



OFFERING FOR
GLOBAL MISSIONS

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HOPE &
HOSPITALITY

Worship
Resources

2020-2021

FACT SHEET
MIRA AND SASHA ZIVANOV

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- Sasha and Mira Zivanov came to the United States from Yugoslavia.
- In 1992, the country of Yugoslavia was divided into the countries of Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia. War began, and there were many who had to leave their country quickly as refugees.
- Sasha came to the United States as a refugee. Mira came as an immigrant.
- A refugee is someone who has to leave their home because it is no longer safe; they cannot return unless things change. An immigrant is someone who decides to leave their home country and move to a different one. An immigrant is able to study the language of the new country before they move; they are free to return home if they wish.
- Bosnians began coming to the United States in 1994 in hope of a better life for their families. Many of them did not speak English and had to leave school when war began, coming to America
- Sasha and Mira began working with immigrants and refugees in St. Louis in 2011.
- They partner with a CBF church, Kirkwood Baptist, as well as other local churches, to meet the needs of refugee families.
- Sasha and Mira help run a food pantry for refugee families. This food pantry is a way for them to meet families, to pray with them, to learn their stories, and to meet their needs.
- They also lead afterschool programs for children where they tutor them and teach essential skills.
- Sasha and Mira help refugees fill out paperwork and government forms, translate for them, and help them find affordable places to live.
- Sasha and Mira work hard to create a community for refugees, helping them to once again feel security, stability, and peace.

