



## Reach Out to Refugees DIY Project

### **Civic Circle Area:** Donate, Volunteer

*The impact of COVID-19 continues to change our daily lives and routines, but volunteering and civic engagement are just as important as ever. This project can be modified to adhere to social distancing guidelines set by local and national authorities, to do virtually or to do at home and deliver via mail or drop off.*

Since 2003, the United Nations reports that over 1 million refugees have resettled in countries around the world. Help welcome and support refugees in your community and surrounding areas by collecting and distributing supplies, like gently used books, clothing or household items to help ease their transition.

### **Steps:**

1. Contact a nonprofit or religious organization that works with refugees in your community and offer to help. Or ask your school if they are supporting refugee families.
2. Work with the organization or school to identify what items are needed and the best way to get supplies to refugee families that need assistance.
3. Decide which items you will collect (e.g. household items, clothing, toys, etc.)
4. Publicize your collection in a newspaper or through social media, supported with posters and flyers.
5. Explain why you are collecting the items.
6. Gather and sort through the items you've collected.
7. Discard items that are torn or dirty.
8. Write letters or notes welcoming the families to your community to include with your donation.
9. Work with the organization to distribute the items you've collected. You can also consider inviting families to a meal or community event to further welcome them to the community. (Remember to be respectful of their privacy!)

### **Reflection Questions:**

- How might you feel if you had to flee your home? If you had to leave your home immediately, what three items would you take and why? Remember that what you take you must carry.
- Name two or three things you have in common with the refugees you helped.
- What other ways might you welcome refugees to your community?