

Support for Afghan Evacuees

To help simplify the complexity of everything that is happening, here are the answers to the most basic questions people have:

- (1) What can we do right now?
- (2) Where can we drop off donated goods that will go to the bases?
- (3) When can we volunteer?
- (4) How can we learn more?

What can we do right now?

Donate via Amazon Wish lists. There is a dire need for warm winter clothing for nearly 60,000 Afghan evacuees in the refugee camps established at military facilities all over the country. These wish lists have been developed in partnership with Team Rubicon. All of the camps are in need, but the greatest needs (and largest numbers of evacuees) are at Fort McCoy, Fort Bliss, Camp Atterbury, and Fort Pickett.

****Please follow the instructions on the wish list page to set the shipping address, which should include Team Rubicon and the facility name****

Fort Pickett in Virginia

<https://amzn.to/3njO3HS>

Volk Field & Fort McCoy in Wisconsin

<https://a.co/b5Qm7IM>

Camp Atterbury in Indiana

<https://amzn.to/3lr2M1c>

Fort Bliss in Texas

<https://amzn.to/3Ccfu5>

Joint Base McGuire^{SEP}-Dix-Lakehurst in New Jersey

<https://amzn.to/3A1MrGh>

Quantico in Virginia

<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1KAZ8L9FQSL8A?type=wishlist>

For the refugee children impacted by trauma, anxiety, ADHD and stress

bit.ly/SensoryKits4AfghanKids

An Afghan-American named Dr. Rosalind Rogers, PhD, LMHC from the Department of International Psychology of the Chicago School of Professional Psychology in DC developed a wish list in consultation with the Marine Psychologist at Quantico. It is designed to create children's kits filled with sensory and creative toys to help them manage symptoms of trauma, anxiety, ADHD, and stress. Each kit will also include instructions in Dari & Pashto on how to use each of the toys to relieve/reduce emotional distress.

Where can we drop off donated goods, like winter coats?

If you have **new or mildly used winter clothing or shoes**, please visit the donation drive at Health Point Foundation on Saturdays from 11 am-3 pm at 8802 Sudley Road, Manassas, Virginia or Dar Alnoor Muslim Association of Virginia, 5404 Hoadly Road, Manassas, VA.

Health Point takes goods to Fort Pickett, Dar al Noor takes goods to Quantico. Please keep in mind Ft. Pickett has roughly 6k refugees and counting (their capacity is 10k and they expect to reach it), Quantico has 1500.

When can we volunteer?

Each Sunday through December, a group of volunteers will be heading down to Ft. Pickett to help out with what is being called 'Sunday Funday'. Examples of activities would be ESL classes, women's henna, music, kid's art, and other types of engagement with children and youth (volleyball, soccer, etc). **This is not a tourist visit - every volunteer will be expected to participate and/or lead an activity.** Also - background checks are mandatory.

If your church is interested in pulling a group of people together who have certain skills (e.g. ESL teachers, musicians, artists, etc) then please please gather your volunteers and prepare a "plan" for whichever class or engagement session you'd like to teach. Then, sign up on [this Google Doc](#). There, you will explain the engagement session you'd like to provide and share the names/phone #/e-mail addresses of your volunteers that will attend.

The plan is due by noon one week prior to the engagement session. On the Thursday before the Sunday Funday in which your church or organization is participating, the vetting letter and background checks will need to be complete. The letter should be on formal organizational letterhead, explaining that they are sending the named volunteers to engage on behalf of the organization/church on Fort Pickett and that their background checks have been completed.

Please ensure that your volunteer's background checks are complete--there are services online that are approximately \$15-20. It must only be a basic background check with national criminal background and sex offender history.

Further questions? Contact Sonia Patterson, shpatterson@gmail.com.

How can we learn more?

Is your congregation contemplating accompanying Afghan evacuees? If so, this conference is for you. **Together We Welcome A National Faith Gathering to Strengthen Support for Refugees, Immigrants, and Migrants, Sunday, November 7 – Thursday, November 11 from 6 – 9 PM EST.**

PC(USA) is co-hosting it as a member of the CWS Faith Solidarity Group, which includes Church World Service Member Denominations and CWS staff. You are invited to attend the **Together We Welcome** online which will bring together hundreds of faith leaders, community organizers, and refugee and asylee leaders to hear from experts in the field and learn how they can engage in welcoming newcomers. The conference will be offered in English and Spanish.

Four key tracks will include eight sessions per track, as well as mainstage speakers, networking opportunities, and interactive sessions for participants. A special series on welcoming Afghans has been added to the agenda. Our goal is to energize and mobilize our local faith communities to take action and equip them with the skills and knowledge to welcome.

Register now: [Together We Welcome: A National Gathering to Strengthen Support for Refugees, Immigrants and Migrants!](#)