

This is Francis Kham. I am a community member of east Portland. A refugee, a community organizer and a faith leader. I come from Myanmar where there is currently military coup taking place which against the will of the people of Myanmar. I came to the US as refugee in 2015 and now working as social worker, community organizer.

I was welcome at the airport by Catholic Charities and provided me shelter, food, and other my family basic needs upon arrival and beyond until I am quite settled to start new life here in Portland, Oregon by the help of resettlement agency.

I come with nothing, but agency play a big role which impact a lot to me and my family. Now, I have a lot more people are fled their mother land and seek for better place and life. No body wants war and conflict, but we got no choice to avoid those situations.

As we come to the US, we, refugee, are very grateful for what you have given to us to start new life. You welcome with open arms and want nothing from us but still giving us what we need. That is very important for us, refugee, and immigrants.

Majority of refugees have not able to adapt the culture, the system, and many other things. Without the help, or support from Catholic Charities, EMO, IRCO and Lutheran Community Services, I can't imagine how much hardship, difficulties we are going to face. These direct service providers, even just One Smile at our doorstep, mean a lot to us. These providers are our first trusted and known people in the entire country.

I am strongly asking and urging your support for refugee services that will impact many more lives, to be able to open their doors would contribute to the success of Oregon, and the people's success. You are saving the future humanity of the refugee and immigrant generation yet to come.

Thank you!