



## Autumn 2024 Update

We begin this update by paying tribute to Andrew Stratford, former trustee of Louth Churches for Refugees, who sadly died in June 2024. Andrew was very active in the work of our charity over a number of years – both as a trustee and in particular within the English Language teaching area of our work. We greatly valued Andrew's practical contribution in our activities – and his wise insights as a trustee. The refugee families we support have commented particularly on Andrew's kindness, his patience and his generosity in all the help he provided. We all miss Andrew and we pray for God's continued blessing on him and on his family – may he rest in peace.

This Autumn another of our trustees, Andrew West, is moving away from the area, leaving vacancies for the appointment of two trustees. Meanwhile the need for migrant and refugee support continues to grow, with the most recent release of United Nations data indicating that, at the end of 2023, an estimated 117 million people worldwide were forcibly displaced due to persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations and other events - with the total now likely to have exceeded 120 million.

It is just over two years since Louth Churches for Refugees welcomed a second resettled family to Louth – this means that our formal “Community Sponsorship” responsibilities have now concluded, though we are continuing to provide support for the family as they build their independence. The two year milestone means that it is time to think about our future. This is also the time we need your help – and your prayers.

As we consider the future should we plan to welcome a third resettled family to this area? Is there a house which will be suitable for another family? Where can we find sufficient volunteers to help a further family, including our need to recruit additional charity trustees? How can we raise the necessary funds? Can you – or someone you know – help us?

The trustees of Louth Churches for Refugees ask you to pray for us - and to consider what support you might be able to provide, or friends and neighbours you can tell about our work and encourage them to become involved. We invite you to remember us in your prayers so that we will go into the future with God's guidance. You may wish to use this prayer:

**Lord Jesus,**  
**Grant us the courage to answer your call through our witness, our lives,**  
**and our willingness to speak out for what is right.**  
**Knowing you are always with us, let us not be afraid to play our part**  
**in bringing about your kingdom in the world.**  
**Amen**

Thank you for your interest in and support for Louth Churches for Refugees. Our website has further information and we post regular updates on Facebook. Please follow us and let your friends, family and neighbours know about our work. You can get in touch by using the contact form on our website.

**[www.louthchurchesforrefugees.org](http://www.louthchurchesforrefugees.org)**  
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