



What is the Interfaith Refugee Ministry?

- Members of some 16 or so congregations across central Maryland — including St. John’s Episcopal Church, Ellicott City — participate in this ministry in some way – Episcopalians, Roman Catholics, Lutherans, conservative Jews, reconstructionist Jews, Unitarians, Methodists, Quakers, Unitarians, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and people of no particular faith – a collection of Christians and Jews helping (mostly) Muslims.
- More than 70 refugees were helped in 2025, mostly, but not all, from Afghanistan (we also helped an extended family from Nicaragua and a Rohingya Muslim family). We will try to help any refugee, from anywhere, who expresses a need.
- Currently we have a “continuing relationship” with nine families (34 of the 70 refugees helped in 2025); two of those families receive significant financial support, all the others are financially independent, but do receive one-time or temporary financial help as needed (for example, when their food stamps are cut off during government shutdowns or rules changes, or for tuition assistance, or to pay unexpected large bills).
- **A huge part of our help is in volunteer hours** (helping with everything imaginable), donations of items, knowledge, trouble-shooting – all helping these families adjust to being in the United States and to get back up on their feet financially.
- **Direct donations** to the ministry may be made by check to “Christ Church” with “Refugee Ministry” in the memo, and mailed to CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 6800 Oakland Mills Road, Columbia, MD 21045. Be sure to identify the church you are from.
- For more information: <https://www.christchurchcolumbia.org/refugee-ministry>

Questions? Contact Susan Fedors, St. John’s liaison with the Interfaith Refugee Ministry, at ensemble@stjohnsec.org.

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