



Who We Are

The Welcome to America Project (WTAP) is a non-profit organization that collects and delivers high quality furniture to newly resettled refugee families. WTAP provides these families with a warm welcome when they need it the most.

WTAP constantly strives to:



Furnish the bare apartments of newly-arrived refugees with high quality home furnishings



Build bridges of neighborly understanding between the local community and refugees

What is a Refugee?

The U.N. defines a refugee as “someone who has fled his or her country because he/she fears persecution based on race, religion, nationality, social group, or political opinion.”

The definition is often expanded to include people fleeing war or other armed conflict. **Refugees do not choose to leave their homes but are forced to flee for their lives.** Many refugees desperately wait for their family members who are still trapped in life-threatening situations overseas.

Typically, refugees arrive in Phoenix after living in camps for an average of six to eight years. They arrive with just the clothes on their backs and are housed in impoverished, inner-city areas. In short, they possess little besides their **freedom and hope**, but we’re here to let them know they’re welcome, safe and free from oppression in the U.S.



At least **22 million** children are currently displaced by armed conflict and human rights issues¹

2010 4th Quarter Arrivals to Maricopa County: Top 5 Countries

Iraq	198
Burma	132
Somalia	50
Cuba	35
Bhutan	33
Total	448

How Does it Work?

When refugees arrive in the U.S., federal agencies provide just \$900 per person to cover a few months' rent and basic supplies. Because of the small amount allotted, the items they can afford are almost always of poor quality and worn, and their apartments are often bare.

That's where we come in.

First, local resettlement agencies refer refugee families to WTAP. Next, we pay a home visit to these families to learn their circumstances and make a list of the items they need. (WTAP continually solicits donations of household items from local businesses and individuals.)

Then, volunteers sort and match the donated items to families we've met on home visits. And finally, the WTAP volunteer corps delivers the items to the refugees' homes and offers a warm welcome when they need it the most.

Phoenix received 3,784 individual refugees in 2010, making it the **fifth largest city** in the U.S. to resettle refugees.

1

Local agencies refer new refugee families to WTAP

2

WTAP organizes home visit to assess family's needs

3

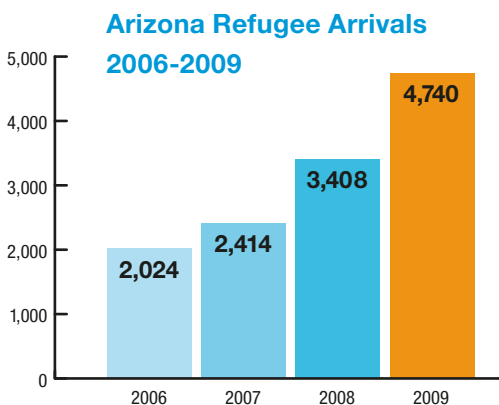
Volunteers sort and prepare donated items for delivery

4

Volunteers deliver items and offer a warm welcome



What's the Impact?



Refugee families tell us again and again they gain **comfort**, **pride** and **confidence** to tackle the larger issues of assimilation into a new and different culture. We believe a dignified home and neighborly welcome give refugees a better chance for success as they build new lives in the U.S. **This warm welcome is an intangible gift that has far-reaching effects.**

Local volunteers also benefit from WTAP since they're given the opportunity to help these families in a hands-on way. This builds empathy and understanding for people from other cultures. It leads our volunteers to reflect on their own lives and ask, **"Who would welcome me if I were the stranger?"**

WTAP Timeline

2001

Carolyn and Phil Manning start The Welcome to America Project and serve the first family—a family of six from Afghanistan

2005

In just four years, WTAP distributes over \$90,000 worth of in-kind donations

2009

Carolyn Manning is named a CNN Hero for her contributions in the Valley

2011

WTAP celebrates **10 years** of serving refugees



The Bigger Picture

Giving back to refugees through cash and in-kind donations is necessary to give these families a chance to thrive but also to continue the government’s financial support of refugee programs. Through its constant mission to raise awareness and help local refugees, **The Welcome to America Project** provides an invaluable service to the resettlement programs in Arizona.

Here’s How it Works

The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) allocates \$2 for every \$1 raised to local Voluntary Agencies, (which are agencies that assist with refugee resettlement and integration). We work with all four local voluntary agencies, and fax them monthly reports on our activity, which is used to apply for match grant funding and increased support.

Over the past 5 years, WTAP has been responsible for **over 35%** of the match grant funding for the International Refugee Committee (IRC) and Catholic Charities (CC), **making WTAP their single largest in-kind donor.**

In 10 Years...

\$1,250,000 of in-kind donations distributed	1,200 families served	300+ returning volunteers	And WTAP is the only program that supports basic home needs
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Tracking Success: Celebrating 10 Years of Service

Year	Donated Goods Delivered	Individuals on Delivery	Donated Clothing
2001	Seeking data	n/a	n/a
2002	\$21,767	n/a	n/a
2003	\$28,006	n/a	n/a
2004	\$11,979	138	n/a
2005	\$33,791	205	n/a
2006	\$96,165	218	n/a
2007	\$179,610	439	n/a
2008	\$220,469	563	\$8,753
2009	\$217,329	703	\$113,426
2010	\$225,110	659	\$147,097

Glossary

Match Grant Funding:

The goal of this program is to assist refugees in attaining economic self-sufficiency within 120 to 180 days. Participating Voluntary Agencies agree to match the Office of Refugee Resettlement’s grant with cash and in-kind contributions of goods and services from the community.²

Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR):

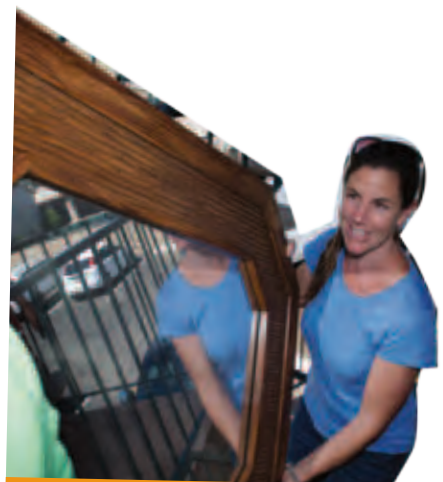
Provides refugees with critical resources to assist them in becoming integrated members of American society, also supplies funding to Voluntary Agencies.²

Voluntary Agencies:

Groups that assist with refugee resettlement and integration. Local groups include the International Refugee Committee, Catholic Charities, Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest and Refugee and Immigrant Relief Center.

Refugee Resettlement Program (RRP):

Supports and advances successful refugee resettlement through the coordination of public and private resources.³



WTAP has donated over **\$1,250,000** in in-kind donations since 2001



Donors, Sponsors and Outreach

The Welcome to America Project is entirely funded by cash donations from private individuals and groups, which means every dollar directly benefits the refugee families through our programs. Thank you for giving back to WTAP and allowing us to provide families in need with a warm welcome.

Benefactors (\$10,000+)

Anonymous (1)

Patron (\$5,000+)

Anonymous (1)

Champion (\$2,500+)

Anonymous (1)

Arcadia High School's
National Honor Society

Arizona Women's Partnership, Inc.

Lisa Harrington –
Honored by CoreNet
Global Headquarters

Casey Herman

Salt River Project

The Straneva Family



Many generations of children have been **born and raised** in refugee camps

“Everyone has a right to feel that they belong somewhere in this world.”

– Carolyn Manning, WTAP Founder

Friends (\$1,000+)

Anonymous (2)

Hon. Edward and Dr. Janet Burke

Jason Carlage

Samuel Chang

CoreNet Global Northern
California Chapter

Patrick and Paula Costello

Brad and Melissa Cribbins

Alexander and Rosemary Cudzewicz

John and Susan Dinovo

The Dolores Miller Charitable
Endowment through Arizona
Community Foundation

Sean and Sandy Garrison

The Giedraitis Family

Ted Humphrey

Bob and Bernice Kenkel

The Lotka Family

Andrew and Susan Magee

Carolyn and Phil Manning

Sentari Minor

Jennifer Noto

The O'Connor Family

David and Gena Stoll

Troy Sumrall

Phil and Jane Wazny

The Yates Family

2010-2011 Board Members

Carolyn Manning, Founder

Sean Garrison, President

Hon. Edward Burke

Jason Carlage

Samuel Chang

Brad Cribbins

Alex Cudzewicz

Susie Guerra

Stuart Limb

Sentari Minor

Jennifer Noto

Rodney Scott

Duane Sheldon

Community Outreach Programs

WTAP gives back in the following ways:

- Deliveries
- Clothes Closets
- Donation Pick-Ups
- Home Visits/Packing
- Adopt-a-Family
- Cultural Dinners
- Educational/Community Presentations
- Youth Volunteers
- Internships
- Community Drives
- Corporate Volunteer Days

¹Women's Refugee Commission ²U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ³Arizona Department of Economic Security



DONATE.

VOLUNTEER.

CELEBRATE.

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