

Dear Teen Refugees,

We see you. We see what you're going through, the unimaginable hardships you're facing.

Every day seems to bring more news of strife in the world. Afghanistan, Ukraine, South Sudan, it seems like more and more people are being forced to flee their homeland than ever before. We see you and your struggle in every newscast and in every article online.

And when your difficult road winds its way through so many different countries and so many different government processes and so many hard and exhausting days and you finally arrive here in the U.S, we see you. We see you at the DMV trying to get a drivers license. We see you in line trying to get your new cell phone provider to help you get your old SIM card to work so you can reach the family you left behind. We see you applying for jobs, trying to make sense of the grocery store, translating for your parents as they search for an apartment because they struggle with the language barrier more than you, and looking for some way, any way to get a job to help support your family here in your new home.

We also see you not always being accepted or understood or valued for the people you are and the gifts each of you bring to our community. That's not right and we are sorry for that.

We don't always know the right thing to do, or find the right words to say, but please know that we never look away. We never pretend your struggle is not real and in need of support. We never fall back on the false belief that you are somehow different from us, that we are not all human beings, that we, your hosts, are not in some measure responsible for how welcome you feel here.

We don't know you. We don't know what your life has been or what it is now. But we'd like to know you. We care deeply. And we will do what we can to help, when we can, however we can.

But at the most basic level, the very level of existence and survival, we see you. We never look away. We *really* see you and care about you.



Hugo Chiasson, Co-founder
Teens at the Door