



**For Immediate Release**

## **United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona Grants Emergency Funding for Afghan Evacuees and Refugees *Three local partner agencies receive \$45,000 to cover needs***

**Tucson, AZ (February 1, 2022)** — In preparing to welcome nearly 600 Afghan evacuees to Tucson this month, United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona has provided emergency funding grants totaling \$45,000 to Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona, the International Rescue Committee, and Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest, to collectively meet initial housing and related needs for evacuees and other refugees arriving in Tucson.

The three partner agencies will use the funds for evacuee household expenses, including rent, mortgage, utility payments, food assistance, health and hygiene supplies, and other necessities. Upon arrival in Tucson, refugees and evacuees will be placed in temporary housing – hotels, extended stay hotels, or daily/weekly Airbnb rentals – while United Way’s partner agencies evaluate their needs and start to secure longer-term housing. Lisa Floran, senior director of Financial Wellness at United Way of Tucson stated, “Finding housing that can accommodate larger families, some with 12 members, is an especially high priority for our partner agencies right now.”

Tony Penn, president and chief executive officer of United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona, added, “We’re pleased to support our valued nonprofit partners in meeting the emergency needs of these vulnerable families, and by uniting together, we’re encouraged that we can help to keep evacuees and refugees safe, stable, and secure as they transition to life in Tucson.”

### ***About United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona***

*United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona is building a thriving community by uniting people, ideas, and resources. We respond to our community’s needs, transform individual lives, and bring long-lasting, systemic change to the community by focusing on the key, underlying issues. We fight for education, financial wellness, equality, and healthy communities for every person in Tucson and Southern Arizona from birth to end of life. Our role as community convener enables us to form strategic partnerships, mobilize the best resources, and be the catalyst for needed, positive change. Learn more at [www.unitedwaytucson.org](http://www.unitedwaytucson.org)*

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