



**Neighbors United**

Refugee Collaborative of Boise

## Shared Values for Welcoming Refugees

*Welcoming refugees is the right thing to do. It also makes basic common sense and benefits our community. Here's how...*

### Stronger Together

Our community's success depends on making sure everyone who's a part of it - including refugees - feels welcome here. If Boise is to become the most livable city in the country, it must be livable for everyone.

### Vibrant Community

Competing in the 21st century economy requires creating opportunities for people to reach their full potential. Treasure Valley business leaders know that embracing diversity helps our community recruit and retain the highly-skilled, well-educated, multi-ethnic workforce they depend on.

- Entrepreneurs from refugee backgrounds have opened hundreds of businesses in Idaho and created hundreds of new jobs for fellow Idahoans.
- From 2013 to 2023, over 620 employers in Idaho hired 3,430 people arriving through refugee resettlement. (*Idaho Office for Refugees database*)
- Some refugees have extensive experience as doctors, engineers, teachers, accountants, and more. These highly skilled new Americans can help U.S. companies fill the over 3 million jobs open because of lack of qualified workers.
- People resettling through refugee resettlement and asylum have a net positive fiscal impact in the U.S. From 2005 to 2019, they paid almost \$124 billion more in taxes than they received in public benefits ([U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#)).

### Shared Values

Our community was built by immigrants - our parents and grandparents - hardworking people who believed in the American Dream. The Treasure Valley welcomes refugee families seeking protection and a bright future as they share our values of working hard, educating their children, and living in a safe, secure community.



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## Who are Refugees?

Refugees are people who are forced to leave their homeland due to persecution and violence. They are unable to return home, and instead struggle to survive in refugee camps or by moving from place to place. Fewer than 1% of these refugees will ever be resettled into permanent homes ([UNHCR](#)). Some 800-1,000 will build new futures [in Idaho](#) every year.

## Community Value

Boise has been creating a safe haven for families fleeing persecution and brutal repression in war-torn regions around the globe since the late 1970s. Welcoming people displaced by war is the right thing to do and has a long history of bipartisan support. Like the Irish, Mexican, German, Basque, Chinese, and other immigrants who founded Boise, today's refugees and immigrants will help shape Boise into the most vibrant, liveable community in America. Resettlement is part of the Idaho experience and is rooted in our history. Gov. John Evans approved the state's refugee program in 1975. Since then, the program has welcomed people from all over the world, including Vietnam and Laos in the 1970s, Eastern Europe in the 1980s, Bosnia and Herzegovina in the 1990s, and more recently from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ukraine, Afghanistan, Burma, Bhutan, Somalia, Syria, and many others.

## Neighbors United

Neighbors United is a collaborative initiative to help people with refugee backgrounds to successfully integrate and thrive in the Treasure Valley. It addresses needs of displaced people related to transportation, education, housing, employment, healthcare, and social integration. Over 100 community stakeholders work to align partners and streamline resources for the integration of newly resettled people.