

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Media Contact:**

Chris Kelley

214-457-5266

[chris@kelleynotes.com](mailto:chris@kelleynotes.com)



## **Refugee Services of Texas Will Expand to San Antonio and Hire New Staff to Begin Resettling Afghan Refugees**

*RST will open the new office in partnership with Church World Service and join with community service providers to welcome refugees, Afghan SIVs and Evacuees*

DALLAS, Texas (November 4, 2021) – [Refugee Services of Texas](#), already the state’s largest refugee resettlement agency, will expand to a seventh location, San Antonio, and begin helping resettle Afghan refugees in the city as early as December.

Refugee Services of Texas has begun the hiring process for three new San Antonio staff members who will, with volunteers, welcome at least 50 Afghan SIVs and evacuees and another 50 refugees from elsewhere looking to rebuild their lives in the United States in Federal fiscal year 2022.

The resettlement agency currently has six locations – Amarillo, Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, and the Rio Grande Valley – and has chosen to expand to San Antonio to help rebuild the U.S. refugee resettlement program nationwide. The immediate task of the new San Antonio office is to accommodate evacuees from Afghanistan approved for resettlement in the U.S. All refugees, including those from Afghanistan, undergo extreme security vetting procedures and health background checks before they are resettled in the U.S.

“We are delighted to expand to San Antonio, one of the most welcoming cities in Texas, to help some of the world’s most vulnerable people find a new home,” said Russell Smith, LMSW, CEO of Refugee Services of Texas. “We look forward to building new friendships and partnerships with the incredible individuals and organizations working in San Antonio as RST looks to resettle refugees during one of the worst displacement crises of vulnerable people in recent memory.”

RST will partner with local San Antonio community organizations, volunteers, community sponsors, and faith-based congregations and organizations to help refugees find new homes, access critical services, and become productive San Antonio residents, and the opportunity to become U.S. Citizens. San Antonio is currently served by two refugee resettlement agencies—

Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of San Antonio and Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Services (RAICES).

RST resettlement offices and affiliates offer newly arrived refugees comprehensive support aimed at building a foundation for long-term self-sufficiency and success in the United States. Services include basic needs support, case management, cultural orientation, health access assistance, job preparation and placement services, and more.

Refugee Services of Texas San Antonio will secure an office location and begin immediately to hire three new staff members to implement resettlement services and will look to grow its presence as funding becomes available. RST area offices sizes range in size from eight to 48 staff members. The three immediate jobs to be filled are: [San Antonio Area Director](#), [Community Engagement Coordinator](#), and [Resettlement Case Manager](#).

RST will also begin training volunteers to welcome new arrivals integrate into their new city. Information for organizations and volunteers who are interested in partnering with Refugee Services of Texas in San Antonio can find more information at [rstx.org](http://rstx.org). Immediate ways for the [public to assist resettlement efforts are also listed online](#).

###

### **About Refugee Services of Texas**

[Refugee Services of Texas](#) is a social service agency dedicated to resettling and providing services to refugees and other displaced persons who are fleeing persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, and/or political opinion. Since its founding in 1978, RST has successfully resettled more than 15,000 refugees. The original and longest-running branch, RST Dallas provides services to refugees, asylees, and survivors of human trafficking from over thirty different countries of origin.