REFUGEE LANGUAGE PROJECT

December 2021

inside

Afghans & The PLACE

Vision & Mission

Giving & Encore

Have you ever been on a road trip where you have a clear destination, but you are willing and able to take other roads along the way? That's how the end of 2021 has been for RLP. Our Executive Director, Dr. Ryan Pennington, spent a significant amount of time refining our organization's mission and vision to ensure we had a strong idea of where we were headed. Not a week after those were finalized, we found ourselves taking an unexpected turn as we began connecting people into relationships with the first of 200+ Afghan refugees expected to arrive in Amarillo by January. As we began to learn about young people like David* (pictured above) landing in our city with no connections and limited language skills, it became clear that a quick shift was in order.

**psuedonym*

click, read, act.

Some of you might remember that when the **Afghan crisis** began, we held a Zoom meeting. We were able to interview directors of the two local refugee resettlement agencies, along with a local Afghan family. We wanted to humbly ask, "How can we help?" As a result of that meeting, both RST and CCTxP (directors pictured left) have hired interpreters, local churches are collecting donations to provide furnishings for new arrivals, and RLP began connecting the first newcomers with mentors in our Face to Face program. We celebrated these things, but also knew that the sudden influx pointed to an immediate need - a place within walking distance for them to come and take classes, access the internet, practice English and get help navigating their new home.

THE PLACE

We are currently in lease negotiations for a second space near apartments where Afghans are being settled (left). Because there are few resources and limited assistance available due to the quickly-moving crisis, **we are raising funds and making plans for a small community center that will have classrooms, offices, a computer lab, international television programming and casual meeting spaces.** Our dream is a bit of a plug-and-play approach - ESL programs across the city slotting themselves in to teach classes throughout the week, volunteers running life-skills workshops, and groups showing up to be available for English practice and cross-cultural connections. It's a group effort, and we are partnering with two other local non-profits - Square Mile Community Development and We Find In Love. Ready to plug in? Make sure you...

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTERS & FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

VISION & MISSION

Refugee Language Project exists so that individuals from refugee communities in the Amarillo area are increasingly flourishing as they confidently interact with the world around them, enabling them to honor God with their lives.

ENGAGING WITH CHURCHES

Supporting contextual churches

Increasing local church partnership

REMOVING LANGUAGE BARRIERS

Life skills & culture program "Table Talk"

Heritage language info booklets

BUILDING LEADERS

Mentorship program

Young adult Leadership Council

FACILITATING SYSTEMIC SOLUTIONS

Quality housing

Relationships with refugee employers

HONORING CULTURES

The PLACE community center

Storybook project

What can *you* give?

VOLUNTEER

Sign up to connect one-on-one with a refugee. We provide training and ongoing support. Email **jennifer@refugeelanguage.org.** We will share ways to connect with The PLACE in future e-newsletters.

DONATE

We are funded by donations from individuals and churches. All gifts are tax-deductible. Make a year-end gift or become a regular supporter. Give at **refugeelanguage.org/give.**

PRAY

While we don't require volunteers to have any religious affiliation, we are people who pray to Jesus for the refugees in our city. Join our prayer team by sending an email to **emily@refugeelanguage.org.**

Thank you for your support!

ENCORE

We couldn't possibly tell you about all of the things we've been up to lately in this short newsletter. If you want to read more, go to our website and browse through the blog. We post our e-newsletters there every month. You can read about our continuing women's literacy class, mentor gatherings, the Storybook Project, and the amazing men and women we're pouring into as they grow and lead their communities. You can also catch our interview with three former Afghan refugees if you missed it.

2001 S. POLK
AMARILLO, TX 79109
806.553.5160

REFUGEELANGUAGE.ORG
contact@refugeelanguage.org
@RefugeeLanguageProject
@refugeelanguageproject