual funds, or other assets that can be readily converted to cash are possible. All gifts may be subject to restrictions and limitations, so it is wise to consult your financial adviser or accountant. Remember, any and all charitable gifts are tax-deductible regardless of their form. Transfer and broker information is located on the digital Statement of Intent form. For all other questions please contact: sspoonheim@refugeeone.org, 773-865-8757.

Important! To avoid capital gains tax, do not sell stock yourself. RefugeeOne's broker will sell the stock, and you will get credit for its average market value on the day it is transferred. The only exception is if you have a capital loss – in the case of a capital loss, sell the asset yourself.