



God Is Good Foundation's
First Annual

Seasons of

Hope

Dear Friends,

We are thrilled to welcome you to God Is Good Foundation's First Annual Seasons of Hope program. Every year, God Is Good (GIG) welcomes new American individuals and families seeking safety, including Afghans and Ukrainians.

Our new neighbors have persevered through incredible challenges to get here—and while many are no longer in immediate danger, they are still navigating life in their new communities and the challenges of their parole or asylum status. Many have not been or will not be able to reunite with their families. The challenges of their journey are not over yet.

By participating in Seasons of Hope, you are extending a touch of hope and humanity to our neighbors who find themselves in these circumstances. During a time of uncertainty and often painful waiting, your generosity and kindness bring hope and love, if even for a moment.

Within our Season of Hope program we will be including activities such as sending Holiday Cards, or participating in our Refugee Angel Tree. We are also launching our Emmaus Congregational Resource Center. This will be a dedicated and growing area on our website that will be filled with resources that the Body of Christ can use to educate and engage their congregations in welcoming the stranger, our refugees.

Your generosity, and your message of hope, remind our friends that they are not forgotten. As we enter a season of family gatherings and celebration, let us share the gift of connection with those who might not be feeling it in the moment. Let us remember those whose lives have been impacted by persecution and war, to the point that they had no choice but to seek safety elsewhere. Join us, as we spread hope for the holidays.



Blessings,

Barb Bias
Executive Director/CEO

HOW TO USE THIS TOOLKIT

In this toolkit, you will find a variety of resources to help guide your Seasons of Hope experience. You can use these resources to host a special evening or afternoon for your immediate household, a close group of friends, church, or a community group.

Act: Write and decorate holiday cards for our friends seeking safety in the United States.

Donate: Help share holiday joy and hope by making donations to provide gifts and services to our friends seeking asylum.

Pray: Join us in lifting our voices for those seeking protection in the United States.

Teach: Learn about Saba's and his family's journey to the United States and the obstacles facing thousands of other families seeking safety.





**USE THE FOLLOWING STEPS TO WRITE HOLIDAY CARDS
OR TO GET INVOLVED IN THE REFUGEE ANGEL TREE**

Step 1:

**Write messages of hope and encouragement in English and/or Spanish on holiday cards
Draw a picture or share your favorite poem, quote, to personalize the card. Sign the card (first name and city/state).**

**DO NOT put cards in individual envelopes.
Please place all cards in one large manila envelope or box.**

Step 2:

Mail the cards to the address provided. Our staff and volunteers will make sure that your cards are received by our asylum-seeking neighbors and friends. To choose someone from our Refugee Angel Tree, please reach out to our office at 812.490.3184.

Step 3:

**Help cover the costs of getting your messages of hope to our friends with a suggested donation of \$1 per card.
Donate at Godisgoodfoundation.org/Donate**

Step 4:

Invite your family and friends to write their own cards or to give the gift of Christmas to our newest neighbors!

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SAMPLE GREETINGS

Spanish words ending in “@”:

@ - Gender Neutral * a - Female * o - Male

Dear friend,	Querid@ amig@:
Welcome to Evansville. My name is [name]	Bienvenidos a Evansville. Mi nombre es [nombre]
Merry Christmas	Feliz Navidad.
Please know that you are not alone nor forgotten.	Quiero que sepa que no está sol@, ni olvidad@.
I am praying for you and your family. I am also fighting for justice for you and your family, and for all our brothers and sisters who leave their countries in search of a better life.	Quiero que sepa que no está sol@, ni olvidad@.
I am praying for you and your family. I am also fighting for justice for you and your family, and for all our brothers and sisters who leave their countries in search of a better life.	Rezo por usted y su familia. También lucho por justicia para usted y su familia y para todos nuestros hermanos y hermanas que dejan su país en busca de una vida mejor.
Please know that thousands of people are working to keep you and your family safe. You are not forgotten.	Miles de personas están trabajando para cuidar a su familia y a usted. No los hemos olvidado.
Never forget that we are praying and fighting for you and your family.	Recuerde siempre que estamos orando y luchando por su familia y usted.
God's blessings and peace at Christmas and for the New Year.	Bendiciones de Dios y paz en Navidad y para el Año Nuevo.
May God bless you!	¡Que Dios l@ bendiga!

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

Matthew 25:34-36

Mail cards by December 5. Refugee Angel Tree gifts must be received by December 15



Together
we can make
a difference

Besides our missions and ministry work, for the last few years, God Is Good has worked diligently to help Evansville become a place of safety and new beginnings for refugees from all around the world.

Interestingly 98% of the refugees who have come to Evansville since the beginning of 2023 are Christ followers. Others are part of unreached people groups who have never heard the Gospel of Jesus. Still others, are members of other faiths and yet, one thing binds each of them.... their need for love.

Our refugees come from places like Burma, Colombia, Venezuela, El Salvador, Congo, Nicaragua.

Your contribution helps us share messages of hope and joy during this holiday season and ensure that every child will have a gift to open on Christmas day.

Donations are accepted through our website at Godisgood.org/givehope.

You can also send a check to
God Is Good Foundation
900 S. Barker Ave
Evansville, IN 47712
Memo: Hope for the Holidays

DONATE

REGARDLESS OF YOUR FAITH BACKGROUND,

we invite you to lift your voice with us as we seek to unite our actions, hearts, and minds through these special prayers shared below.



We ask you to share these thoughts as we work towards the protection and safety of our friends who are seeking asylum in the United States and work to share hope this holiday season.

Christian prayer:

God of Hope, as we gather together with friends and family to share in the expectation and celebration of Jesus' humble birth:

May we be humble, remembering those who are spending this year separated from friends and family....

May we be humble, remembering expectant mothers who will birth their children in the midst of detention....

May we be humble, remembering children running from violence and hunger toward dreams of peace and opportunity....

Spirit of Hope, as we prepare our hearts and houses for Christmas, remembering Mary and Joseph's bold "YES" to protect, shelter, and support your embodiment of love in Jesus:

May we be bold to advocate for and provide protection, shelter, and loving support of asylum-seekers....

May we be bold to hold your values of justice and equity as greater than our prejudices and confusion....

May we be bold to embody your hope and will for the future yet to come....

Guide us, Father God through the love and mercy of Jesus our Savior and the wisdom of Holy Spirit, to create communities as interconnected and hope-filled as yours. We ask this in the name of our Lord, Jesus.

Amen

Pray

As we unite our hearts in love and solidarity with our immigrant neighbors, we would also like to share two resources that may be useful to your congregation, family, or card-writing group:

the God Is Good Foundation's

EMMAUS Congregational Resources Center – which includes Bible studies, tool kits and spiritual reflections on immigration topics – and GIG's collection of Christian-professing prayers for immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees.

We hope these resources can be encouraging and guiding as we work to share hope alongside one another this year.



Saba's STORY

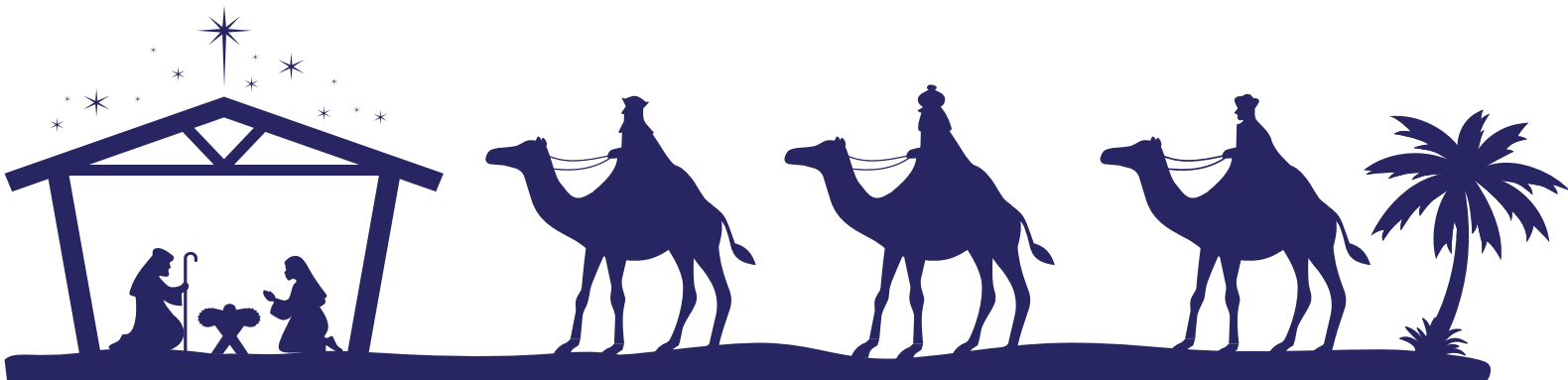
In my homeland, I was a farmer. I owned land with a small home. My land was fertile and I had a great harvest of food to provide for my family and to feed my friends and community.

Then, the war began.

Rockets were fired upon our village and one destroyed everything we owned and worked so hard to build.

I was so afraid for my wife and my children. So we fled. We spent many months in a refugee camp. We prayed and prayed that God would deliver us.

Then, one day we got news we would be coming to America. God Is Good has helped us in so many ways. They have taught us to read and write. They have given us our home. They take care of us. Soon, we will be working and hope to give back to our community.





In the United States, which has historically helped to build and foster the international laws that protect refugees and asylum seekers, federal approvals mean that an individual can remain in the United States instead of being removed (deported) to a country where he or she fears persecution or harm.

In some cases this admittance may be a short time, such as Ukrainians fleeing the war, or in the case of federal refugee status it is permanent admittance with a clear pathway to citizenship. In order to be granted asylum, one must be seeking safety due to the threat of persecution based on:

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1. Race
2. Religion
3. Nationality
4. Political opinion (or an opinion someone else from where you're coming from thinks you might have)
5. Or Membership of a particular social group.

90 Days to Self-Sufficiency

Federal refugees are vetted by the Dept of Homeland Security, FBI, and CIA. They receive five health screenings, three before they ever reach American soil, one within their first 30 days, and one after being here for one year.

Refugees are given just \$1,150 to begin their new life. From that money, GIG must lease their apartment, furnish it, ensure the refugees have adequate clothing, food supplies, and that their basic needs are supplied and their utilities are paid.

There has never been a refugee family placed in Evansville that has reached the end of their 90 day reception and placement period who has not needed GIG to step in financially to assist them.

The Federal Government expects all refugees to achieve self-sufficiency by the end of this period. In order to help our new neighbors achieve these goals, refugees are required to attend classes at God Is Good.

15 Cultural Orientation classes
English as a Second Language
Career Pathways
Health and Wellness Workshops
Literacy Skills
Youth Services

As we wrap up our teach section for this year we will review the statistics.

Since January 2023 GIG has served:

47 full status refugees

16 Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees

97% have been Christ followers and are attending local churches

100% of all refugees have been employed within 100 days of arrival

4 have had no education and GIG has helped them learn to read and write



But we can't do this work alone...

God Is Good needs YOU.

THANK YOU

God Is Good Foundation is proud to serve Christ and our refugees, and immigrants. We cherish the people we meet along the way. Thank you for joining GIG as we work to remind our newest neighbors that they are not alone this holiday season.

Join our team of world changers and community transformers!

The GIG Ambassador Network is a community of passionate advocates, volunteers, and leaders from all walks of life, united by their passion and commitment to stand in solidarity with GIG, welcome the stranger, and serve and love newcomers as if we were serving Christ.

The Emmaus Network

Faith communities play a critical role in welcoming new neighbors alongside God Is Good – just as they have since our founding more than 14 years ago.

Today, people of faith continue to speak out, take action, and embody ministries of welcome in Evansville through the GIG's EMMAUS Network for Congregations. Together, we will answer the Biblical call to welcome the stranger by standing and advocating alongside our newest neighbors and transforming communities through ministries of service and justice.

Your congregation will receive:

First access to new resources and toolkits exploring the intersection of faith, justice, and migration

Invitations to exclusive in-person and online GIG events

Quarterly newsletters with updates, prayers, and stories from

And more!

Peace and many blessings to you and your families this holiday season.



