

# PRESS RELEASE



Catholic Charities

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

A joint statement from Catholic Charities of Oregon, Lutheran Community Services Northwest, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and IRCO.

Portland, Oregon / January 25, 2017

As numerous questions arise regarding the executive orders due to be signed by president Trump, and the potential impact of such measures on refugee resettlement programs across the country, our agencies pledge to stand united in support of all the refugee families living in Oregon, the hundreds of families who have recently arrived, as well as those families currently scheduled to arrive.

Oregon has a long history of welcoming refugee families dating as far back as 1948, when congress passed the Displaced Persons Act. Our support for refugee families and the variety of assistance and resettlement programs have endured and evolved over decades.

The fact remains that these programs have always been bigger than any federal involvement. Our work is made possible through private funding, our network of volunteers, partnerships with other agencies, local faith communities, and the increasing support in donations from people of good will in communities across our state. It is evident that this support has become more important now than ever. The efforts to resettle and support refugee families have always depended on the local community, not the federal government. We don't expect this to change.

As we learn and review the plans from the new administration regarding refugee policy, we remain optimistic that the work our agencies are doing across many communities in Oregon will continue to be strong, and that any necessary adjustments made as a result of new federal policies, will not thwart our ability to serve and support the refugee population in Oregon for more decades to come.

We expect that the state of Oregon will continue to play an important role in refugee resettlement in the United States. Our pledge is a commitment to build a stronger network of support for these families, many of them having fled their countries in fear of their lives. They are men, women and children who have been touched by the loving welcome of the American people who embrace refugee families to help them flourish. Together, standing firm in unity, we recognize our strength and invigorate our purpose to be a light of hope to those in need, regardless of their background, their faith, or place of origin in the world.

To support refugee efforts, please contact your Members of Congress to advocate for the refugee resettlement program and contact the agencies listed here to volunteer and donate.

[Catholic Charities of Oregon](#)  
[Lutheran Community Services Northwest](#)  
[Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon](#)  
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