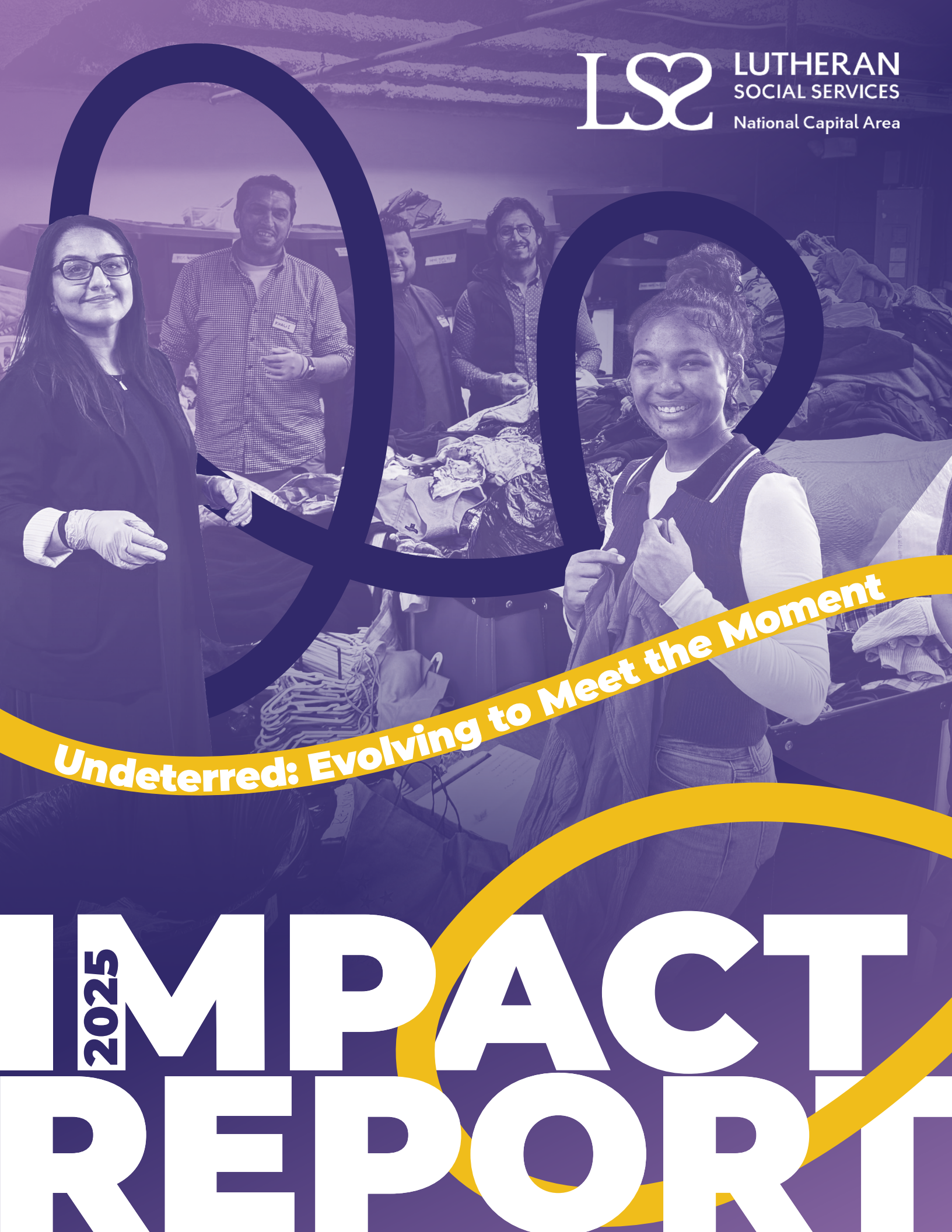


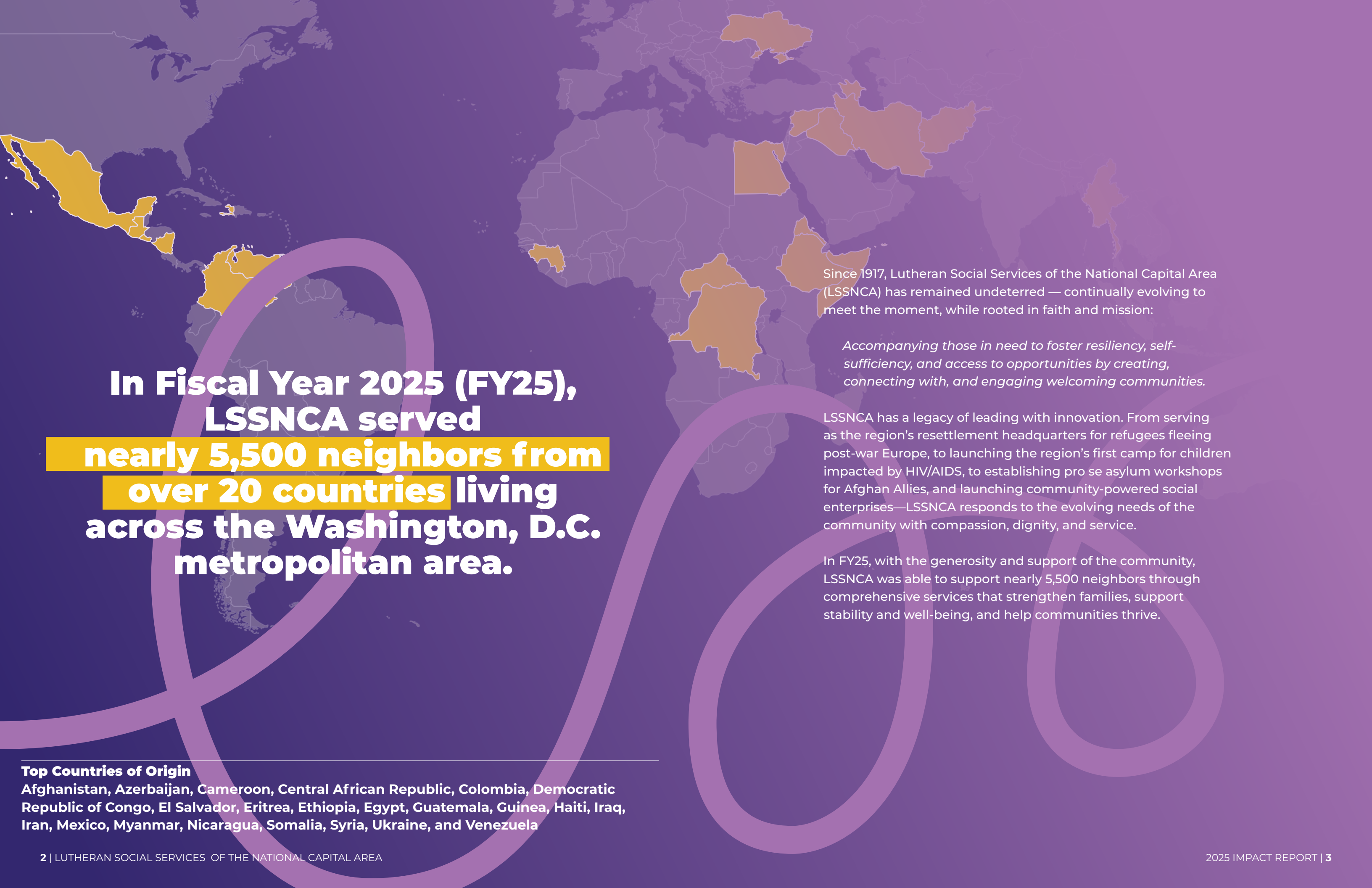


LUTHERAN
SOCIAL SERVICES
National Capital Area



Undeterred: Evolving to Meet the Moment

2025 IMPACT REPORT



**In Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25),
LSSNCA served
nearly 5,500 neighbors from
over 20 countries living
across the Washington, D.C.
metropolitan area.**

Since 1917, Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSSNCA) has remained undeterred — continually evolving to meet the moment, while rooted in faith and mission:

Accompanying those in need to foster resiliency, self-sufficiency, and access to opportunities by creating, connecting with, and engaging welcoming communities.

LSSNCA has a legacy of leading with innovation. From serving as the region's resettlement headquarters for refugees fleeing post-war Europe, to launching the region's first camp for children impacted by HIV/AIDS, to establishing pro se asylum workshops for Afghan Allies, and launching community-powered social enterprises—LSSNCA responds to the evolving needs of the community with compassion, dignity, and service.

In FY25, with the generosity and support of the community, LSSNCA was able to support nearly 5,500 neighbors through comprehensive services that strengthen families, support stability and well-being, and help communities thrive.

Top Countries of Origin

Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Egypt, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Iraq, Iran, Mexico, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Somalia, Syria, Ukraine, and Venezuela

Dear Friends,

Fiscal year 2025 (FY25) presented unprecedented challenges for Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSSNCA) and the communities we serve.

We faced funding and policy disruptions at a massive scale, requiring us to evolve rapidly. Restrictive — and at times openly hostile — policies limited access to protection for forcibly displaced people, weakened the refugee social service infrastructure, and narrowed access to benefits through the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

And yet, we remain undeterred.

In FY25, we served 5,490 individuals — each person’s story reminding us that our mission is urgent and necessary, and focusing us on what matters most:

- **Supporting new neighbors and helping them find stability:** Through Refugee and Immigrant Services, we served 3,651 individuals from more than 15 countries across Maryland and Virginia.
- **Protecting children and strengthening families:** Our Child, Youth, and Family Well-being programs provided safe, supportive homes to 49 children and youth.
- **Expanding access to justice:** We completed 800 immigration forms and delivered Know Your Rights education to more than 1,800 individuals.
- **Mobilizing community:** We partnered with 67 community organizations and 333 volunteers, contributing more than 17,000 hours of service.

- **Meeting basic needs with dignity:** Our Resource Center served 3,924 individuals, hosted 94 events, and distributed essential goods to nearly 1,400 people.

Last year was not only about responding to change. It was also about confronting what no longer works and making strategic pivots about what comes next because the needs are too great, the stakes are too high, and our mission is worth fighting for.

We restructured. We clarified our priorities. We made difficult decisions. We are reshaping what comes next by designing new social enterprise initiatives, expanding how we serve, and investing in solutions that move individuals and families beyond survival toward stability, opportunity, and long-term well-being.

None of this work happens alone. We are deeply grateful to you for helping us build a better future.

Together, we are undeterred and we are evolving to meet the moment.

With gratitude,



Kristyn Peck
Chief Executive Officer



Dear Friends,

I continue to be humbled by what I learn and am given by serving on the Board of Directors of Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSSNCA). That has never been truer than in this challenging year. I came to this role on the Board through a career spent working with survivors of human trafficking, immigrant victims of crime, and refugees. Many of my fellow Board members have similar professional backgrounds or personal interests in refugee advocacy. When called to champion the “why” and provide strategic counsel for a refugee resettlement organization, the role came to us naturally. Bridging connections and helping to tell the story of the breadth and depth of refugee resettlement impact was something we could do readily and well.

However, what followed this past year was a cascade of detrimental funding cuts, executive orders, and policy directives that had disastrous implications for refugees and others seeking safety. Together with Kristyn and her team, we grappled with big questions about what it would mean to do the work of welcome as new refugee resettlement trickled nearly to a halt.

How do we meet this moment?

How do we continue to serve our community with dedication and skill, striving to not only keep the doors open but to honor and strengthen the legacy of an organization that has served the greater capital area for over a century? We do it by continuing to show

up with faith in the mission and in one another, armed with the knowledge that this organization has evolved through big challenges in its hundred year history and will do so again. We learn to say “yes” to investing in new ideas and programs as the team identifies areas of unmet need that LSSNCA can expertly meet, including affordable, high-quality immigration legal services. For instance, we recently celebrated our legal team conducting Know Your Rights presentations for nearly 2,000 individuals and over 300 virtual sessions. We also brought together foster youth and parents from across our region at our second annual Harmony Heights retreat, offering a safe and supportive environment for families to connect, heal, and grow together.

Despite all of the changes and challenges of the past year, LSSNCA served nearly 5,500 individuals throughout the area. They are adults, children, and entire families who have received comprehensive services, trauma informed care, greater access to opportunity, and connection to community because of the programs LSSNCA provides. I’m so proud to be a part of the LSSNCA family and to support its vital programs. I invite you to join me in lending your support and making a donation at this crucial time. Help to ensure that LSSNCA is here to accompany our community for generations to come.

With sincere thanks for your partnership,



Marie Martinez Israelite
Board Chair

Meet Our Leadership

Kristyn Peck
Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Mamadou Sy
Chief Operating Officer

Raymond R. Rawlins
Chief Financial Officer

Nikki Salzman
Chief Advancement Officer

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Katharyn Wheeler
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Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America (ELCA)

Child, Youth, and Family Well-being (CYFW)

LSSNCA supports children and youth who have experienced adverse circumstances through a trauma-informed approach. Services include recruiting and training foster families to provide safe and nurturing environments to children in need, providing youth in foster care with case management and independent living support, strengthening families and the protective capacity of caregivers with the goal of family reunification, or facilitating Break the Seal services for individuals to access sealed adoption records and support family discovery and reunification.

Foster Care

- 37 youth served through Foster Care for Unaccompanied Refugee Minors.
- 12 children and youth served through Traditional Foster Care

Foster Care Homes

- Licensed 11 new homes, providing 45 children and youth a place to belong.

“I became a foster parent to give back and [provide] a healthy space for children in need. Growing up, one of my best friends was in [foster] care and shared horrible stories. I wanted to provide a safe home where kids could find their way in life and thrive.”

- Foster Parent

Refugee and Immigrant Services (RIS)

LSSNCA provides case management, behavioral health, and community health navigation services, as well as workforce development, to refugees, asylum-seekers, Afghan and Iraqi Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders, Ukrainian parolees, Cuban and Haitian Entrants, and other individuals seeking safety. In FY25, as needs shifted rapidly, LSSNCA adapted services to meet the moment. LSSNCA partnered with Baltimore County to launch a Homeless Prevention Program that provides housing services to county residents at risk of homelessness.

3,651 individuals served through RIS programs



“[LSSNCA Staff] were there for everything... how to register for school, how to find a job. They didn’t just give us instructions—they walked with us.”

- Peghla, RIS program participant

2,203 neighbors served in VA

- **324 new neighbors welcomed** through the Reception and Placement program.
- **1,326 individuals provided** with pre-employment training and ensuring participation in over **55 hiring and job fairs**.
- **1,121 program participants supported** with case management support; a common need was access to housing and food assistance..
- **171 refugee students and families connected** in the VA Refugee Student Achievement Project with educational programs, community resources, workshops, and school partnerships.

1,448 neighbors served in MD

- **431 new neighbors welcomed** through the Reception and Placement program.
- **611 program participants assisted** with housing.
- **115 Afghan students supported** with school enrollment and services, and **221 Afghan parents engaged** in school orientations and services to understand and support their children in the U.S. school system.
- **45 youth received** career planning, and **55 program participants completed** driver’s license courses, professional certification and recertification programs in dental, data science, paralegal studies, and financial accounting.
- **275 program participants received** support to obtain employment in hospitality, retail, construction, healthcare and restaurant industries.
- **207 clients connected** with English classes.
- **152 school staff trained** to better assist refugee children through trauma-informed and culturally oriented training.

Immigration Legal Services

LSSNCA offers immigration legal consultations and representation to asylum-seekers, asylees, Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders, refugees, survivors of violence, unaccompanied minors, and many other neighbors.

- **Nearly 2,000 individuals attended** LSSNCA's virtual know-your-rights presentations.
- **800 immigration forms completed and filed**, including asylum, humanitarian parole, green card applications, and work permits for legal clinic participants.
- **Over 25 family members were supported to sponsor** unaccompanied children in the custody of the Office of Refugee Resettlement.

New in 2025, LSSNCA launched Dignity Immigration Legal which provides high-quality, affordable immigration legal services. This expansion allows LSSNCA to meet a growing need for these services among community members which have grown at the same time that federal funding for immigration legal services has diminished.

“I am grateful for the services of LSSNCA and thankful for their support and professionalism. My daughter obtained her permanent residence and the USCIS passport stamp. They provided us with very professional service at all times.”

- Ever, LSSNCA former client





Resource Center

LSSNCA collects and distributes clothing, baby essentials, non-perishable foods, household supplies, and hygiene products to program participants through its “shopping with dignity” program and major distribution events. The Resource Center also serves as a community hub for cultural orientation workshops, financial literacy, and ESL classes.

Nearly **4,000** people served

- 14 major distribution events for essential items, including backpacks and winter coats.
- 90+ events, workshops, and classes hosted

**“I am thankful of
the resource center and
appreciate the teams.”**

- Resource Center program participant



Community Partners & Volunteers

LSSNCA is grateful for the partners and volunteers who serve neighbors alongside us. In an uncertain year, the community helped LSSNCA remain undeterred and evolving to meet the moment with dignity, practical support, and connection.

70 community
partners

300+ individual
volunteers

17,000 hours
served

*This list is a small representation of partners
that support LSSNCA throughout the year.*



**“Volunteering doesn’t just connect
you to those you’re helping;
it connects you to others who
share your values.”**

- Bill Penoyar, volunteer

FY25 Financial Impact

The ongoing support of donors, funders, and congregations provided stability to LSSNCA’s critical work during an uncertain year – helping the organization meet the moment.

\$26,867,483

in total support, revenue, and private funding

- \$1,808,741 unrestricted funds
- \$25,058,742 restricted funds

“Our work wouldn’t be possible without the welcoming, supportive communities surrounding the people we serve. In difficult times, especially **when resources are limited, this community has shown up for us again and again.**”

- Kristyn Peck, CEO

Notable Donors

- | | | | |
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“I invite you to join me in lending your support and **making a donation at this crucial time.** Help ensure LSSNCA is here to accompany our community for generations to come.”

- Marie Martinez Israelite, Board Chair



Scan the QR code to donate today
Your support directly assists neighbors and helps ensure LSSNCA can remain undeterred — evolving to meet the moment and building a community of well-being where people thrive.



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