

To the Congregations of the Vermont Conference United Church of Christ

From the UCC of Middlebury

August, 2025

Every year our Board of Missions and Social Concerns makes donations on behalf of our congregants to local nonprofits that make a difference doing healing and justice work in our community. This year we made the decision to seek out an organization that is focused on helping Immigrants and Refugees coming to Vermont.

**To that end, we are donating \$800 to the Vermont Afghan Alliance (VAA), and we suggest that you make a gift too if you have a community support program like ours.** Here is why we think VAA is deserving of support from all of us in Vermont.

Since the fall of Kabul to the Taliban in 2021, Vermont has *Welcomed* more than 600 Afghan allies who risked their lives to assist our military personnel on the ground during the long conflict. Just last year VAA provided direct services to 300 of these new Vermonsters:

- Employment: 99% have secured long-term jobs with a living wage and health benefits
- Housing: 95% have secured long-term housing
- Driver's license: 95% who completed the driver training program got a license
- Language learning and interpretation: helps all of our new neighbors thrive
- Legal: All VAA clients came here through valid immigration or refugee channels, and are helped to navigate their way to citizenship

You can learn more, and see our recently released annual report, at [www.vtafghanalliance.org/](http://www.vtafghanalliance.org/)

All of our Afghan-American neighbors are sending money home to relatives, hoping to be reunited with them in our brave little state. But new immigration regulations are making VAA's job more and more difficult. And the third year of a federal grant is uncertain, creating a \$256,000 budget shortfall.

With resilience, VAA is pursuing a new strategic plan and exploring new revenue sources, which we hope will include the Vermont UCC Conference. You can support them at Vermont Afghan Alliance, 60 Main Street, Suite 102, Burlington, VT 05401, or online at <https://bit.ly/VtAfghan>

Perhaps it boils down to this. Hebrews 13:2: *"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."*

Blessings to you all,

Middlebury UCC

Board of Missions and Social Concerns

Committee on Justice, Compassion and Love