WHAT IS BRIDGE?

Bridge is a nonprofit organization that provides front line case management services for refugees and asylum seekers that relocate from their country of origin to East Tennessee.

Our volunteers and staff treat every unique client with respect and work tirelessly to help them achieve their specific goals.

Over the course of five years, we strive to see each of our clients develop economic stability and form close social ties within the community.

"Children of bantu Refugees" (CC BY 2.0) by MelvinBaker

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BRIDGE

BRIDGE REFUGEE SERVICES INC.

FROM DESPAIR TO DIGNITY

WELCOMING A STRANGER AMONG US

"Chattanooga" (CC BY 2.0) Photo by Jeff Gunn

WHAT IS A REFUGEE?

ref·u·gee

/ˌrefyo͝oˈjē/

A refugee is a person who has been forced to leave their country because of violence, warfare, famine, or persecution. Most likely, they cannot return to their home.

A refugee is NOT any one type of person. Refugees may come from any number of countries, ethnic or religious backgrounds, or education level. Refugees are as diverse as those already living in our community.

FACTS

- An unprecedented **65.3 million** people around the world have been forced from home. Among them are nearly **21.3 million** refugees, over half of whom are under the age of 18

- There are also **10 million** stateless people who have been denied a nationally and access to basic rights such as education,healthcare, employment and freedom of movement

CHATTANOOGA AND REFUGEES

CHATTANOOGA IS A GROWING, ENERGETIC, AND NOTORIOUSLY WELCOMING CITY. AS OUR CITY GROWS WITH SMALL BUSINESSES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND CULTURE, WELCOMING REFUGEES OFFERS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO TO EXTEND OUR SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY AND WEAVE THEM INTO OUR INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY.

"Syrian children in camp" (CC BY 2.0) by FreedomHouse

"Serious Girl" (CC BY 2.0) by Steve Gumaer

HOW CAN I VOLUNTEER?

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

- English as a second language Instruction
- Transportation Services
- Assistance with Housing

BRIDGE REFUGEE SERVICES GLADLY ACCEPTS DONATIONS OF THE FOLLOWING:

New or Used Furniture
- Used furniture must be lightly worn and fully functional

Household Items
- Cookware, cleaning supplies, bedsheets, etc.

Coats for Winter

Vehicles
- No mechanical issues and required to pass emission test

Money
- Accessible through Bridge website

"Ghoussoon Family from Salam" (CC BY-SA 4.0) by Mohabk