



SEND Relief

FIVE WAYS TO SERVE REFUGEES RIGHT NOW

Have you ever thought what difference you could make in the world's refugees? Our experience is that individuals and churches really do make a difference. When some might shun or overlook refugees, it's individuals, churches, businesses, and community groups who step forward and make a difference.

- Be available.

You probably know what it feels like to need a friend. Refugees are no different. Being available to answer questions without embarrassment goes a long way to building relationships. Sometimes the most basic experiences for Americans is the most unfamiliar to refugees.

- Help them integrate in their new community.

With some early support, they become productive members of society, starting businesses, creating jobs, or becoming employees themselves.

They first need your help practicing their English and getting to know the local community. If you reach out to your local resettlement office, they'll be able to show you how to make refugees feel at home in their new home.

- If you're an employer, hire a refugee or give them a job interview.

Refugees have the drive to succeed in their new country. Statistics show that refugees are very entrepreneurial and innovative. Businesses are already catching on by hiring thousands of refugees each year.

Talk to your company or employer about hiring refugees or giving them a chance to get a job.

- Stand with refugees.

Too often, refugees are being targeted by hateful rhetoric and cruel policies. They need your voice to help standing up for them and basic principles of refugee resettlement.

Refugees have helped make America great and are driven to contribute to the best in our society.

- In all cases, respect their past to help build their future.

Refugees are frequently dealing with the traumatic effects of fleeing their homes. They often leave negative conditions but leave behind cherished memories, possessions, and loved ones. In many cases, they do not initially need someone to fix their problems; they need someone to care. Your willingness to listen and have empathy are invaluable.