

# Resolution

R-2122-99

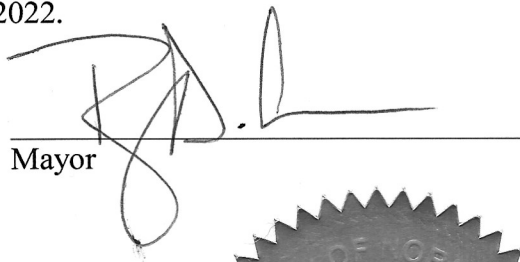
A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, AWARDED THE 2021 CITY OF NORMAN HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NORMAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.

- § 1. WHEREAS, the City of Norman entrusts the Norman Human Rights Commission with the duties of studying problems of discrimination, advising City Council on human rights issues, and coordinating citizen involvement in the promotion of human rights; and
- § 2. WHEREAS, the Norman Human Rights Commission seeks to promote and encourage fair treatment and mutual understanding among all citizens and to combat all prejudice, bigotry, and discrimination that prevent individuals from reaching their full potential as human beings; and
- § 3. WHEREAS, after receiving nominations from the Norman community, the Norman Human Rights Commission selects an individual or group to receive the Norman Human Rights Award based on exceptional achievement, outstanding effort, and/or leadership to promote human rights and equality and to serve as an example to all.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA:

- § 4. THAT the City of Norman, Oklahoma, in conjunction with the Norman Human Rights Commission, does hereby award the 2021 City of Norman Human Rights Award to The Norman Coalition for Refugee Support.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 8th day of March, 2022.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk



## **Norman Coalition for Refugee Support**

(For the Norman Human Rights Commission)

The Norman Coalition for Refugee Support (Coalition) formed in 2017 seeks to restore dignity to the refugees and asylum seekers (asylees) it resettles. The Coalition is an all-volunteer, non-profit, interfaith group of houses of worship, friends, and partners collaborating in its mission to resettle refugees/asylees in Norman. Beginning with 4 churches, the organization is now a Coalition of 10 houses of worship in Norman and other volunteers, consisting of 70+ volunteers. St. Stephen's United Methodist Church was initially the lead church and the Coalition continues to serve as a non-profit organization under the 501(c)3 status of St. Stephen's. Catholic Charities is the Coalition's primary partner in the Afghan resettlement. The Coalition resettled families from four other countries in previous years and recently resettled 7 Afghan families in Norman. Open to receiving Afghan families and refugees/asylees from the southern border, the Coalition expects to resettle 4-8 families annually. The Coalition provides "wrap-around" coordination of federal, state and local services and activities by volunteers and, when needed, by professional services referral. The Coalition achieves its objectives through 8 volunteer teams, each with separate but often overlapping objectives ranging from housing and family liaisons to employment and transportation. Most importantly, the Coalition puts the refugee/asylee families on a path to restore their dignity. They lost their dignity through intense vulnerability when, under threat, they all left homes in their country of origin to land in a new country with a strange language and culture. Dignity begins to restore as the Coalition welcomes the families and demonstrates respect for their culture, builds trust between the families and the Coalition, places the family in a safe and clean home, provides food and financial support and a path to self-reliance, enrolls children in Norman public schools and adults in ESL classes, and refers them to immigration services to gain eventual SIV, green card and U.S. citizenship status.