



International Institute of Buffalo

Volunteering at the International Institute

Website: <https://iibuffalo.org/volunteer-2/>

Contact: volunteers@iibuff.org

Application: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=PFO-KLA3JUO4GCy19rZf0LqSDsKs_CxLoxC9R6drP9BUMzVPMk5KMIJTSThTSUICUE5OMUhRM0RRSSQIQCN0PWcu

Types of Volunteer Opportunities

1. Health Education Classes

- a. Contact: mshogan@iibuff.org
- b. Description: Help with outreach, set up, and support for the educator during health literacy classes

2. New Home Set-Up

- a. Contact: volunteers@iibuff.org
- b. Description: Install and organize household goods in permanent housing for our arriving New American clients. With a team, collect household goods and furniture as an in-kind donation. As an individual, set up permanent housing with donated goods we provide.

3. HELLO English Tutoring

- a. Contact: zalsharifi@iibuff.org
- b. Description: English as a New Language (ENL) tutoring program for newly arrived refugees who cannot make it to class, such as stay-at-home mothers and Survivor Support clients.

4. Host International Visitors

- a. Contact: mshogan@iibuff.org
- b. Description: Provide home hospitality for a week for international visitors who come to Buffalo under the Open World program, or host visitors who come under the International Visitors Leadership program for dinner in your house.

5. Host Your Own Donation Drive

- a. Contact: ghuerta@iibuff.org
- b. Description: Contact to discuss donation needs and how your organization, business, or family can collect items.

6. Sort Donations

- a. Contact: volunteers@iibuff.org
- b. Description: Sort and organize donated goods so they are easily accessible to case managers.



HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE

International Institute Internships

Contact: volunteers@iibuff.org

How to Apply: send a resume and cover letter for the position that interests you, and contact information for two references to volunteers@iibuff.org.

Internships available for college credit:

1. Survivor Support Services – Human Trafficking* Intern
2. Survivor Support Services – Domestic Violence* Intern
3. New American Integration – Preferred Communities Intern
4. New American Integration – Donations Support Intern
5. Home English Language Learning Opportunity (HELLO) Program Administrative Intern
6. HELLO Tutor Internship
7. Philanthropy and Community Engagement – Development Intern
8. Finance – Bookkeeper Intern
9. International Exchanges and Education Intern
10. Health Literacy Intern

Karen Society of Buffalo (KSB)

KSB Volunteer Opportunities

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/ksbbuffalo/>

Contact: info@karenbuffalo.org

Application: email contact for more info

Types of Volunteer Opportunities

Karen Society of Buffalo, a non-profit organization, provides the Karen community assistance with navigating systems, finding resources, and giving referrals as needed. KSB provides civic services to the Karen-Burmese refugees regardless of race, religion, and ethnic background. KSB also has an afterschool Karen Literacy program. All ethnicities from Burma are eligible and Karen and Burmese language services are available.



H.E.A.L. International

HEAL Volunteer Opportunities

Website: <https://heal-international.org/>

Contact: dkklotzbach@heal-international.org or call 716.908.1756

Application: see website

Types of Volunteer Opportunities

1. Youth and Education Services

- a. Goal: to provide quality, holistic services which guide refugee/immigrant youth toward success.
- b. Programs: HEAL mentors and counselors assist refugee/immigrant parents and schools with advocacy, interpretations, problem-solving assistance, and cultural consultations.

2. Conflict Resolution

- a. Goal: to educate Refugees about American laws to reduce domestic violence, incidents of child neglect/abuse, and to promote family strengthening.
- b. Programs: H.E.A.L promotes parent education through adult ESL courses. H.E.A.L collaborates with law enforcement agencies such as FBI, Buffalo Police and Family Court justice to provide workshops in Child preventive care, domestic violence prevention, Trafficking, and Safety. We have been successful in resolving culturally sensitive cases.

3. Economic Development/Micro-Credit Financing

- a. Goal: To train and assist aspiring refugee entrepreneurs.
- b. Work in Progress: We are not fully able to implement this initiative yet without the proper space for clients to have the training and practice. We believe it will be one of the most rewarding initiatives for the City of Buffalo's refugee community.

4. Women Empowerment

- a. Goal: Buffalo families are single parents. H.E.A.L seeks to provide support to refugee women in order to develop independence.
- b. Activities: Financial literacy, Adult ESL & cultural education, job assistance, interpretation, and Health Awareness workshops.



Jewish Family Services (JFS)

JFS Volunteer Opportunities

Website: <https://jfswny.org/volunteer/>

Contact: sjohnston@jfswny.org or call 716.883.1914 ext 331

Application: see website

Types of Volunteer Opportunities

1. housewarming team preparing for the arrival of new refugee families
2. help with a fundraising initiative
3. assist with educational workshop

New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC)

NYIC Volunteer Opportunities

Website: <https://www.nyic.org/get-involved/volunteer/>

Contact: volunteer@nyic.org

Application: <https://www.tfaforms.com/4870578>

Types of Volunteer Opportunit

- Ukrainian Response Initiative (URI)
- community outreach (e.g., flyering, phone banking)
- event logistics (e.g., registration, ushering)
- language access support (e.g., interpretation and/or translation)
- legal screenings and consultations
- organizing (e.g, serving as marshals at rallies and marches)
- photography



Jericho Road

Jericho Road Volunteer Opportunities

Website: <https://www.jrchc.org/volunteer/volunteer-opportunities//>

Contact: volunteer@jrhc.org

Application: <https://forms.gle/HuXNoQnwKxStpW1S6>

General Requirements:

- proof of full COVID vaccination

Types of Volunteer Opportunities

1. Priscilla Project Mentor

- a. Description: The Priscilla Project is an in-home visiting program in which volunteer mentors provide friendship/support to pregnant women throughout their pregnancy and postpartum period, while connecting women and their families with resources in the community. This can include assisting with WIC shopping/appointments, visiting donation centers, and accompanying the client to doctor's appointments/hospital visits.

2. Spiritual Care Volunteer

- a. Contact: mary.reichelderfer@jrhc.org
- b. Description: Offer brief, patient-directed spiritual care conversations (active listening, prayer, encouragement) for holistic caring.

3. Vive Shelter Volunteering

- a. Contact: mary.reichelderfer@jrhc.org
- b. Current Positions Available:
 - i. Working with Children:
 1. Children's English Class Assistant
 2. Birthday Party Crew
 3. Children's Playroom Supervisor
 4. Children's Program Support
 - ii. General Volunteering:
 1. Saturday Kitchen Volunteer
 2. Legal Intake Volunteer
 3. Housekeeping Assistant



Catholic Charities

Immigration and Refugee Assistance Program (IRAP) Volunteering

Website: <https://ccwny.org/get-involved/>

Contact: (716) 218-1450, ext. 2006 to request an application

Types of IRAP Volunteer Programs

1. **Employment Volunteer:**
 - a. Helps update refugee employer database. This position involves calling employers to confirm updated information. Volunteers are needed approximately 20 hours per week.
2. **English Language Learners (ELL):**
 - a. Provides English language tutoring and conversation practice for newly arrived refugees, as well as helps clients read through paperwork or instructional materials. This is a remote opportunity through WhatsApp or other secure video chat applications. Volunteers are needed approximately 6 to 10 hours per week.
3. **Drivers:**
 - a. Transports newly arrived refugees to the grocery store, pharmacy and appointments. A clean NYS driver's license and compliance with traffic laws are required. Volunteers are needed approximately 2 to 6 hours per week.
4. **Transportation Guide:**
 - a. Meets with newly arrived refugees to help them learn how to use public transportation, including how to read bus schedules, route maps, and buy and use bus tickets. Experience with using Buffalo public transit is preferred. Volunteers are needed approximately 2 to 6 hours per week.
5. **Delivering Donations for Home Set-Up:**
 - a. Assists the donations coordinator and case managers with setting up refugee apartments before their arrival, and helps with donation pickups from the community. Volunteers must be able to comfortably help lift/move furniture.
6. **Preferred Communities Mentor:**
 - a. Helps newly arrived refugees acclimate to their new homes in Buffalo. The Preferred Communities program provides specialized assistance to especially vulnerable refugee groups, including those refugees who have medical and/or mental health challenges. Once matched with a client, mentor and client meet weekly for activities (day trips, library, help setting up their home). Mentors must be willing to travel for activities, submit a background check, and maintain a professional relationship with the client. Mentors are expected to spend a minimum of two hours a week with their clients, and are asked to commit to three months of support with their clients.



Catholic Charities Internships

Contact: info@ccwny.org with the subject “Internship.”

Internships available for college credit:

1. Information Technology – Inventory Management
2. Human Resources – Statistical reporting
3. Accounting/Finance – Report writing
4. Clerical/Administrative – Records Management
5. Public Relations and Communications

Journey’s End

JERS Volunteer Opportunities

Website: <https://www.jersbuffalo.org/volunteer>

Contact: volunteer@jersbuffalo.org

Application Link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1_W1m8I6jZzDKD4KL6VX-1BkSbNkpTBlf3IrhGfnBED0/edit?usp=sharing

Requirements:

1. Orientation for 1.5 hours
2. Background Check
3. 1 hour, online, sexual harassment prevention training course

Types of Volunteer Programs

1. The Refugee School Impact Program (RSIP)

- a. Contact: mLAY@jersbuffalo.org or 716-882-4963 ext. 252
- b. The RSIP is designed to ease the transition of refugee children into the American school system and to empower parents to be effective partners in the education of their children.

2. Home Tutoring

- a. A home tutor visits a refugee at home once a week to teach English (we provide a ‘how-to’ and suggested resources) and to be a welcoming ‘link’ to the Buffalo community. Some of our clients are individuals who cannot easily attend an ESL class outside the home for a variety of reasons. This is a great opportunity for parent/child volunteer duos and for multilingual individuals. Currently, Home Tutoring is being conducted only via Zoom.



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3. Citizenship Tutoring

- a. Citizenship tutors help JERS clients prepare for the U.S. Naturalization Exam, which is primarily oral and administered only in English - no interpreters allowed. Clients often want assistance studying for the civics or writing portions of the exam. Free study materials are easily available and we'll guide you every step of the way. Currently, Citizenship Tutoring is being conducted only via Zoom.

4. ESL Classes

- a. An ESL classroom volunteer helps during one of our English as a Second Language classes held on Monday through Thursday from 9am to 12pm. The students are newly-arrived refugee adults working towards gainful employment and self-sufficiency. This is a great opportunity for graduate students and retired teachers.

5. Mobile Food Pantry

- a. Once a month, Journey's End serves as a FeedMore WNY mobile food pantry location, open to anyone, no questions asked. Volunteers assist with setup, food distribution, and cleanup. This is an outdoor opportunity and we welcome volunteers. All helpers must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19.

6. Green Shoots for New Americans Farming on the Brewster Street Farm

- a. Our Brewster Street Farm is managed and staffed by former refugees who earn income from its produce. Volunteers are sometimes needed for tasks such as raised bed maintenance, watering, weeding, hoop house maintenance, end-of-season cleanup, and more.

7. Home Again Program (Groups Only)

- a. The Home Again Program is an opportunity for volunteer groups, including schools, businesses, religious organizations, or just a group of family and friends, to work with Journey's End in setting up and furnishing an apartment for a recently arrived refugee family. Refugee families arrive with little to no resources for establishing homes during their first few months of resettlement. Journey's End relies heavily on donations from the community to provide these families with essential home furnishings, such as tables, lighting, bedding, couches, and other items. Journey's End has found that when a committed group of volunteers work on a set-up project, barren apartments are transformed into cozy homes for newly arrived refugee families. After long and arduous journeys to the United States, a warm and cozy apartment brings a sense of security to families who have left so much behind.

8. Host Your Own Donations and Fundraising Drives

- a. We often need specific items to support our new families, such as toiletries, winter coats, or school supplies. Contact if your company, school, or church is interested in doing a "fun"raiser for Journey's End, or being a sponsor for our WNY Refugee Film Festival!



JERS Internship Opportunities

1. Case Management Internship

- a. Contact: Interested candidates should email a resume and cover letter to volunteer@jersbuffalo.org
- b. Hours: 10-20 hours per week for 3 months. Hours available between 9-5 M-F.
- c. Description: The Case Management Intern will work with a Journey's End Case Manager to assist in the provision of a number of services to refugee clients, gaining one-on-one experience with refugees from a variety of countries. The intern will learn how to interact with a myriad of different organizations and will deepen their understanding of the issues facing newly-arrived refugees. This internship is ideal for someone interested in the fields of Social Work, International Studies, Social Justice, or Anthropology.

2. IT Support Internship

- a. Contact: Interested candidates should email a resume and cover letter to volunteer@jersbuffalo.org
- b. Hours: 10 hours per week for 3 months. Hours available between 9-5 M-F.
- c. Description: The intern will work 10 hours per week under the supervision of the Grants and Data Director but also will work closely with staff from all departments, including our resettlement, legal immigration, employment, and education programs, with the opportunity to learn the ins and outs of a local non-profit organization while supporting the agency behind the scenes.



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<p>UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency</p>	<p>There are more than 21.3 million refugees in the world</p>	<p>86% Of the world's refugees are hosted by developing countries</p>	<p>Top host countries include: 1. Turkey (2.8 mil) 2. Pakistan (1.6 mil) 3. Lebanon (1.1 mil)</p>
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REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT FACTS

Refugee: A person forced to flee their home country to escape persecution, war, or violence.

Resettlement: The careful selection by governments such as the U.S. – for purposes of lawful admission – of vulnerable refugees who can neither return to their home country nor live in safety in neighboring countries.

HOW DO REFUGEES GET RESETTLED?

<p>During standard registration interviews UNHCR flags vulnerable cases for possible resettlement. Refugees cannot apply for resettlement.</p>	<p>UNHCR refers only the most vulnerable cases to host countries for possible resettlement. Refugees cannot pick their country of resettlement.</p>
<p>Only recognized refugees whose life, liberty, safety, health, or other fundamental rights are at risk in the host country are considered for resettlement.</p>	<p>Persons found to have committed serious crimes or who might pose a threat to others would not be referred for resettlement in another country.</p>

Vulnerability categories include:

<p>WOMEN & GIRLS AT RISK</p>	<p>SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE AND/OR TORTURE</p>	<p>FAMILY REUNIFICATION</p>	<p>MEDICAL NEEDS</p>
		<p>CHILDREN AT RISK</p>	

GLOBAL RESETTLEMENT BY THE NUMBERS:

<p>Less than 1% of the world's refugees are ever resettled.</p>	<p>More than 30 countries around the world currently accept refugees for resettlement.</p>	<p>140,000 Refugee resettlement spaces were made available by those governments in 2016</p>	<p>8% of the global refugee population is in need of resettlement</p>
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RESETTLEMENT TO THE UNITED STATES

The United States has an exceptional history of welcoming refugees and is the top resettlement country in the world. Since 1975, the U.S. government has welcomed **over 3 million refugees** for resettlement from all over the world, and these refugees have built new lives and homes in all 50 states.

UNHCR screens and interviews each resettlement candidate. The United States then conducts its own vetting process and the U.S. alone decides whether to accept a refugee for resettlement. The entire process is conducted abroad, can take up to 2 years, and involves:

<p>8 U.S. Federal Government Agencies</p>	<p>6 Different security databases</p>	<p>5 Separate background checks</p>	<p>4 Biometric security checks</p>	<p>3 Separate in-person interviews</p>	<p>2 Inter-agency security checks</p>
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After the U.S. government approves refugees for resettlement, each case is assigned to one of nine NGOs (six of which are faith-based) by the U.S. Department of State. That NGO helps them find work, integrate into their new communities, and adjust to life in the United States.

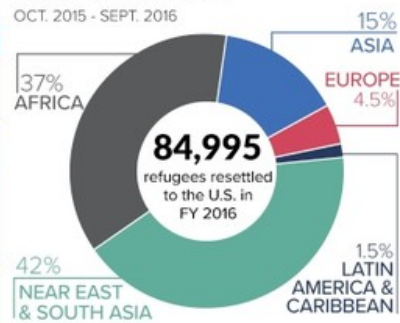
UNHCR refers a vulnerable refugee for resettlement

U.S. government screens the refugee and determines whether it would like to admit them for resettlement

The State Department assigns the case to one of 9 agencies

Church World Service	Episcopal Migration Ministries	US Committee for Refugees & Immigrants	Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops	World Relief Corporation	HIAS	International Rescue Committee
Ethiopian Community Development Council			

REGION OF ORIGIN FOR REFUGEES RESETTLED TO THE UNITED STATES IN FISCAL YEAR 2016



TOP STATES FOR RESETTLEMENT IN FISCAL YEAR 2016

1	CALIFORNIA
2	TEXAS
3	MICHIGAN
4	WASHINGTON
5	NEW YORK
6	ARIZONA
7	ILLINOIS
8	VIRGINIA
9	NEBRASKA
10	TENNESSEE