



**BE STRONG**  
*and take heart*

**2024** Annual Report





## Our Mission

Inspired by the generous love and example of Jesus Christ, the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) is an international Catholic organization with a mission to accompany, serve, and advocate on behalf of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons so that they may heal, learn, and determine their own future.

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## A LETTER FROM THE *Board Chair*

**As we entered 2025 and reflected on the year that had just ended, the JRS/USA team felt a real sense of accomplishment and determination to build on our critically important work of accompanying, serving, and advocating for the growing population of refugees around the world.**



Just a few short weeks later, we were blindsided by the premature termination of seven cooperative agreements with the U.S. Department of State. Country offices we had helped fund were forced to cut staff and life-saving activities. We estimate that the lives of more than 100,000 people have been affected by these cuts, and much momentum from years of good work has been lost. Then, in April, we found ourselves mourning the death of Pope Francis, who in word and deed was a tireless advocate for migrants and refugees. He declared this Jubilee year that we are all people on the move: Pilgrims of Hope.

With or without government funds, we will continue to accompany people in need and hope for a better future, even against the headwinds of wars, increased climate-driven migration, and growing religious persecution around the world. The words of Psalm 27 are as relevant now as ever: "The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid? Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear... be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord."

Our 2024 annual report highlights the work of JRS teams and beneficiaries across 58 countries—all possible because of your generosity. Thank you for giving migrants and refugees a brighter future.

As we look toward that future, we ask you to join us in praying for Pope Leo in his new role as the Vicar of Christ. Together we shall be strong and take heart, remaining a force for good in our complex world.

Robert Niehaus  
JRS/USA Board Chair





# A LETTER FROM THE President

While preparing the 2024 Annual Report, I was reminded of the words of our founder, Fr. Pedro Arrupe, S.J., who urged: **"We are called to be people of hope, even in the midst of darkness and despair. We must believe in the power of love and strive to bring about positive change in our world. It is through our actions and our words that we have the ability to inspire and transform."** This Annual Report highlights just some of the many inspiring and transformative successes of 2024. While we remain hopeful, our celebration is tempered by the reality that the humanitarian landscape has shifted significantly.

Since January, the U.S. government has cut foreign assistance by 86%. In all, 22 of JRS' country and regional offices were forced to dramatically alter their operations. We faced stark decisions about what to continue and how best to accompany, serve, and advocate for refugees. The current climate demands our resolve. We remain steadfast in our mission and will not abandon our model—or the more than 1 million people we serve. In the wake of these cuts, we turned to our loyal donors for support and kept programs running.

While continuing our programming, we have also emerged as a leading advocate for the value of foreign assistance. We are one of the few refugee-serving organizations willing to speak publicly about the urgent need for robust foreign assistance and humane immigration and refugee protection. Our position is grounded in our mission to promote the common good and uphold the inherent dignity of each person. In addition to the financial impact, there have been changes to U.S. immigration policies that have effectively closed the southern border, restricting access to asylum and other forms of protection.

Since January, we've had to adjust our programming to continue our work—but we have forged ahead. Our community-based accompaniment model calls us to stay present with forcibly displaced people. The word "accompaniment" comes from the Latin *companionem*, meaning "one who shares bread." It speaks to walking alongside someone, sharing their journey, and offering emotional and spiritual support. Our JRS colleagues here and abroad tirelessly live out *cura personalis*—caring for the intellectual, physical, spiritual, and emotional well-being of each person.

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This May marked one full year since I began serving as president of JRS/USA. Every day, I am inspired by the resilience and hope of the individuals and families we accompany—and honored to work alongside the most talented team of humanitarian professionals in the world.

Thank you for your continued support.



Kelly Ryan  
JRS/USA President





## 2024 IMPACT



# 1,154,535

People served through JRS programs globally



## 401,593

Education in  
Emergency Situations



## 131,516

Emergency Aid,  
Relief, and  
Assistance



## 66,522

Livelihoods



## 111,343

Protection and  
Legal Advice



## 205,156

Mental Health &  
Psychosocial Support  
(MHPSS)



## 44,489

Health Care



## 90,327

Peace Building and  
Reconciliation



## 36,534

Pastoral Care



## 67,055

Advocacy and  
Communication

# FINANCIALS

## Revenue

**\$7,618,821**

Private Contributions

**\$1,675,374**

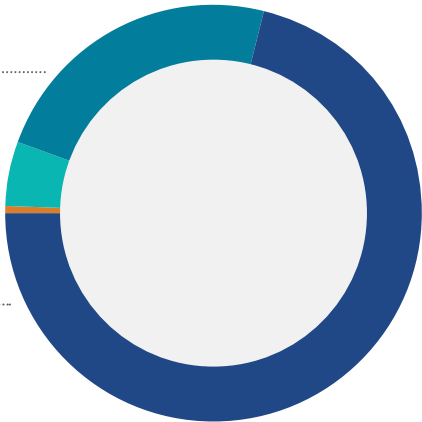
Investment Income

**\$118,650**

In-kind Contributions

**\$23,253,205**

U.S. Government Support



**Total Revenue \$32,666,050**

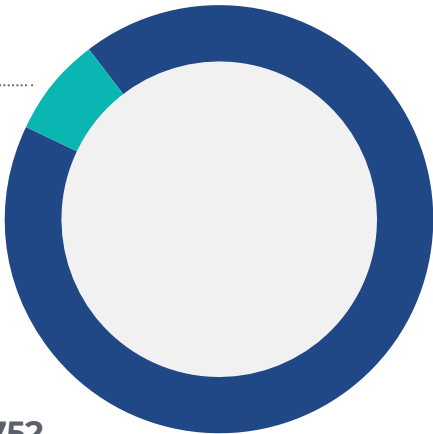
## Expenses

**\$2,560,574**

Fundraising & Management

**\$30,715,178**

Direct Programming



**Total Expenses \$33,275,752**



**Just under 92%** of JRS funding goes directly to programs.

## NORTH AMERICA

Countries where JRS serves:  
United States, Canada

## LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

Countries where JRS serves:  
Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Venezuela

Washington,  
D.C.

Brussels,  
Belgium

Rome,  
Italy

Beirut,  
Lebanon

New Delhi,  
India

Yaoundé,  
Cameroon

Nairobi,  
Kenya

Johannesburg,  
South Africa

Bogotá,  
Colombia

## EUROPE

Countries where JRS serves: Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom

## WESTERN AFRICA

Countries where JRS serves: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria

## EASTERN & SOUTHERN AFRICA

Countries where JRS serves: Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa

## MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Countries where JRS serves: Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria

## SOUTH ASIA

Countries where JRS serves: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India

## ASIA PACIFIC

Countries where JRS serves: Australia, Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand

### Key:



Regional Office

International Office



## Country Spotlight: South Sudan

JRS supports displaced people in South Sudan through education, mental health and community support services, pastoral care, rehabilitation services, and peacebuilding initiatives, promoting self-sufficiency, resilience, reconciliation, and leadership development.

Two years into the latest phase of the conflict in Sudan, people like Musa, a mother of twins, have fled the intense violence to South Sudan's Renk Transit Center. With more than 350,000 refugees having crossed into South Sudan, the center struggles to meet even basic needs.

JRS provides aid and child-friendly spaces, but resources are insufficient. Musa dreams of education for her children even amid the crisis. Achieving this dream will require greater commitment from the international community and diplomatic efforts for lasting peace.



# PROGRAMS

The best sources of up-to-date information on JRS programs are always our website ([jrsusa.org](https://jrsusa.org)) and our INSIDER newsletter.

Around the world, based on how we can best accompany and serve refugees in each of the 58 countries in which we operate, JRS offers programs in education, livelihoods, mental health and psychosocial support, emergency assistance, health care, protection, advocacy, and reconciliation. The work of JRS is grounded in our values of dignity, solidarity, participation, compassion, hospitality, hope, and justice.



Subscribe to INSIDER at [jrsusa.org/insider-signup](https://jrsusa.org/insider-signup) or by scanning the QR code.



## Education and Livelihoods

“  
I am now  
back in  
school.

Watch the video:



Watch the video:



### Education

JRS education programs foster hope, stability, and opportunity. Through tailored programs, teacher training and development, secondary education access for girls and more, JRS supports refugees' right to an education even when infrastructure is weak, crises compound, and displacement extends for years rather than months.

**Myanmar** has seen an ever-worsening humanitarian crisis since a military coup in 2021. One 14-year-old girl told JRS how not being in school had impacted her. She missed her friends, art class, and playing the flute in an ensemble. Now back in school and in the 9th grade, she has expressed her desire to make lots of new memories with friends – just like teenagers everywhere.

### Livelihoods

JRS livelihoods programs help honor the dignity of refugees and foster their independence. We advocate for their right to work, provide skills training, distribute resources, and rebuild networks. The combination of formal education, skills building, and support for integration helps refugees become self-reliant, contribute to local economies, and participate in their host communities.

In **Poland**, refugees from the war in **Ukraine** have needed a wide variety of services as they have coped with displacement. JRS has provided language classes, social and community support, and resume-writing and review services for adults seeking to integrate into their host country and its workforce.



## Mental Health & Psychosocial Support

JRS provides services to displaced people that foster healing, resilience, and social cohesion. Forced displacement disrupts routines and relationships that give people a sense of stability and forces them to deal with many unexpected and unimaginable circumstances. Programs emphasize hope, safe spaces, counseling, case management, and community, all rooted in JRS' mission of holistic, compassionate accompaniment.

Ali, from **Syria**, overcame emotional distress and isolation through JRS Syria's programs. Given what he had endured and noticing his challenges with making friends and speaking in class, JRS assigned Ali a case manager, tutors, speech therapists, and a mental health and psychosocial support specialist. Ali began making great progress and growing in self-esteem. "I can do anything now," Ali told his tutors.



**Read the full story.**



## Emergency Assistance

JRS provides emergency aid to refugees in the form of shelter, food, water, sanitation, and other essentials. Focused on saving lives during the most dangerous phases of displacement, JRS pays special attention to the needs of groups who are often particularly vulnerable, like women and children.

Amid escalating conflict in **Lebanon** in the fall of 2024, JRS transformed its Arrupe Migrant Center and a nearby monastery into shelters for more than 110 displaced migrants and refugees. Even facing limited space and resources, JRS staff provided essential aid and fostered a sense of community.

“

Everything has changed.



**Read the full story.**







## Healthcare

JRS helps refugees access primary care, preventive services, and referrals to specialist care as well as medications and medical transport. We also provide health education and support for chronically ill patients, and we train community caregivers, focusing on health promotion and disease prevention.

Daniel, a 57-year-old refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo, suffered a debilitating stroke shortly after arriving in **South Africa**.

Discovered while he was living on the streets, he received medical care and rehabilitation from JRS. Over time, Daniel regained his mobility and independence, an example of the transformative impact that compassionate and dedicated caregivers can have.

“  
Seeing a positive impact inspires me.



Read the full story.



## Protection

JRS promotes justice and provides protection to refugees through legal aid, emergency relief, and child protection services. It offers foster care, shelter, mental health and psychosocial support, and advocacy and addresses gender-based violence risks. JRS staff works closely with displaced individuals to safeguard their rights, secure legal status, and keep them safe from exploitation and other harms.

Paola from Honduras fled with her family after receiving threats to her life. In Tapachula, **Mexico**, JRS provided Paola and her family with legal aid, psychological support, and essential supplies, helping them rebuild. They have found stability for now, though Paola remains fearful; the person who threatened them is reportedly also traveling north.

“  
I feel better; there is a change.



Read the full story.





## Advocacy and Outreach

### Advocacy

JRS advocates at the local, national, regional, and international levels to protect refugee rights, promote integration, counter xenophobia, and shape policy. In the U.S., we mobilize supporters through action alerts that encourage outreach to the White House and members of Congress.

On April 16, 2024, over 200 advocates joined JRS/USA's annual Advocacy Day to meet with lawmakers and share their support for refugee protection and life-saving programs. Participants discussed key issues such as asylum access, humanitarian aid funding, and the growing impact of climate displacement. Their collective voices help ensure that policies reflect the dignity and needs of displaced people.

### Outreach

In October 2024, JRS/USA's "Por Todos" Speakers Tour visited Jesuit schools in the Northeast to highlight refugee mental health and JRS' support services. Events in New York, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania emphasized the need to integrate mental health into humanitarian aid. Through outreach and partnerships, we raise awareness and build support for refugees worldwide.

**Read the full advocacy story.**



**Read the full outreach story.**



## Caminar Contigo & the Migrant Accompaniment Network

Caminar Contigo is JRS/USA's program offering legal, mental health, psychological and social support services, and case management to asylum seekers. Operating from our El Paso office, Caminar Contigo starts by providing services in shelters on the U.S.-Mexico border; it continues by connecting people to the Migrant Accompaniment Network as they move into the interior of the country.

Migrant Accompaniment Network volunteers offer guidance, friendship, and help as newcomers navigate a new life in the U.S.

Rita, a volunteer with the Migrant Accompaniment Network, has helped a Venezuelan family resettle in Denver. She supported them in finding housing, locating the best places to shop for essentials, and building relationships in their new community.

Rita described the work as challenging, beautiful, and faith-filled, emphasizing the deep connections she has made and compassion she has felt and witnessed while accompanying displaced families.



**Read the full story.**



## Detention Chaplaincy

The JRS/USA National Chaplaincy Program offers pastoral care to migrants in five DHS detention centers, supporting all faiths. In addition to religious services, efforts include administration of religious diets, provision of religious items, and addressing other special needs.

Last summer, JRS/USA staff from Washington, D.C., spent time at a detention center in El Paso, Texas, with Fr. Richard Sotelo, S.J., head of the Chaplaincy Program. They witnessed the comfort detainees found in worship and the profound impact of small acts, like securing prayer items, on their sense of hope.

“We do the most we can, and we do it with compassion.”



**Read the full story.**



## Reconciliation

JRS made reconciliation a key goal for 2019–2023, focusing on building “right relationships” among refugees, host communities, and JRS teams. Rooted in justice and dialogue, reconciliation seeks to address the violence and animosity that refugees often face. JRS promotes social cohesion through education, hospitality, and faith-based approaches tailored to local contexts.

Pastora, a community leader in Soacha, Colombia, has been instrumental in transforming the Panorama neighborhood – home to many internally displaced Colombians and Venezuelan migrants. Facing initial hostility and a lack of basic services, Pastora collaborated with JRS and leaders in the community to introduce essential infrastructure and create inclusive training spaces. Her efforts aim to foster unity, understanding, and peace among diverse community members.



**Read the full story.**





## OUR TEAM

### JRS/USA Management Team

**Kelly Ryan**

President

**Sergey Nikolin\***

Vice President,  
Finance, CFO

**Matthew Terhune\***

Vice President,  
Development

**Hilary Chester**

Vice President,  
Programs

**Heather Joseph\***

Vice President, Operations

**Donald Kerwin\***

Vice President, Advocacy, Research,  
and Partnerships

**Bridget Cusick**

Vice President,  
Marketing and Communications

**Rev. Leo J. O'Donovan, S.J.**

Senior Director,  
Mission

**Molly Cashin**

Vice President (Interim),  
Development

*\*Joined JRS/USA in 2025*

### 2024 JRS/USA Board of Directors

**Robert Niehaus (Chair)**

Chairman & Founder,  
GCP Capital Partners, LLC

**Very Reverend Brian Paulson, S.J.**

President, Jesuit Conference of  
Canada and the U.S.

**Austin Fragomen, Jr.**

Chairman Emeritus, Fragomen,  
Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy, LLP

**Christopher Curtin**

Chief Marketing Officer,  
Sam's Club

**British Robinson**

Chair, Africa  
Milken Institute

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Medical Director, Palliative Medicine,  
Sutter Santa Rosa Regional Hospital

**Fadi Samman**

Partner, Akin Gump Strauss  
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**Hiroko Kusuda**

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University New Orleans

**Jason Zenk**

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EnTrust Global

**John Thon Majok**

Director of Refugee and Forced  
Displacement Initiative,  
Migration Policy Institute

**Kate Howe**
**Kristen Watson**
**Lidia Bastianich**

Restaurateur, Author, & Television  
Host of *Lidia's Kitchen*

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Nieto Advisory, LLC

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President,  
Madonna Mission

**Mark Dewire**

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Baltimore City Department of Law

**Mark Palmer**
**Molly Cashin**
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VP for Institutional Diversity &  
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**Stephanie Russell**

Vice President, Mission  
Integration, Association of Jesuit  
Colleges & Universities

**Tim Reidy**

Deputy Editor in Chief,  
America Media

**Very Reverend Thomas Greene, S.J.**

Provincial, USA Central & Southern  
Province of the Society of Jesus

## MAGIS PARTNERS

### Partners Spotlight:

## Jen and Matt Tilghman-Havens

“

We are inspired to give monthly to JRS because of its deep commitment to serving the most marginalized communities in our world, ensuring they... have their basic needs met as they seek a safe place to land.

JRS embodies the Jesuit Catholic teachings of justice, compassion, and... a preferential option for the poor. As working parents, we are unable to be present to the suffering of these communities in a personal way, so we are heartened that we can contribute to an organization that attends to their needs with great care.



**Magis (pronounced "màh-gis")** is the Latin word for "more" or "greater." It is found in the phrase *ad maiorem Dei gloriam*, which means "for the greater glory of God" and is the motto of the Society of Jesus. **Monthly contributions from Magis Partners have a profound and enduring impact on the lives of refugees and displaced people.** JRS/USA Magis Partners help ensure sustained funding so that we can do things like send more children to secondary school.

Through these dependable contributions, JRS/USA can effectively respond to the most pressing challenges faced by people on the move around the world, promising a brighter future for our brothers and sisters in need.

**To become a Magis Partner, please contact Anna Pigeon-Bempong, Senior Donor Relations Officer at [anna.bempong@jrsusa.org](mailto:anna.bempong@jrsusa.org) or 202-629-5906.**

## LEGACY SOCIETY

**Designating planned estate gifts is one of the most meaningful ways to support JRS, enabling caring donors to leave a legacy of accompaniment and compassion.**

With your Legacy Society gift, you will change the lives of refugees and displaced families for years to come. Legacy Society donors have supported JRS through their wills and living trusts, and/or a beneficiary designation to JRS/USA on investment or brokerage accounts, retirement plans, donor advised funds, or insurance policies. Please consult your tax planner or financial advisor before making any decisions.

**For more information about estate planning or making a gift to JRS/USA, contact Cindy Rice, Senior Manager of Leadership and Legacy Giving, at [cindy.rice@jrsusa.org](mailto:cindy.rice@jrsusa.org) or 202-629-5966.**

### Legacy List

Julia† and Anthony Albrecht  
 Connie Anestis  
 Anonymous (5)  
 Robert J. Armbruster †  
 Cecilia Arnold  
 Linda Arnold  
 Rita † and Martin Bennett  
 Grace Kwak and John Billovits  
 Loretta J. Brady  
 Susan and David Brisnehan  
 Michael J. Burnham  
 Jesus Climaco †  
 Jeanne and Joseph Colford  
 Regina and Leonard Collins  
 Dorothy and David Crean  
 Rev. Msgr. William Elliott  
 Ron † and Pat Ferreri  
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 Rev. Dr. Joseph P. Oechsle  
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Noraleen Renauer  
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 Gee Seitz-Miller  
 Kathryn S. Singer  
 Mary Jane Smith †  
 Drs. Thaddeus Regulinski †  
 and Anne Stericker  
 Jane † and James Strenski †  
 Yaakov Sullivan †  
 Jill Szawara  
 Grace Kobbe Tevis †  
 George Joseph Thornton †  
 J. David Yesso † and Gail S.  
 Valenson  
 Michael Varga  
 Erika Voss †  
 Joyce E. Wilkinson  
 Robert † and Pat Willis

† In memory of





## CONTINUE TO ACCOMPANY, SERVE, AND ADVOCATE WITH US

You can continue to support the mission of Jesuit Refugee Service by making a financial contribution. Support from the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States covers a significant portion of our management and fundraising expenses, **allowing us to direct nearly 92% of your 2024 contribution directly to programs that assist refugees.** Your gift to JRS/USA will help create opportunities for education, health, protection, and self-reliance for people who have been forced to flee their homes.



Contact the JRS/USA Development Team at 202-629-5941, [giving@jrsusa.org](mailto:giving@jrsusa.org), or visit [www.jrsusa.org/donate](http://www.jrsusa.org/donate) to learn more about ways to support our work.



1627 K Street NW - Suite 1100 | Washington, D.C. 20006

 [jrsusa.org/donate](https://jrsusa.org/donate)

