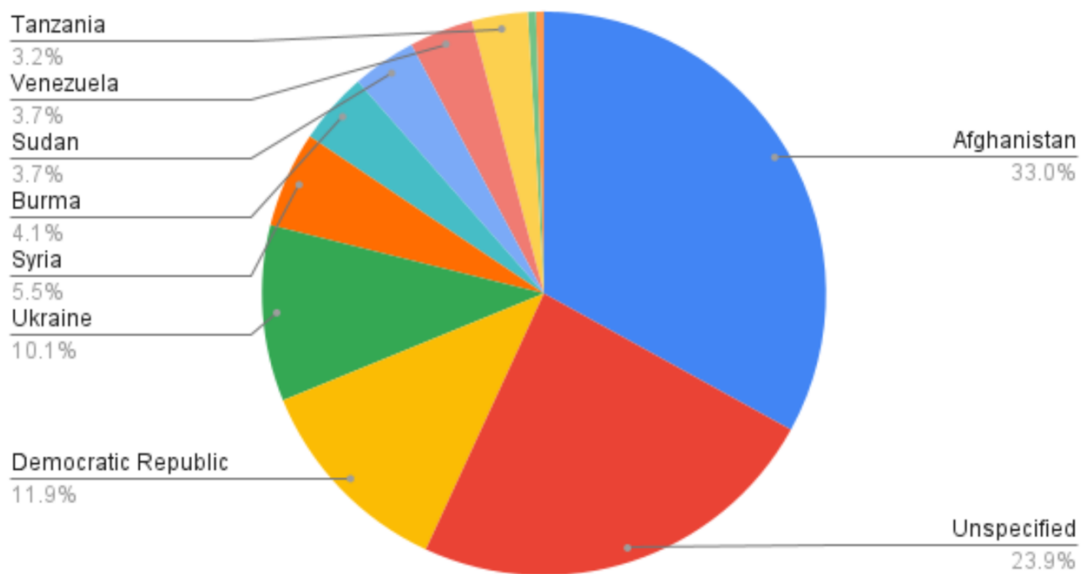


In 2023, Disciples helped resettle 218 refugees.

56 families cared for by 46 congregations across 17 regions



In 2023, more than 70 Disciples churches across the country responded to the needs of refugees, evacuees, asylum seekers, and immigrants in their communities. Thousands of people from all over the world saw the support, care, and compassion of Disciples who welcomed the stranger through radical acts of hospitality and love.

The **Equity Grant in Refugee Resettlement** seeks to encourage congregations involved in Convocation, La Obra, and NAPAD to live out their call to serve refugees and immigrants in their communities.

- *Co-Heirs in Christ* (Kentucky) - A congregation made up of African immigrants, Co-Heirs in Christ, led by Rev. Foster Frimpong, requested a grant to help support transportation, grocery, and job connection needs for the increasing number of immigrants in the Lexington area that have continually come to the church looking for support.
- *La Hermosa* (Northeast) - With busloads of migrants coming from Texas and Florida to New York City, La Hermosa Christian Church knew there was a great need for food, public transit cards, clothing, and a warm place to rest for a while. After requesting grant funds, the congregation was inspired by the amount offered by Week of Compassion and contributed to the church's outreach budget to double the impact.

Many churches engage a traditional **resettlement** model.

- *Mount Pleasant Christian Church* (North Carolina) - Mt Pleasant has served in traditional resettlement through local CWS offices in Greensboro, North Carolina since the early 2000s. The congregation, which worships about 70 on a Sunday, has resettled over 20 families to North Carolina, including two this past year!
- *St. Andrews Christian Church* (Ohio) - A congregation outside of Columbus, Ohio that was new to resettlement, quickly found a ministry that energized the congregation, re-activating them after Covid, and seeing a wonderful Afghan family become friends of the community.

Often, churches create **unique programs** to answer the needs in their community.

- *FCC Bentonville* (Great River) - Through a free clothing closet, First Christian Church has partnered with a local resettlement agency in Arkansas to be able to provide clothing for over 200 refugees in Arkansas this year!
- *FCC Anchorage* (Northern Lights) - When over 800 Ukrainians were relocated to Anchorage, First Christian Church joined in with community support, and offered their church building to New Chances, a non-profit geared toward sustainable resettlement for Ukrainians new to Alaska. With the support of a Week of Compassion grant, First Christian Church offered a Christmas meal for more than 100 newly arrived Ukrainians, and Christmas gifts for 50 children.

In many communities, **ecumenical partnerships** make response possible.

- *FCC Norman* (Oklahoma) - In collaboration with eight local congregations in the Norman area, First Christian Church is an active member of the Norman Coalition of Refugee Support, an organization that has helped to resettle scores of refugees to the Norman area.
- *Lafayette CC* (Northern California) - Lafayette Christian Church in the Oakland area teamed up with a local UMC congregation to found the Extended Family Program (EFP), which helps with housing refugees and other unhoused people. This past year, EFP housed 61 refugees!

Disciples churches know that transformation and hope requires a **group effort**.

- *University Christian Church of San Diego & Casa de Oración* - (Pacific Southwest) When Casa de Oración moved to a new facility, they acquired three houses as part of the property. A matching grant between Week of Compassion and University Christian Church provided funding for three asylum seeker families to stay in these houses for several months as they transitioned to their new life. Week of Compassion also connected Casa de Oración with a local resettlement office to help sustainably offer ongoing housing for refugees in Southern California.
- *Atlanta* (Georgia) - In response to the Afghan evacuation, Chestnut Ridge Christian Church, Marietta; Brookhaven Christian Church, Brookhaven; and First Christian Church, Decatur all worked together to resettle two Afghan families. It might have been too much for just one church, but together, they could do it!