



COSTS, from training materials to the permit test fee and professional driving lessons, are paid for by donations from congregational partners, individuals, Lutheran Charities, the Lutheran Foundation of WNY, and Thrivent Financial.

*Professional driving instruction is provided by Stevens Driving School.  
(716) 674-2340*

## Refugee & Immigrant Driving Program

A ministry of  
Augustana Lutheran  
Church  
Tonawanda, NY

Students are welcomed into the program without regard to religious beliefs. We ask the students to sign an agreement stating that they will share their knowledge and help others on their path toward earning a driver's license.

Program graduates are now contributing their time by helping current driving program students, as well as members of their families and community members.

There is always a waiting list to be in the program. With increased donations and volunteers, more refugees could be assisted.

Please consider how you can help this program continue to help others.

Contact the church for more info:  
(716) 832-5720  
augustchurch@yahoo.com  
augustanaonline.org



*Augustana is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization. Donations can be made payable and sent to:*

**Augustana Lutheran Church  
3143 Eggert Road  
Tonawanda, NY 14150**



*In response to God's love in Christ, we welcome the stranger and bring new hope and new life through*

## HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

Augustana Lutheran Church has been helping refugees and immigrants in WNY for more than 25 years.

In 2007, Augustana instituted the Refugee and Immigrant Driving Program to help individuals earn their driver's licenses.

It is the only program of its kind in Western New York.

Referrals are received from former participants, local school programs, Journey's End, Catholic Charities, Jewish Family Service, the International Institute, and Hispanics United of Buffalo.

## Next steps:

When individuals are ready to take the permit test, volunteers meet them at a local Department of Motor Vehicles office and help them complete the paperwork.

After students pass the permit test, as many individuals as possible are enrolled in professional driving lessons, depending on available funds.

At the conclusion of the driving lessons, students take their road test.

## OUTCOMES

Augustana volunteers have aided more than 100 participants from 30 different countries in obtaining driver's licenses.

Additional participants have earned their driving permit.



## HOW THE DRIVING PROGRAM WORKS

### First step:

Volunteers meet to assemble classroom training materials. Group instruction is then provided at the church by additional volunteers. Instruction is centered around topics that help the students prepare for the permit test and road test.



### Final step:

Celebrate! Augustana invites the participants to an annual luncheon to honor their achievements.



By earning their driver's license, refugees and immigrants are able to gain increased access to employment opportunities and healthcare, as well as expanded ability to choose neighborhoods and schools, and participate in community activities.