



# Disciples of the Way Ministries

*A Ministry of People of All Nations  
reaching out to People from All Nations*

## Love Your Neighbor

My name is Vesna Dautovic, the new director of the Refugee Service Care Center (RSCC) with Disciples of the Way Ministries. I joined the DOW Staff Team in November of 2021. Previously, I worked at a refugee resettlement agency for 17 years. As a refugee from Bosnia myself, I have a huge amount of empathy for anyone who has to make the same journey. I think back to my own history as a refugee and how that experience makes me feel a connection with those who have been forced to give up their homes to seek safety and a better life elsewhere.

***"Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law."***

***- Romans 13:8***



I continue to learn about DOW's RSC and its ECMC Program (Extended Case Management Care). DOW's ECMC extends the support for refugees in successfully transitioning to life in the USA for a longer period of time.

Refugees who receive ECMC are significantly less likely to depend on public assistance in the long-term. When our refugee neighbors are better equipped with proper support services crisis situations are less common.

Refugees have very often naive perceptions of life in Dallas. They also have very unrealistic expectations when it comes to benefits they are given by the governmental resettlement agencies. My long experience shows that those individuals will one way or the other; face disappointment in their new life, as a result of the wrong perception.

***"Love does no wrong to a neighbor, therefore love is the fulfilling of the law."  
- Romans 13:10***

As part of my agenda, I will be hosting a series of workshops. Initially, the workshops will be for the DOW Staff and Volunteers who meet with our refugee neighbors daily. The workshops will update them on services and benefits available and also give insight to working with neighbors from all nations. The second series of workshops will be for the refugees on assimilation into daily life in America, specifically Texas. {i.e. services available, job placement, ESL classes, handling of finances, and other topics to help them navigate the system in this country.}

The number of refugees arriving in the Dallas area will be increasing in comparison with the last couple of years AND over and over again I will stress to them the importance of learning English.

Every day brings something amazing in my line of work, and every day I feel that I am contributing to something meaningful. I love contact with our neighbors and building relationships of trust with vulnerable people. I also enjoy telling people about the rights they have as refugees, supporting, and empowering them to access these rights. It's amazing to see people rebuilding their lives – finding a home and getting the benefits they need to heal from their trauma.

***Refugees give up their homes to seek safety from dangerous conditions and a better life in the future.***

To conclude, I have to say working with DOW is very rewarding. Refugees resettled into the community bring rich ethnic diversity, enrich our culture, bring new skills and knowledge, and positive impact to our community.

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**Help DOW continue to bring the Gospel of Comfort and Peace of Christ to our Muslim Neighbors in Dallas, Texas!**

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6500 Greenville Ave, #190  
Dallas, TX 75206



(214) 369-1232



[disciplesoftheway.org](http://disciplesoftheway.org)



[office@disciplesoftheway.org](mailto:office@disciplesoftheway.org)



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