



Welcoming the Stranger: Catholic Charities Helps Refugees and Immigrants

As people of faith, we are called to help people in need, just like the Good Samaritan helped the man he found by the side of the road.

- Jesus was a refugee and an immigrant - his family was forced to rely on the kindness of strangers as they fled their homeland for safety or moved to new lands. Catholic Charities serves immigrants and refugees because our faith compels us to help those in need.
- Migration is a reality – now and throughout recorded history. In a joint pastoral statement, the Catholic bishops of the United States and Mexico observed that “America is a continent born of immigrant peoples who came to inhabit these lands and who from north to south gave birth to new civilizations. ...we share in the concern of religious and social service providers who, without violating civil law, attempt to respond to the migrant knocking at the door.”

Catholic Charities has a history of service to refugees and immigrants.

Our refugee and immigrant programs were started decades ago: The Refugee Resettlement program was launched in 1975 and the St. Frances Cabrini Center for Immigrant Legal Assistance started in 1980. Catholic Charities follows all applicable federal, state and local laws in providing these needed humanitarian services.

Catholic Charities serves refugees and immigrants through a variety of programs.

Catholic Charities’ programs are guided by Catholic Social Teaching. The dignity of the human person is the foundation of our moral vision for society. Our programs include:

Refugee Resettlement Program

- **U.S. government-approved** refugee families and individuals receive support to build new lives of self-sufficiency in Houston.
- This program is offered in partnership with Migrant and Refugee Services of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

St. Frances Cabrini Center for Immigrant Legal Assistance

- Private donations, client fees, and government grants enable Catholic Charities attorneys to assist immigrants seeking legal relief for which they are eligible, such as permanent U.S. residency and U.S. citizenship.

St. Michael's Home for Children

- The U.S government places migrant children who enter the U.S with no guardians in Catholic Charities' care while the children await unification with sponsors.

St. Jerome Emiliani Foster Care Program

- The U.S. government places refugee youth who arrive in the U.S. with no guardians in Catholic Charities' custody. Catholic Charities places the refugee youth in foster homes.
- This program is offered in partnership with Migrant and Refugee Services of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.