

Hanan Refugees Relief Group Urges Community Action Following Halt of Refugee Assistance Funding

January 27, 2025

Milwaukee, Wisconsin — The Hanan Refugees Relief Group, a nonprofit resettlement agency dedicated to providing vital aid to refugees, has issued an urgent call for community support following the recent halt in federal funding to newly arrived refugees, known as the Resettlement and Placement Program (R&P). This Executive Order by the Federal government to cease these critical financial contributions leaves a significant gap in the resources needed to provide essential, core services to our newly arrived neighbors.

"We are facing an unprecedented challenge, but our commitment to helping refugees remains unwavering," said Sheila Badwan, Executive Director of Hanan Refugees Relief Group. "With the near elimination of Federal funding, the responsibility now lies with us—our communities—to step in and ensure that those who need help the most are not abandoned."

Refugee resettlement has been a key part of global humanitarian efforts for over 50 years. The Hanan Refugees Relief Group has been providing food, shelter, medical care, education, and other essential services to refugees and displaced people for over 8 years. The Reception and Placement program that was previously available allowed Hanan to provide a broad base of essential services and give refugees the tools they need for self sufficiency. Services such as English language classes, bus orientation, employment assistance and much more are no longer funded by the Federal R&P program. With the recent funding cut and work stoppage, the organization has been forced to adjust its approach and call on local communities for immediate support.

"These are our neighbors, our families. They are hard workers who contribute to and build up our communities," said Sheila Badwan. "We cannot stand by and let this crisis deepen. Every individual, every business, and every organization can contribute in some way. Whether through donations, or volunteer efforts, we all have a role to play. This is a critical moment for us to show what humanity and community is capable of when we come together."

Hanan Refugees Relief Group is urging local community members to get involved by:

- Donating: Financial contributions are essential to fill the gap in funding.
- Volunteering: Time and expertise are invaluable, whether in logistics, education, healthcare, or fundraising
- Advocacy: Contact your elected officials and urge them to stand with refugees as well as restore funding to this essential program.

As the humanitarian situation worsens, the Hanan Refugees Relief Group remains committed to its mission of providing life-saving aid and support to those affected by conflict and displacement. The organization is actively seeking partnerships with local businesses, faith-based organizations, and other community groups to mobilize resources and deliver essential services.

For more information on how you can help, visit www.hananrrg.org or contact staff@hanarrg.org

About Hanan Refugees Relief Group

Hanan Refugees Relief Group is a nonprofit organization focused on providing humanitarian assistance to refugees and displaced communities worldwide. With programs that include emergency relief, medical care, education, and integration support, Hanan is committed to improving the lives of those affected by conflict and displacement.

Media Contact:

Andrea Vodicka Community Engagement Manager Hanan Refugees Relief Group Phone: 414-800-4168 x 104

www.hananrrg.org Email: avodicka@hananrrg.org