

Product 1:



A Message for World Refugee Day

Today, June 20th, is observed as World Refugee Day.

We have been making statements and speaking about displacement and human rights for over a decade. This year, we turned to our staff, those who have lived through the experiences and asked them the question that the fortunate ones do not know the answer to:

What does it mean to be a refugee?

At first, we heard words of hope, overcoming challenges, bottomless gratitude. We saw the profound pride from those who found their voice in a new language, and who use that voice daily to help others. Hope, integration, opportunity...

And then we go deeper.

The stories reveal cavernous loneliness, fear, fractured identities and the word *home* transformed from a place into an unreachable idea.

It means living in the unknown. Having to choose between staying with family or staying alive. It means having to question if staying alive is worth it without family.

Back home someone is born and you can't see them.

Back home someone dies and you can't be there to say goodbye.

"My brother has only seen his son once in his life"...

We talked in the breakroom about our experiences and the importance of being a part of something. We talked and were a part of something. This community we have built over 11 years can also be called something else. It can be called home.

This year, the focus of World Refugee Day is the right to seek safety.

This heartbreakingly basic human right is why we are here.

As long as there are refugees, we will remain a refuge. As long as we keep building this community, we are home.