

GRANITE EDUCATION FOUNDATION



The Utah Refugee Center and the Granite Education Foundation have teamed up to support refugees in our community.

What is a refugee?

A **refugee** is a person who was forced to flee his or her country and is unable to return due to persecution based on religion, race, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. Most refugees are women and children. There are nearly **20,000,000 refugees in the world.**

Refugees in Utah:

- **70,000** refugees resettled during FY 2014 in the United States,
- **1,100** refugees will resettle in Utah this year.
- **50,000** refugees from 20 countries currently live in Utah.
- Over 153 languages are represented.
- **99%** of the refugees in Utah live in the Salt Lake Valley. Approximately **300** refugees reside in Cache County.
- The Granite School District serves the largest population of refugees in the state.

Refugees face many unique challenges. They have faced difficult conditions while living in refugee camps. Many arrive with limited or no English, education or job skills. They are often under-employed and have a difficult time paying rent and utilities and meeting their families' basic needs.

How can you help?

Engage your group in a service project. You can MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

"Nearly three quarters of Mormons say that working to help the poor and needy is an essential part of what it means to be a good Mormon."

Projects:

Eagle Scout Projects:

We strive to build individual character through a customized Eagle Scout project. Each Eagle Scout project organizer will be receive assistance through project development to enhance not only their lives, but the refugees in which we serve. The most effective and engaging Eagle Scout projects enhance the talents that the scout already possesses. We help coordinate and develop the ideas for a successful project for your scouts. Eagle Scout project seekers are welcome year round.

Relief Society Projects:

- Quilts, sewing
- Donation drives, assembling kits
 - Cleaning kits
 - Hygiene kits
 - o Dental Hygiene kits
 - Coat and clothing donations
 - Mentoring refugees
- Hosting a social event
- Providing meals to needy refugee families
- Holiday outreach events-guest speakers

Youth Projects:

- Hosting a social event
- Guest speakers-educating youth
- Donation drives
- Custom projects

Ward/Stake Projects:

- Home makeovers
- Coat, hat and glove drive
- Food drive
- Diaper and wipe drive
- Host a social event
- Holiday outreach events-guest speakers
- Custom projects

***Live outside of the greater Salt Lake area? We can coordinate donation delivery.

Looking to attend a community event?

Support the Granite Education Foundation and the Utah Refugee Center by attending and volunteering for our cultural festival "globelocal." A festival to promote local refugee culture and awareness.

Date: February 12, 2016.

Location and details to follow.

For more information, contact Deb Coffey at 385-646-4483 or 801-541-6240. <u>dcoffey@utahrefugee.org</u>, <u>dccoffey@graniteschools.org</u> or <u>granitekids.org</u>