



globalgreens

Lutheran Services in Iowa

Relentlessly dedicated to serving Iowa families.

At LSI, we are fueled by the power of the human spirit and driven to create stronger Iowa communities.

LSI has a legacy of serving children and families for more than 150 years.



569+

former refugees attended LSI English classes, work readiness training, and citizenship classes in 2020



18,775+

therapy sessions for adults, children, and families in 2020



78,788+

hours of service to people with disabilities in 2020

Customized care for Iowa children, adults, and families.

Behavioral Health Intervention Services to support children with emotional or behavioral disorders through regular in-home visits.

Early Childhood Services for parents of young children. Our programs support Iowa families with essential resources, classes, home visiting, and parenting education to navigate the early years.

Family Centered Services to provide intensive interventions designed to strengthen families and prevent child removal due to abuse or neglect.

Foster Care and Adoption to recruit, license, and support foster and adoptive families in 30 western Iowa counties.

Therapy Services for children, adults, and families in a friendly, compassionate, non-judgmental therapeutic environment.

Refugee and Immigrant Services to empower refugees and immigrants with education programs, economic development classes, and family support.

Residential Treatment Services to provide Iowa children and teens with 24-hour trauma-centered mental health care.

Services for People with Disabilities to meet a wide range of needs, from 24-hour care and Host Homes independent living to occasional respite care for Iowa children and adults with high intellectual or developmental disabilities.

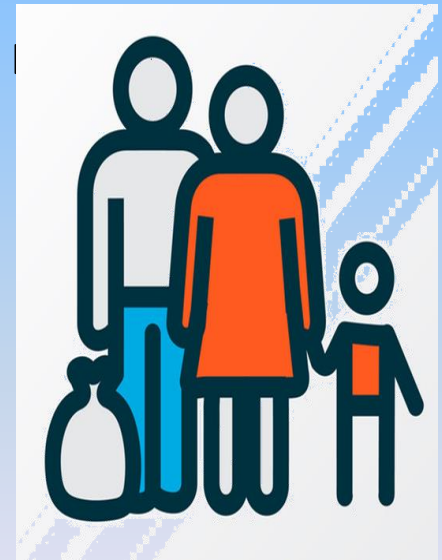
Who is a Refugee?

People who have fled war, violence, conflict or persecution and have crossed an international border to find safety in another country.

- UNHCR (the UN Refugee Agency)

Well-founded fear of being persecuted for
of:

- Race
- Religion
- Nationality
- Membership of a particular social group
- Political opinion





Resettlement



1. Referral by UNHCR and pre-screening by the U.S.'s Resettlement Support Centers
2. Refugee status determination interviews conducted by DHS and USCIS
3. Additional medical and security checks
4. Sponsorship by U.S. resettlement agencies for assurance and travel arrangements
5. Pre-departure cultural orientation facilitated by Resettlement Support Centers and arrival assistance through the assigned resettlement agency



New Beginnings



“If you have come here to help me you are wasting your time, but if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.”

- Lilla Watson







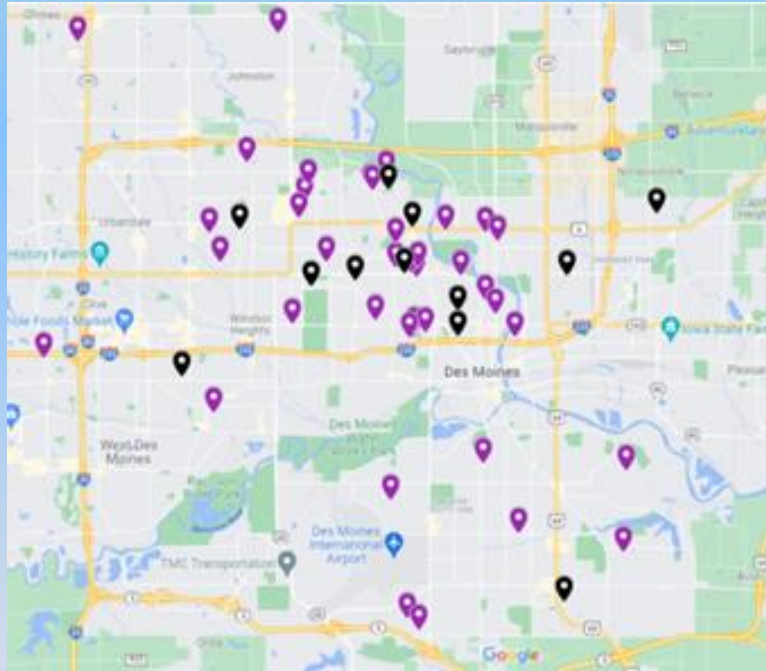


Community Garden Clients

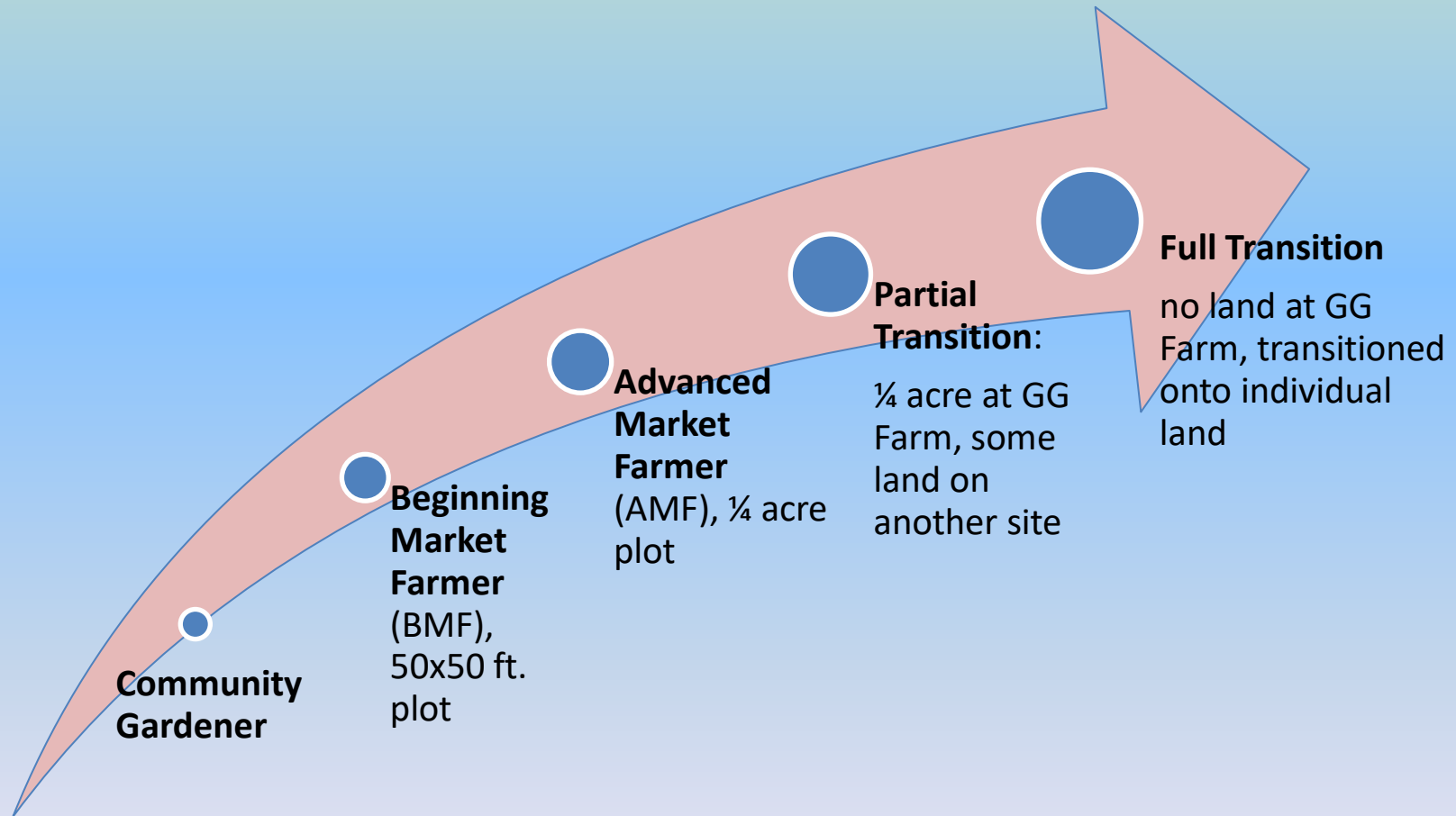
- **Dem. Rep. of the Congo** (Congolese)
- **Burundi** (Burundian)
- **Burma/Myanmar** (Burmese)
- **Bhutan** (Bhutanese)
- **Ethiopia** (Ethiopian)
- **Liberia** (Liberian)

now

>200 Families 20 Different Gardens



Market Farming Pathway



- Valley Community Center, West Des Moines, Iowa
- 8.5 Acres
- 20 “Beginning” Farmers
- Plot size from 1/8 Acre – ¼ Acre
- 11 Graduates on ~50 total acres (DSM Metro)
- Estimated >1,000,000 pounds of produce annually



Global Greens Incubator Farm



Business Planning and TA

In-field Education and Farmer Mentoring



Market Access



Global Greens Farmers Market



SNAP/DUFB

2021,2022 *Average \$300k/year*

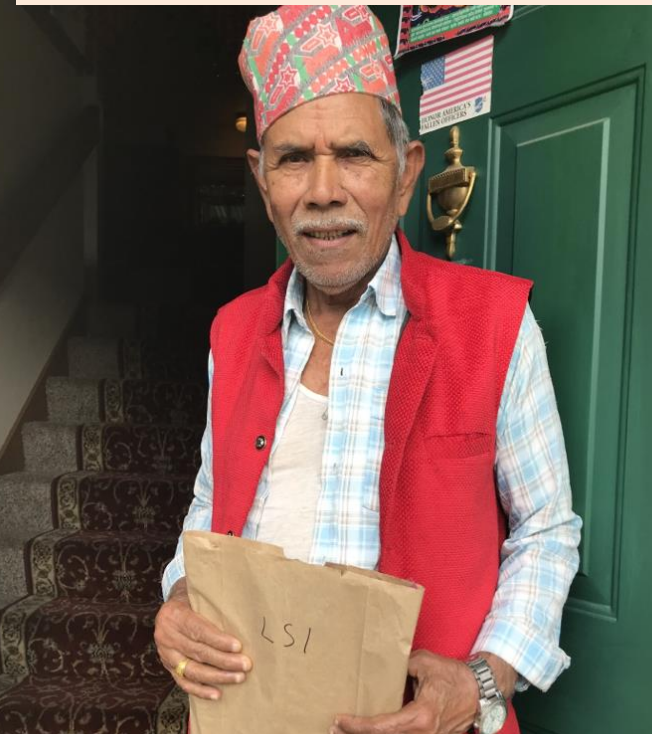




Community Supported Agriculture



150 Elder Food Boxes/month



Beyond the Incubator



Global Greens Program

Reconnecting people with the land to achieve physical, mental and financial health.



Community Gardens



Incubator Farm & Land Access



Education & Business Development



Elder Food Box



Market Access & Technical Assistance



Regional Program Support & Network Building

Our “Why”

- Growing and accessing culturally appropriate foods increases resilience and equity.
- Physical and mental health are improved through gardening activities.
- Reconnect to land and pass along cultural practices related to agriculture and cuisine to next generation.
- Provide a source of income and off-set grocery costs.
- Green spaces in urban areas are better for biodiversity and climate than lawns and parking lots.





When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.” — Aldo Leopold.



“African” Eggplant
and Lenga Lenga (Amaranth Greens)



'African' Eggplant
Mix of traditional methods with
new technology and conservation

“Cover Crop Swap”

Creative conservation



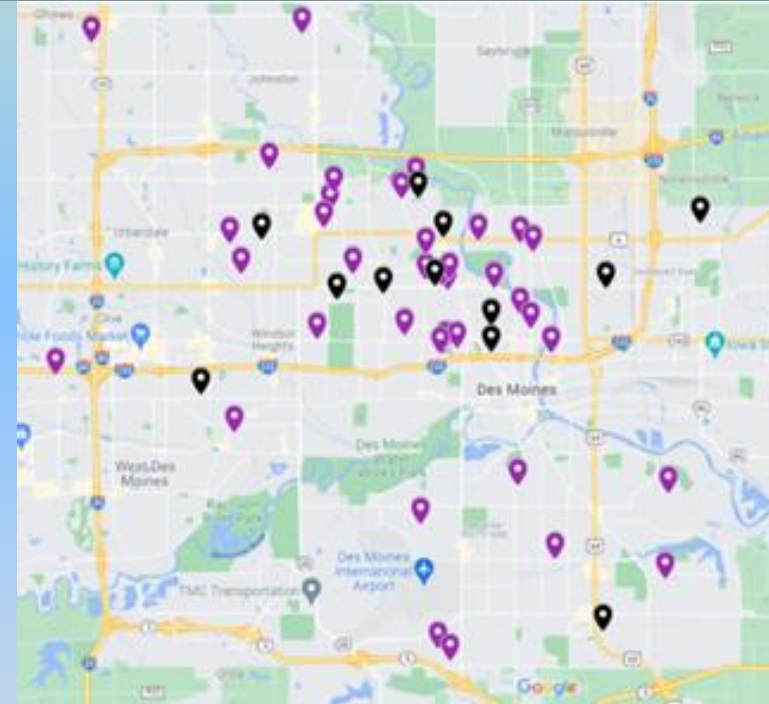
Land Tenure... What's that!?

On average we lose 2 garden locations per year due to development.

Developing new sites are costly and time prohibitive.

-The City of Des Moines displaced 10s of gardeners when they closed the Downtown Community Garden in 2022.

-Farmer Bizimana Charles had to relocate his 5 acre farm after 5 years of farming



The need for land is illustrated by the waitlist of 62 individuals(purple) with no land and 24 community gardeners looking for space in the GG incubator in West Des Moines. There is currently no space available in existing garden locations (black)

Zoning Restrictions Prevent urban farmers from growing food- *perennials out of the question!*

- (right) City of Des Moines changed rules that “re-line” urban farmers from renting commercially zoned city land
- (below) Greenhouse structures needed for off-season production don't fit into zoning laws and cause undo cost or barriers to construct. This one in West Des Moines was deconstructed to make room for more gardens to grow in ground



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The Need for Systems Solutions

*The first step is awareness of what is happening in our food system.
Educate on importance of gardens, buying local and organic, climate change.*

Our Priorities:

- **More investment and reduced barriers for Urban Farmers**
 - City Planners to include Gardens in Development, private non-profit and government partners prioritize setting aside land to be used as gardens
 - Reduce Zoning Restrictions for Urban Farmers and Increase the Priority of Gardens as Green Spaces
 - Improve pathways and programs for urban farmers to have equity in land and thriving rural businesses
 - Permanent land tenure and physical infrastructure
- **Continue subsidies for low income earners while also looking to long term food security**
 - DUFEB is great! But falls short in sustainability.
 - Need increased investment of current “nutrition” dollars to programs that recognize the ability for people to grow food for themselves
 - Need sustainable market infrastructure (see next note)
- **Increase amount of accessible local market infrastructure and wholesale markets**
 - Increased institutional buying- “Good Food” in schools, govt contracts
 - Investment in Food hubs, aggregators, distributors
 - Small Scale value added and processing

Resources and References

- **Contact:** Zachary.couture@lsiowa.org
- [*Gauging food provisioning, social and economic benefits of community farms for Iowa's immigrant community*](#) by Thanh Ngoc Nguyen
- [Des Moines Register article- *Land Access Barrier for Refugee Farmers*](#)
- [Bizimana losing land article in DSM Register:](#)
https://amp.desmoinesregister.com/amp/7998745002?_twitter_impression=true-
- *Municipal Zoning for Local Foods in Iowa: A Guidebook for Reducing Local Regulatory Barriers to Local Foods* by Andrea Vaage and Gary Taylor ISU Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture
- Learn more at our website: <https://lsiowa.org/globalgreens>