

## **U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI)**

USCRI has served refugees and immigrants across the country since 1911. USCRI's Des Moines Field Office has been bringing hope and opportunity to Iowa's newest community members since 2010. *Its mission is to protect the rights and address the needs of persons in forced or voluntary migration worldwide and support their transition to a dignified life.* USCRI Des Moines is Iowa's largest refugee resettlement agency. Since 2010, the agency has welcomed over 4,000 refugees from around the world through its cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of State's Office of Refugee Resettlement. USCRI Des Moines also serves refugees and immigrants who have been in the U.S. for longer periods of time, including survivors of human trafficking, reaching nearly 1,000 individuals each year through a comprehensive array of services.

USCRI Des Moines carries out its mission through six core programs: Reception and Placement (R&P), Matching Grant (MG), the Refugee Wellness Program, Legal Services, Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Services (TAPS), and Relationships, Education, Advancement, and Development for Youth for Life (READY4Life). *Primary services include housing, cultural orientation, school enrollment, coordination of medical appointments, employment preparation and placement, and culturally and linguistically appropriate case management.*

USCRI's motto is "Everyone. Everywhere. Equal Value." As an organization USCRI, in line with the principles of Unitarian Universalism, recognizes the inherent dignity of all individuals, regardless of background. Through direct service to individuals fleeing persecution from around the world and education and outreach to the wider community, USCRI Des Moines strives to create more inclusive and welcoming communities. We believe welcoming refugees and immigrants creates more vibrant and resilient communities for us all. USCRI Des Moines is applying for funds to *expand its anti-human trafficking program. The program will serve 20-25 survivors of human trafficking per year. The organization is actively seeking communities of faith and other groups to walk alongside client survivors to provide material support as well as mentorship and friendship as they adjust to their new lives in Des Moines.*

Apartment Set-Up – USCRI works hard to ensure refugees and trafficking survivors have a welcoming place to call home once they arrive in Des Moines. Volunteer teams are needed to help move and set up furniture, household goods, and groceries in these new homes.

Family Friends – Through meaningful relationships, Family Friends promotes self-sufficiency and provides families the tools they need to thrive in their new home and become active participants in the community. Relationships are mutually beneficial, as participants walk side by side, learning and growing together. Activities may include introducing families to local attractions such as the library, parks, etc., providing English language tutoring, and helping with job interview preparation and resume building.