

# NEIGHBORS FOR REFUGEES

November 27, 2024

Dear Neighbors,

As you can imagine, for anyone deeply involved in welcoming refugees to our country, we were surprised and saddened by the election results on November 5th. The incoming administration has **expressed hostility to foreigners, and we expect the pipeline for entry into the U.S. for refugees will be severely curtailed**, if not almost closed completely.



We want to assure you that [Neighbors for Refugees](#) will continue to welcome new refugees as long as we are able. Our **Plan A is to welcome as many refugees as quickly as we can**, before any possible ban may go into effect.

**Plan B**, if a ban does go into effect after January, is to **increase our support to refugee families who are already here**. We expect they will face additional pressure (both financial and regulatory) – so Neighbors' assistance will be needed more than ever. We are also **concerned that the rise in hate and violence directed at immigrants** in the US will lead to increased discrimination against refugees in the workplace, at school and in the community. We want to be able to help them when that happens by providing financial, legal and volunteer help.



For the families we are able to welcome in 2025, resettlement costs will likely increase because of higher costs of housing and food, and it may take these families longer to become financially independent due to a convergence of trends: more limited English, longer times to get work authorization and social security numbers, and fewer transferable job experience, making job opportunities harder to find.

**Whatever happens in 2025, many of our existing families, particularly those arriving in 2021 and 2022 from Afghanistan and Ukraine, will need to change their residency status to avoid being forced by the new administration's policies to go back to the countries**

**they fled.** Neighbors has committed at least \$20,000 in funding to provide legal assistance to these families so they can afford lawyers and pay any governmental or court costs required to stay here.

We are asking you to [please continue your support](#) during the dark days ahead. If possible, please consider increasing your gift this year so that we have the resources at hand to deal with whatever happens once the new administration is in place.

Thank you.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank D. Pierson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "F" and a distinct "D" and "P".

Frank D. Pierson  
V.P. Development