



## **The Family of J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver Commits \$1 Million to Assist Recent Afghan Refugees** *Grants will help an expected 400 incoming refugees in their quest to become self-sufficient here*

JACKSONVILLE, Florida – December 10, 2021 – Three generations of J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver’s family have stepped forward to make a combined \$1 million commitment to help re-settle Afghan refugees who arrive—and continue to arrive—in Jacksonville. Catholic Charities and Lutheran Social Services are the two local agencies charged with stabilizing these refugees, many of whom were instrumental in helping U.S. troops in Afghanistan, and all of whom have been vetted and approved by the U.S. Government. The influx follows the fall of Kabul, Afghanistan’s capital, in August.

The Weavers, their children and grandchildren, are making a combined family gift of \$500,000 to Catholic Charities and \$500,000 to Lutheran Social Services. Each agency is helping what is anticipated to be a total of 400 non-duplicated individuals in our community. The goal is to help smooth their transition by assisting with housing, transportation, wrap around services, basic furniture, and emergency needs in the first 90 days, as well as case management for what can be a bewildering array of challenges beyond this initial period. There is a modest government allowance for each refugee, but it is widely recognized that private and philanthropic dollars will be needed to bridge the financial gap to get these families on their feet. Many of them left Afghanistan with only what they could wear or carry.

“In many cases, these brave men, women and children have risked their lives to help our U.S. soldiers during the last twenty years and we are humbled by what they have sacrificed,” said Delores Barr Weaver on behalf of the family. “We are confident that if Catholic Charities and Lutheran Social Services can help them with safe housing, basic necessities, and legal, language and employment assistance, these courageous individuals will soon be contributing members of our community.”

Lori Weber, regional director of Catholic Charities, said her organization is honored to receive such a generous gift to support these refugees.

“It’s difficult to know the trauma and the long-term effects these families will experience from having to leave their home under such distress. Our mission stood ready to welcome and help them flourish here in Jacksonville, and now thanks to this compassionate gift, we will be able to build and expand programs that holistically heal these families,” she noted. “The Weaver Family’s gift is a monetary embodiment of our promise to the Afghan families to help them become fully self-sufficient. We are blessed to have the Weaver Family standing with us.”

Lutheran Social Services President & CEO Bill Brim echoed his organization’s gratitude.

“We consider it a blessing to be there for our Afghan allies who are now making Jacksonville their home. We couldn't do it alone, though. This grant will provide LSS much-needed resources including staff, housing and vehicles, to make their transition to self-sufficiency as easy possible. This gift is truly transformational for our new Afghan neighbors!



Nina Waters, president of The Community Foundation, observed that this remarkable gift exemplifies the role that The Community Foundation can play when there is an urgent need to be addressed.

“We take seriously our role to inform our donors about pressing issues as they arise, and to connect them to nonprofit organizations that are on the front lines with solutions,” she said. “We are privileged to be able serve as that connector, and thereby benefit the entire community.”

**About The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida**

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida ([www.jaxcf.org](http://www.jaxcf.org)), Florida’s oldest and largest community foundation, works to stimulate philanthropy to build a better community. The Foundation helps donors invest their philanthropic gifts wisely, helps nonprofits serve the region effectively, and helps people come together to make the community a better place. Created in 1964, the Foundation has assets of \$550 million and has made approximately \$600 million in grants since inception.

###

**Contact:** Susan Datz Edelman  
VP, Strategic Communications  
904-356-4483 | [sedelman@jaxcf.org](mailto:sedelman@jaxcf.org)