

refugeeONE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1. Is RefugeeOne still welcoming people? – YES!**
 - a. We welcomed more than 300 refugees and asylees last year.
- 2. Who is RefugeeOne currently serving?**
 - a. In 2019, most of the refugees welcomed were either Congolese or Burmese Rohingya.
 - b. In 2020, we expect that trend to change and to include further prioritization of persecuted religious minorities and individuals of “special interest.”
 - c. In addition to refugees coming through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, we’re also serving other immigrants – including asylees.
 - d. We also continue to serve the 2,400+ refugees we welcomed in the last 5 years.
- 3. Does RefugeeOne still need support with arrivals so low? – YES!**
 - a. We’ve diversified who we serve, including immigrants other than refugees and referral clients from other agencies.
 - b. We’ve extended the length of services so people can access our support for 5+ years.
 - c. We’ve expanded our offerings to help those already here build on their foundation for a flourishing life.
 - d. We’re engaging in meaningful advocacy so we can restore the resettlement program to historic norms.
 - e. Although we have had to lay off some staff, we’ve worked to preserve the agency’s infrastructure, including institutional knowledge and years of experience.
- 4. What services does RefugeeOne provide beyond the first few months after arrival?**
 - a) Workforce development services, including English language training, job readiness, and job placement.
 - b) Mental health services for refugees of all ages.
 - c) Youth support, from tutors who visit weekly and school liaison services to the after-school and summer programs.
- 5. How is RefugeeOne helping immigrants at the border?**
 - a. Although we’re not at the border, we’re helping some of those affected by the situation there who come to Chicago, including:
 - i. Asylees, or individuals who presented themselves at the border or within the country and have had their asylum claim granted
 - ii. Unaccompanied minors through our partnership with Heartland Alliance
- 6. Does RefugeeOne need co-sponsors again? – YES!**
 - a. We’re introducing a new model in 2020 so groups can sign on to prepare a home for, raise funds for, and/or mentor a family. We’d love to have every refugee we resettle be matched with a co-sponsor.
- 7. Did RefugeeOne move? Where to?**
 - a. We’ll likely stay in our current space until September 2020, when we hope to relocate to a new location in Rogers Park.
 - b. Although we’re sad to leave our longtime home, this provides us with an opportunity to be closer to the people we serve. Much needed services will now be in their own backyard.
 - c. We’ll reach out in 2020 with a special opportunity to learn more and help fund this effort. In the meanwhile, we hope folks will continue giving at your current levels. We’re not asking anyone to increase their giving at this time.