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**Bethany Christian Services Statement on Historically Low Refugee Goal: “We Can Do Better. We Must Do Better.”**

**GRAND RAPIDS, MI** - In response to the U.S. Department of State’s announcement that the administration intends to set the refugee admissions goal at a historically low 30,000 lives, Bethany Christian Services released the following statement from President and CEO Chris Palusky:

“Yesterday’s announcement that the United States will seek to resettle fewer refugees than ever before breaks my heart and doesn’t reflect the spirit of our welcoming nation,” noted Bethany Christian Services president and CEO Chris Palusky. “We can do better. We must do better.”

“We must do better for the mother I met in Darfur, Sudan who was living in a refugee camp with her baby. Their home was built from sticks and covered in plastic bags. She begged for someone to give them hope for the future. Surely, we can continue to welcome our neighbors, especially children who account for half of the world’s refugees.”

“Our nation’s back is turned toward those who need us most. While more people are fleeing for their lives than ever before, we are welcoming fewer refugees than ever before.”

“The United States has long been a beacon of hope for the persecuted, and I believe we still can be,” Palusky continued. “Bethany Christian Services will continue serving refugees in the United States and around world because that is exactly what Jesus commands that we do. We are committed to giving refugees a voice, advocating on their behalf, and welcoming the least of these as our neighbors.”

Communities across the United States are ready to welcome more refugees. Earlier this month, Michigan businesses sent a letter urging the State Department to consider the positive contributions refugees make in their communities. “Not only does resettling refugees advance our nation’s historic ability to provide protection, ease suffering, and resolve the plight of persecuted and uprooted people, it strengthens our communities,” they wrote.

**About Bethany Christian Services**

Bethany Christian Services believes that every child deserves to be in a loving family. We have a heart for children, and we equip families to be the answer for children in need. Bethany has been providing critical services to refugee children and families for more than 40 years.

For more information, please visit <https://www.bethany.org/other-services/refugee-and-immigrant-services>.