



BECAUSE OF YOU

We are humbled and inspired by our community's Afghan Allies welcome. We received more than 5,300 expressions of interest from prospective volunteers. In-kind donations began arriving in record numbers in August, and on some days we had nearly 200 Amazon boxes at our door every hour.

This effort requires partnerships and fundraising on a much larger scale than we utilized before. We have been blessed to receive an abundance of generosity from our community-at-large. JustServe established systems for in-kind donation management. Area health providers, like Children's National Hospital, Neighborhood Health, HealthWorks for Northern Virginia, Pediatric Specialists of Northern Virginia, and the Fairfax County Health Department provided health screenings and immunizations for arriving children.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington raised over \$650,000 to cover the funding gap in serving our newly arrived neighbors. Lyft donated \$5,000 in rides for clients, and Uber, through a partnership with Women For Afghan Women, provided \$25,000 in Uber rides and Uber Eats. AirBnB helps fill a critical temporary housing gap through a partnership with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) with \$70,000 in temporary apartment/home rentals. Target donated \$20,000 in hygiene products for kids and adults, while Build-A-Bear gave 300 stuffed bears to welcome Afghan children. Amazon provided storage trailers and a \$25,000 community grant. OneHeart DC mobilized more than 80 congregations to collect donations, Western Fairfax Christian

GREATEST NEEDS

- GIFT CARDS**
Gift cards are given directly to families upon their arrival to supplement food, travel between appointments, and everyday needs. Specifically, we request Visa, Safeway, Target, Walmart, Harris Teeter, Giant, Uber, and Lyft. Please send cards to any LSSNCA office for distribution.
- TECHNOLOGY**
Upon arrival refugees need immediate access to technology and communication to apply for jobs and enroll in, and complete school and classes. Please donate new laptops, tablets, cell phones, and Mint Mobile SIM cards.
- IRA & STOCK DONATIONS**
As you begin thinking about your end-of-year donations, please consider LSSNCA as a stock and IRA donation recipient. These gifts allow tax discounts and advantages. Email Susan at HaineS@lssnca.org to learn more.

Ministries delivers culturally appropriate meals to Afghan Allies in temporary hotel housing, and We, The Pizza and Domino's have kept our hardworking staff fed.

LSSNCA expects to serve an additional 2,400 Afghan Allies in 2022, and our service extends beyond the initial three-month resettlement period. We are grateful for your continued donations, financial support and compassion for our Afghan Allies and we will continue needing your support in our work of welcome in the months to come.



1730 Rhode Island Ave NW
Suite 712
Washington, DC 20036

READ OUR STORIES INSIDE

ADDRESS BLOCK

LILY ATTENDS YOUTH HAVEN CAMP

RETURN TO CAMP

SCHOLARSHIP WINNER WANTS TO HEAL OTHERS

BACK TO SCHOOL

LSSNCA INTRODUCES JOLIE TO AFGHAN WOMEN

ANGELINA JOLIE

SERVING & WELCOMING BOLDLY
We are mobilizing our community of volunteers, donors, organizational partners, and congregations to provide opportunities that strengthen and empower our neighbors. Please join us!
To learn more, visit [LSSNCA.org](https://lssnca.org)
United Way #8146
United Way CFC #200306
Maryland Charity Campaign #53-0207407
Thrivent Choice

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FOSTERING RESILIENCE

FALL 2021

JOLIE VISITS LSSNCA; MEETS WITH AFGHAN WOMEN



Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area was honored to host Angelina Jolie, known internationally for her humanitarian work and for her special attention to refugees and other forcibly displaced persons across the globe. Ms. Jolie was interested in hearing the stories of recently arrived Afghan women. We arranged a safe space in our Fairfax office for seven Afghan

women and Ms. Jolie. Each woman was at significant risk from the Taliban due to their leadership in journalism and other media, performing arts, and human rights. Significant conversations regarding their concerns about the safety of their families in Afghanistan, and the future for women and girls were held.

Six of the seven women escaped from Afghanistan following the Taliban takeover and met in the Qatar airport on their way to the United States. Their shared experiences bonded them, and they have served as a source of support for each other. They even chose to live together once they resettled in the United States.

LSSNCA continues to support these women by providing employment opportunities and resources in the community to help them as they resettle. Our staff of employment specialists provide coaching and interviewing workshops as well as help with technology as they seek employment opportunities.



“I’m always grateful, but I still don’t have enough knowledge, so it’s good I’ll be going to school.”

FROM AFGHANISTAN TO COLLEGE

By Barbara Burfeind, LSSNCA Volunteer

Muhammad Abrahimi and I first met in October 2021 through the LSSNCA Mentorship Program after his family of seven arrived from Afghanistan. Since then, we have had many mentoring phone calls where we learn from each other. This summer, Muhammad was awarded a Bold Journey Scholarship from LSSNCA and is now attending George Mason University.

Barbara: How do you feel about being one of the Bold Journey Scholarship recipients?

“I’m happy. It’s going to help with tuition for this semester and next. Studying in the U.S. is expensive, so it’s hard to afford going to school here,” said Muhammad.

Muhammad says his parents have always been there to help him and give advice. He is the first child in his family to attend a four-year college.

“This is one of their dreams, to have one of their kids attend college here in the U.S.”

Barbara: What do you think about starting your first year at George Mason?

“I am both excited and nervous,” he said. Muhammad also noted this is his first time in this type of academic environment. He was able to choose his classes this semester, whereas in Afghanistan, the students are required to take specific subjects.

Barbara: What has been your biggest challenge?

“I am faced with new challenges every day.” But the biggest challenge has been the slang people use. Another challenge has been managing time. Sometimes Muhammad juggles his own tasks with helping his parents with appointments, driving lessons, or showing them how to use their phones and computer.

Barbara: What have been the keys to your success so far?

“I like to accept more challenges in my life. I don’t stop working. I keep working until I receive what I want. Also, I drive the process. I enjoy the process as well as having a goal.”

Muhammad also helped teach English to other school-age children in Afghanistan. Without English, he says he would not be going to George Mason. He added that the more you know, the more you can share and enjoy life.

Barbara: What are you looking forward to in the future?

“I like that the future is clear.” Once he finishes college, Muhammad wants to become a doctor.

“I want to help more people. The most important thing for people is their health. You help them to stay alive, this is the best way to help another person.”

Due to COVID-19, our Youth Development and Wellness (YDW) department provided virtual education and camps throughout 2020. Youth Haven Camp and Retreats, one of the longest running YDW programs, returned to in-person scheduling this summer. Youth Haven Camp welcomes youth ages 7-14 years old annually. In July, YDW welcomed back families at two locations: The Salvation Army Sherman Avenue Corps in Northwest D.C. for five weeks of in-person and virtual daytime camp events, and for a week-long in-person overnight camp at Mar-Lu-Ridge Camp & Retreat Center in Jefferson, Maryland.

This year’s camps focused on developing leadership skills, teaching healthy habits for the mind and body including stress management, and creating life-long peer connections while enjoying the great outdoors. Twenty-four youth experienced rock climbing, hiking to Shock Rock, arts and crafts, community building exercises, skills workshops and team-building obstacle courses all while following COVID-precautions.

“After being indoors for so long, I wanted her [Lily] to... get some fresh air and have some social interactions with other kids. But, I was worried about sending my daughter to a camp not only [be]cause of COVID-19, and the



YOUTH HAVEN CAMP OFFERS A RETURN TO “TOGETHERNESS”

“Lily came back with stories of all the new things she got to try, friends she made and just how she can’t wait to come back!”

-Kearra [“Lily’s” Mother]

risk it puts me in because of my illness but because it would also be her first time at an overnight camp ...,” said Ms. Kearra, Lily’s mom. Ms. Kearra’s comments reflect the hesitation many parents felt due to COVID, but also their desire for their children to enjoy nature.

Camp counselors also noticed the impact of COVID-19. In the beginning of camp, campers had a tough time interacting with other kids their age, especially since most young people had been out of school for nearly 18 months. However, this led to teachable moments and opportunities to learn problem solving, communication, and conflict resolution skills through games and other camp activities.

Thanks to the support of the United Planning Organization (UPO), the George Preston Marshall Foundation, and Broadway Cares, Youth Development and Wellness (YDW) hosted incredible day and overnight camps for 44 children this past summer. YDW is also especially grateful for Kehila Chadasha’s art supplies donation. A special thank you also goes to our host sites for maintaining the highest level of COVID-19 safety precautions and sanitization during our stay. Thank you also to the Shaw (Watha T. Daniel) Neighborhood Library for ensuring all campers were tested for COVID-19 before camp started.

This summer, Youth Haven Camp and Kids Camp hosted 44 youth.



Since July 1, LSSNCA has welcomed 1,930 Afghan Allies through the mobilization of community partners and supporters like you.