

# Disciples of the Way Ministries

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

## **Care for Your Neighbor**



"But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth." - 1 John 3:17 ESV

Vesna Dautovic [centered above] is DOW's Refugee Service Care Center (RSCC) Director. Vesna has led DOW's Staff in the RSCC in serving 198 neighbors between Mid-November of 2021 through May of 2022. Our refugee neighbors came to the United States from Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Jordan, and Ukraine.

DOW 's "Extended Case Management Care" (ECMC) work begins when the governmental agencies end their 90-day assistance programs to assimilate refugees into American life. [Right now, there is a tremendous caseworker backlog for refugees still within their 90-day assistance period.]

DOW added the term "care" to its program, because our mission is to teach God's Word and show God's care and love for the people of all nations as He gave His only Son, Jesus Christ, to die and be raised up to save us by Faith alone.

DOW staff meet with our neighbors and contact resettlement agencies on the

neighbor's behalf and do research for the best way to assist complicated cases.

DOW handles sensitive documents, processes and fills out client applications for jobs, food stamps, housing, medical appointments, reading and understand bills or other mail, citizenship and green card applications, school enrollment for the children, drivers license applications and driving texts, and many other services.



All the while engaging in fellowship with them and sharing God's love for all.

"Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth." - 1 John 3:18 ESV

#### **Strengthening Partnerships with Resettlement Services and Agencies**

DOW's RSCC Director, Vesna, has met with the staff of the Mosaic Family Services, International Rescue Committee, and Catholic Charities of Dallas to continue to build DOW's partnership and strengthen our relationships with the resettlement agencies. The fostering of good relationships and partnerships with other resettlement agencies is very important for DOW because of the vulnerable population we serve.

With the expansion of diversity of the population, there is a need to recognize the cultural and language barriers and to understand ways to assist these refugees adequately. We are meeting people from all over the world who have fled war, violence, and sometimes death. We watch them go through the steps to gain their lives back, and secure the future of their families.

On a daily basis, working with our refugee neighbors can be emotionally overwhelming, while at the same time it brings joy, peace, and satisfaction to know that individually and as a ministry, we can share God's love and bring hope, joy, and peace to those who are weak.

" In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive." - Acts 20:35 ESV



### Care, Love, and Concern are central to DOW's Ministry

All neighbors served are very appreciative of the services provided by DOW and the care, love, and concern they are shown.

Vesna has used her extensive experience to organized monthly workshops to educate DOW staff about the governmental services available to refugees and strategies to effectively reach and serve them.

Vesna said "I have continued to learn a tremendous amount about working and serving with our neighbors while working at DOW and I am thankful for the office's help during my acclimation".

Vesna shares that "working with DOW is an overall amazing experience because she is given the opportunity to work in a field she loves." A former coworker of Vesna's [centered below] recently started volunteering with Disciples of the Way in the RSCC and teaching ESL and Citizenship Classes.



## **ESL Graduation Time!**



Congratulations to DOW's graduating students! We are so thankful for the volunteer teachers who have served and taught at DOW for many years.

Your support & prayers help DOW continue to bring the Gospel of Peace & Comfort of the Crucified and Risen Christ to our Muslim Neighbors in Dallas, Texas!

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