

## Foster Care Information

Funded by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSSNCA) will be able to assist in delegating homes within the community for unaccompanied children. Until the United States Government approves the URM (Unaccompanied Refugee Minor) program, the LSSNCA will help us to create loving and responsible foster homes for unaccompanied youth who have fled Afghanistan and become eligible for the URM program.

### ADOPTION/FOSTERCARE IN ISLAM

Our religion encourages and mandates showing care, compassion and kindness to children in need like orphans. Allah (swt) says in His Glorious book (Quran) "Worship Allah (alone) and associate none with Him. And be kind to parents, relatives, orphans, the poor & needy...." (Surah Nisa, V.36)

Prophet Muhammad (SW) said "The one who takes care of an orphan and myself will be together in paradise like this" He (SW) joined his index and middle finger to illustrate. (Bukhari)

The Prophet (SW) also said "the best house among Muslims is the house in which orphans are well-treated." (Bukhari)

The child has the right to keep his/her original family name and be informed that he/she is adopted or is being fostered by the new family. The child has to be treated with the same dignity and respect as the other children in the family where resources, affection, treatment and education is given freely and encouraged by the parent(s).

We are requesting members of our community to consider adopting/fostering afghan evacuee children who are brought here and have no family. Please help on this important effort to gain rewards from Allah (swt) and fulfill a communal duty.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

#### How do I register to become a Foster Parent?

- Go to the Lutheran Social Services Website: [https://lssnca.org/programs/urm\\_fostercare.html](https://lssnca.org/programs/urm_fostercare.html)
- Contact :
  - Patricia Britt at [BrittP@LSSNCA.org](mailto:BrittP@LSSNCA.org) for inquiries from DC and Maryland
  - Edna Myers at [MyersE@lssnca.org](mailto:MyersE@lssnca.org) for inquires in Northern Virginia
- Fill out the forms linked on the website to receive information
- Start your application
- Find out your eligibility to become a foster parent
- LSSNCA is now training foster parents in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington DC

#### Will I be able to care for an Afghan Child?

- Yes. Afghan refugee children will be referred to the LSSNCA by the United States government to allocate temporary homes for them. This is completely different than the process at the State level. The State does not have jurisdiction over these children, therefore no filing is required in your State.

#### Will I be able to choose the gender/age of the child?

- You will be able to provide preferences, but not a final choice. Homes will be delegated based on background checks, home checks, family visits etc. based on LSS requirement for foster care.

#### Where are the children currently residing?

- These children are currently within in U.S. Government custody. They will not be placed in domestic care of juvenile detention centers and will be under ORR care. LSSNCA and Catholic Charities are collaborating to identify foster parents until they are a federally approved agency.