

Living in Rochester, Minnesota my whole life made it seem like the most boring city in the world to me, and I have dreamed of getting out to see the world. I never appreciated the openness and safety this community offers. To many refugees, with the help of Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement, Rochester is a gift. People like Batoul, a six year old refugee with dreams of becoming a ballerina, and her mother see Rochester as full of opportunities they would never have had at home in Iraq.

Many of the people that come to Rochester lived a life much like ours before they came. They had cars, jobs, homes, and families. They were forced to pack up everything they needed in two suitcases and leave what they knew for what they were told to was going to be a better life. The stories of these peoples fear and courage to overcome with the hope of new possibilities is truly humbling.

Written by Annie Wente, Sophomore