



Jewish Family Services
of silicon valley

Our Local Jewish Community Responds To the World Refugee Crisis

Many people in our community have been asking about the world wide refugee crisis. Some wonder what they can do to help. Others are understandably concerned about the security implications. Here's what you need to know:

There are more refugees and displaced persons than at any time since World War II.

This number is 1.5 times the size of the population of California. *This is not a new crisis.* The media's focus provides us the opportunity to shine a light on an ongoing issue. **Only 1% of the world's refugees are resettled.** Many refugees come from Iran, Iraq, Somalia, Sudan and (limitedly) the former Soviet Union.

The United States is the largest contributor to refugee resettlement.

Many refugees in Vienna are going on to someplace else. (Vienna is a way station.) The U.S. government controls refugee resettlement, admitting about 70,000 refugees per year. Seventeen JFS agencies around the country (including JFS of Silicon Valley) partner with HIAS and have **asked President Obama** to provide aid to the severely underfunded humanitarian efforts abroad.

The refugees coming to the U.S. have fled jihad, violence, and intimidation.

Many fear for their lives. They are extremely grateful to Americans. Homeland security conducts rigorous screening of all refugees to ensure that those who make it to the U.S. are safe.

Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley resettles 100-130 refugees per year. *Why do we do it?*

- * We know the feelings of the stranger, having been strangers in the land of Egypt
- * We keep the program in motion in the event that there is a Jewish refugee anywhere in the world who wants to come to the US
- * This is what *Jews do*: we protect the stranger
- * We help create world peace – starting here in Silicon Valley

One very positive outcome of resettling refugees from the Middle East: we build bridges between Jews and the Arab world.

The refugees we resettle love Jewish Family Services – they tell us how they love our staff and the kindness shown them by the Jewish community - and they send their family and friends to JFS to help them.

How you can help locally:

- **Learn more about how JFS resettles refugees** in Silicon Valley, helps them get their first jobs in America, and teaches them to become responsible citizens. Tour our program and meet our staff. Contact Zoya Lazer: zoyal@jfssv.org, (408) 357-7452
- **Volunteer to work with refugees**: tutor newcomers and help them conduct job searches. Contact Lori Cinnamon: loric@jfssv.org, (408) 357-7467. Learn more: <http://www.jfssv.org/refugee-emigre-support.html>
- **Tell JFS about job opportunities, and hire refugees at your business.** Contact Chad Lama: chadl@jfssv.org, (408) 357-7459.
- **Participate in Embrace-A-Family**: This gift giving program gives you many opportunities to help needy people, including many refugees.
- **Donate cars, late model computers, and furniture in great condition.** Contact Zoya Lazer: zoyal@jfssv.org, (408) 357-7452. Learn more: <http://www.jfssv.org/household-goods.html>
- **Donate to support local refugee resettlement**: JFS' refugee resettlement program is funded by HIAS, County of Santa Clara, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, United Way Silicon Valley and Western Digital Foundation. United Way funding is ending June 2016, creating a \$50,000 deficit. <http://www.jfssv.org/donate.html>

Thank you! Together we make the difference.