FOR THE NATIONS
refugee outreach

THE LEGACY PROJECT

LAYING A FOUNDATION FOR LEARNING

WWW.FTNRO.ORG/LEGACY

GOSPEL. EDUCATION. ACCULTURATION.

serving refugees in the Dallas area

For the Nations: Refugee Outreach was founded in 2011 by Cameron and Kaitlyn Mullens after we spent five years helping meet the needs of refugees in Dallas. From Kaitlyn's first home visit to a refugee kindergarten student living just a few miles from our home, the Lord opened our eyes to the tremendous unmet needs which exist among the refugee community in Dallas. God has richly blessed our ministry, allowing us to serve and share the good news of Jesus Christ with about 500 refugees a week, and has attracted more than a dozen staff to work alongside us. We are now seeking more space in which to minister to many more refugees in need through the construction of a ministry facility.

The Legacy Project is a capital campaign of *For the Nations: Refugee Outreach (FTNRO)* to purchase vacant land and construct a refugee school that will allow us to have a physical presence in the refugee community.

This campaign brochure will outline the steps a refugee takes from oppression in their own country to freedom and sustainability in the US through *FTNRO*. You will find an overview of our organization and numerous details pertinent to your knowledge of our fundraising campaign.

We hope that your heart stirs for the growing need of refugee acculturation and how it is affecting American society. We hope you will see that *For the Nations* is conducting a holistic approach to helping the refugee population acculturate to life here in the United States, while sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Should you have any questions or concerns, our contact information is detailed in this brochure on page 14. Please feel free to contact us, as we would love to speak with you about any element of our work.

Sincerely in Christ,
Cameron & Kaitlyn Mullens

Who is a refugee?

From Persecution to Peace: The Path of a Refugee

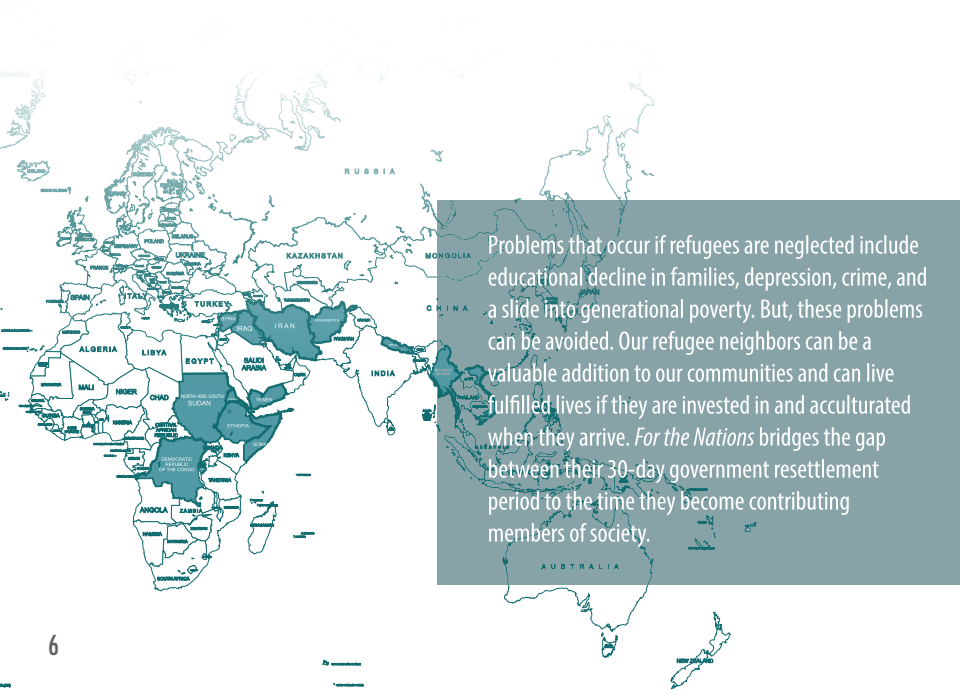
Refugees are people who have fled their country of origin and who cannot return to their home due to fear of persecution based on their race, religion, ethnic group, or membership in a particular social or political group. These are individuals who have experienced a traumatic event that has radically altered the trajectories of their lives.

There were nearly 17 million refugees from all over the world registered with the UN refugee agency in 2013. As a global humanitarian force, the *United Nations High Council for Refugees (UNHCR)* steps in, relocating those affected to safer countries.

The United States takes in more refugees for permanent resettlement than all other countries in the world combined. All refugees relocated to America are legal residents invited by the government to live and work here permanently. On average, Texas receives about 4,500 refugees per year. In 2015, however, that number increased to nearly 10,000. Dallas and Houston resettle more refugees than any other cities in the US. There are now an estimated 200,000+ refugees in the greater Dallas area from countries such as Burma, Iraq, North and South Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Afghanistan, Somalia, Syria, and Congo.

After arriving in the US, the government provides refugees with an average of 30 days of support. Most do not speak English, cannot read or write in any language, and have no formal education. Not being familiar with American customs or culture, they are now forced to live in America with no outside assistance.

This is where *For the Nations: Refugee Outreach* steps in.



Problems that occur if refugees are neglected include educational decline in families, depression, crime, and a slide into generational poverty. But, these problems can be avoided. Our refugee neighbors can be a valuable addition to our communities and can live fulfilled lives if they are invested in and acculturated when they arrive. *For the Nations* bridges the gap between their 30-day government resettlement period to the time they become contributing members of society.

Who are we?

For the Nations: Refugee Outreach started helping refugees in 2006 in the greater Dallas area and officially incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in 2011. We are a Christian ministry focused on helping refugees through education and acculturation services. Education provides job opportunities and quality of life that allows refugees to sustain their families in the USA as they are recovering from very difficult circumstances. During the education process, we explicitly and clearly share the truth of Jesus Christ.

Mission

To provide educational and acculturation services that help meet the practical needs of refugees and to share with them the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Vision

Over the last several years, we have developed high quality, effective educational programs and have shared the good news of Christ with many DFW area refugees. Our vision is to bring these proven programs to more and more of the area's large refugee population.

Goals

To teach English and literacy to children and adults
To teach life skills to children and adults
To help acculturate refugees
To connect refugees with the community
To share the gospel with refugees
To teach the Bible and the Christian faith to refugees

Our Work

We achieve our mission through our three pillars.

Gospel

We believe that educating and helping acculturate refugees is extremely valuable. However, the most important element of our ministry is sharing the hope we have in Christ. If we fail to do this, then ultimately we have missed the most important message. *For the Nations* incorporates the gospel message into everything we do. Gospel presentations and Bible lessons are a part of almost every program, event, meeting, and class, and we share this news openly and lovingly to refugees. . . not once, but everyday. We believe that kind, consistent repetition of the gospel in both word and deed is what God has called us to for His glory. And we trust in His promise that He will call all of His people faithfully to Himself: from every tribe, tongue, and nation. His message is not just for a few, but for the nations.

Education

From ABC to GED, refugees have many language, literacy, and educational needs. Some refugees are looking to become just proficient enough in English to perform entry-level jobs or speak English with their children, while others would like to practice the profession they learned in their home country. *FTNRO* holds English, literacy, citizenship, and life skills classes for adults, and tutoring, reading & math programs, newcomer classes, swim lessons, and preschool with art and computer enrichment for children. Our English and literacy classes have 6 levels of speaking and reading, with a 7th level for GED preparation to help refugees pass the GED test. Classes are taught by trained, experienced teachers and are meeting a widespread need among refugee adults and children. Classes are available 5 days/week to adults and children throughout the year. Education is key in helping refugees become self-sufficient, and it gives them opportunities which last a lifetime.

Acculturation

Since refugees are coming to the US with little or no English and education, they have many needs. We help them with these needs through our programs and through general acculturation. Our biggest goal with acculturation is to help refugees learn how to become successful in America. This can sometimes look like teaching them a life skill such as learning to drive or helping them find the grocery store. Other times, we hold more formal life skills seminars. We work with families in many different ways, including helping fill out job applications, helping register children for school, finding medical and dental care, helping find an apartment, helping read important documents and mail, and standing up for refugees when they become vulnerable. We take for granted many of the things that are easy for us to do, simply because we grew up here in the United States. Refugees do not always have these advantages, so we help give them the skills they need to succeed!

Services

Adult Programs

English Classes & Literacy
Citizenship Classes
Acculturation & Life Skills Seminars
Job Referrals
New Family Welcome Teams

Children's Programs

Kids Clubs (After-school Program)
Preschool
Reading Program (Summer)
Swim Lessons
Newcomer Classes

Monthly Events

Monthly outreaches and events are located on-site at the apartment complexes where many refugee families live. These outreaches provide fun events for children and a chance for us to develop relationships with the whole family.

Our Scope

For the Nations serves about **1,550 refugees annually** from more than **20 countries** (including Congo, Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Burma, Burundi, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Syria) all resettled **legally** and **permanently** in the Dallas area.

The families and individuals we serve come from Asia, Africa, and the Middle East and speak more than 50 different languages. Their religious backgrounds include Muslims, Buddhists, and animists, as well as some with no belief. A portion of these families also profess the Christian faith.

Many refugees coming to America have little to no educational background, while some of our students were extremely well educated professionals in their home country. We serve infants, children, youth, adults, and even elderly refugees. Our class sizes have grown by approximately 50% each year since our conception, and we continue to meet new families and enroll new students each week.

Our Success

Adult Education

48% advance to the next level of English and literacy
30% begin sustainable employment
20% begin college attendance
2% repeat English class
100% of adults attending classes hear the gospel message an average of 122 times in a year

Refugees average 2 years at *For the Nations* before they have the skills necessary to sustain their families. This can be longer or shorter depending on their needs when they arrive. In most cases, many members of the family participate in *FTNRO* services.

Youth Education

100% of our preschool students who attend for a 9-month period pass the end of year assessment, which is based on the PreK TEKS
85% of children in summer and after school programs that come to us reading far below grade level catch up after just two years
100% of children attending *FTNRO* services hear the gospel an average of 45 times in a year
85% of children participating in swim lessons learn to swim

Citizenship Education

85 adults have passed the US Citizenship test. (All but 2 refugees who have taken our citizenship class have passed the US citizenship test, a 97% pass rate).

The Project

The Legacy Project is *FTNRO's* capital campaign to construct a facility which will serve as a school and will give *For the Nations* a physical presence in the refugee community.

The Need

While we have experienced an exponential growth rate, *FTNRO* has also exceeded its physical capacity as an organization. Refugee families who are in desperate need of education, community, practical help, and the hope of the gospel are being turned away daily simply due to our lack of space. Wishing to continue performing amongst the top tier of refugee organizations in the Dallas area, we decided to expand our organizational and physical capacity by either buying or building a space of our own.

After an extensive market analysis of refugee-accessible real estate in the area presented no suitable existing structures, we were left with building a new construction on vacant land as the best option for reaching more of the people we serve. The property we chose was a vacant lot in Garland, TX, originally listed on the market for $425,000. According to the real estate comparables, we negotiated a price of $333,600 for the 2.78-acre parcel of land. *FTNRO* has purchased this piece of vacant land and completed all necessary surveys to ensure the area is suitable for construction.

We are now engaged in the process of constructing a 14,500 SF structure on 2.78 acres of purchased land in Dallas County. This building will serve as a safe haven for refugee families, a school that provides free English instruction, and a community center to forge lasting relationships.

The Solution

A new construction built on 2.78 acres allows us to achieve the following objectives:

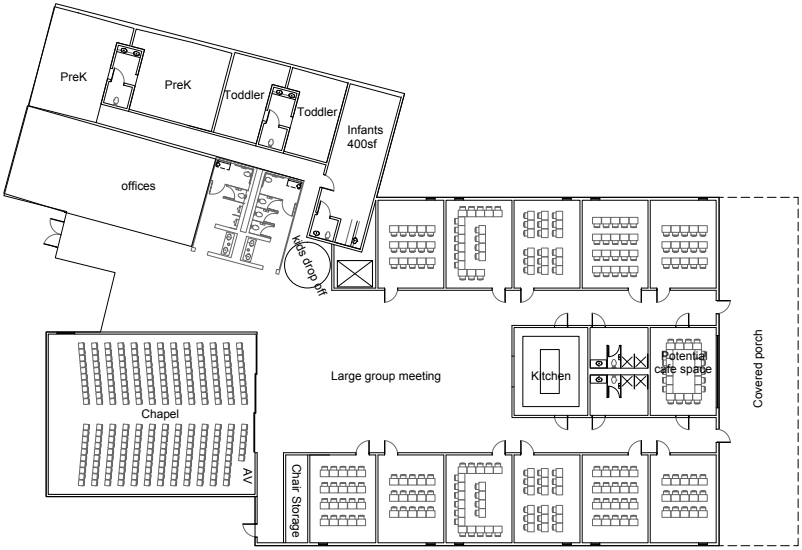
- 120% increase in student capacity
- 30% increase in quantity of classroom spaces and English instruction staff
- 100% increase in number of children served per year, increased summer programming capacity and playground construction
- Increased rate of legal permanent residents gaining American citizenship through our programs
- Safe haven for endangered women and children
- Physical presence in the community
- Office space for teaching staff
- Sanctuary to function as the location for a future multicultural church plant
- Long-term physical solution to meeting the holistic needs of refugees in the DFW area

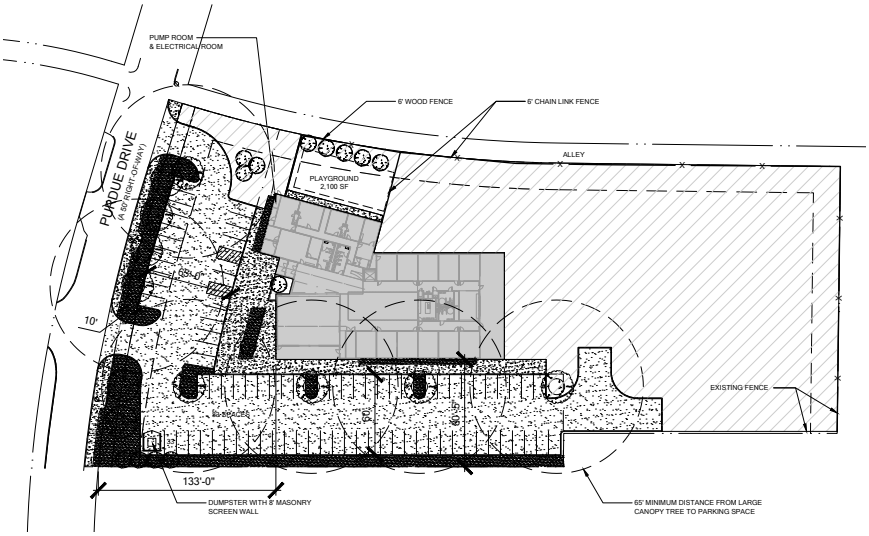
Your Role

We request that you consider a financial partnership with us in this phase of our capital campaign. Your gift at this critical point provides important momentum for us moving forward. It is only through the generosity of men and women who sacrifice financially for the sake of the gospel that refugees are able to receive quality English, Bible, and acculturating education. On the following pages, we have outlined the pertinent financial information regarding *The Legacy Project*.

Exterior Renders

Floor & Site Plans





Donation Information

We would love to meet with you face to face to tell you more about *The Legacy Project* and how your donation can help hundreds of international refugees in need. *FTNRO* accepts gifts via check, credit card, cash, stock, or other tangible assets. All gifts are tax deductible and receipts are prompt.

Online Gifts

If you would like to give online, you may do so at **www.ftnro.org/legacy**

In-Kind Gifts

Depending on the working relationship with our building contractor, opportunities may arise that involve in-kind gifts. Some examples are donations of professional materials and labor, furnishings, fixtures, and equipment.

Matching Gifts

If you work for a company that matches gifts, you can double your gift by following your employer's matching contribution procedures. Please contact your human resources office for eligibility information and to obtain a matching gift form.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the following members of *For the Nations:*

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Conclusion

In the past few years, *For the Nations* has experienced exponential growth. In a relatively short period of time, we have become one of the top refugee service organizations with best practice programming in the Dallas area. *The Legacy Project* will allow us to expand our organizational and physical capacity and construct a place of learning and safety for our refugees. We are excited about our future developments and invite you to prayerfully consider partnering with us to achieve our goal of serving refugees in the Dallas area.

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