



Let's Provide Food Aid to Incoming Afghan Refugees!

Dear Community Leader,

75 Afghans are anticipated to arrive in Ottawa County this October. We will only have 48 hours of notice before their arrival. Afghans are currently at a Safe Haven (military base) where they have received all vaccines and undergone numerous security checks. Since their arrival will be sudden, Ottawa Food wants to assist Bethany Christian Services (the Afghan's caseworkers) to ensure their food security now.

An interpreter has provided a list of food items desired by the Afghans that adhere to the Halal diet. To support the Halal diet, the easiest form of food aid will be through a money donation. The only provider of Halal certified meat in our area is in Grand Rapids. To help with meat access, please consider donating a visa gift card.

Ottawa Food is working with food pantries and refugee caseworkers to collect the email address of people that want to donate fresh produce. Sign up to receive directions to donate fresh produce here:

<https://forms.gle/bsnc1rxaGGidE5Jw6>. To donate money now, please use the Ottawa Food portal: [Donate | Ottawa Food](#) in the space designated for "is this gift in honor of someone?" please type in, "For Afghan allies". Funds collected through this portal will ONLY be used to purchase food with/for Afghans.

Ottawa Food is committed to increasing access to culturally appropriate food. Ottawa Food is committed to serving every member of our community and are excited to welcome our new Afghan neighbors! Please reach out with any questions or insights!

Thank you,

Sierra Schuetz

Sierra Schuetz

Coordinator of Ottawa Food

sschuetz@miottawa.org

12251 James Street, Suite 400 • Holland, MI 49424-9661 • (616) 393-5791 • Fax (616) 393-5643