



# How to Get Involved

## with Jesuit Refugee Service/USA

**If you are a student, parishioner, or simply a person who wants to assist forcibly displaced individuals, there are several ways you can help within your local community.**

### 1) Organize

JRS Action Teams are groups across the U.S. that play an active role in collaborating with JRS/USA in raising awareness about refugees and forcibly displaced people, advocating for their rights, and promoting fundraising for programs that support them around the world.

- Start a JRS Refugee Action Team in your own community. Check out our toolkit at [www.jrsusa.org/resource/refugee-action-team-toolkit](http://www.jrsusa.org/resource/refugee-action-team-toolkit) for more details.

### 2) Raise Awareness

**An essential part of our work is raising awareness of the hardships that refugees face. You can help us do this by:**

- Writing an “Any Refugee” postcard and sending it to the JRS/USA office, where it will be sent to refugee children enrolled in JRS programs around the world. Go to [www.jrsusa.org/any-refugee](http://www.jrsusa.org/any-refugee) for more information.
- Promoting a positive understanding of refugees and other displaced people through social media. **Tag @jrsusa.**
- Including prayers for forcibly displaced people in your religious services. Please see our website for resources: [www.jrsusa.org/resources](http://www.jrsusa.org/resources)
- Hosting a “Walk a Mile in My Shoes” refugee simulation. This simulation is a structured event in which members of your community assume the role of refugees by walking through seven stations (entry/border station, shelter station, food station, water station, medical/health station, education station, and advocacy station).

Download our toolkit at:

[www.jrsusa.org/story/usa-walk-a-mile-in-a-refugees-shoes](http://www.jrsusa.org/story/usa-walk-a-mile-in-a-refugees-shoes)

### 3) Advocate

**You can advocate for policies that are welcoming to displaced people in the U.S. by:**

- Participating in JRS/USA’s Advocacy Day, a day in which JRS supporters come together to advocate for the rights of refugees on Capitol Hill.
- Signing up for action alerts at [www.jrsusa.org/take-action/jrs-advocates](http://www.jrsusa.org/take-action/jrs-advocates). *Use one of the action alerts to organize a petition drive!*
- Scheduling an in-district lobby visit. Please reach out to us as you strategize and we will provide you with instructions and talking points.

### 4) Fundraise

**Jesuit Refugee Service/USA relies on donations and, for our work, a little goes a long way. You can help by:**

- Hosting an event in your community to promote JRS’s programs  
*Ex. “free dress days” at your school, dinner parties, auctions, dance-a-thons, charity basketball games, and more!*
- Setting up a personal fundraising page through JRS/USA and sharing it with members in your community. Please reach out to us to help you get started!
- Making an individual donation at [www.jrsusa.org/donate](http://www.jrsusa.org/donate)

**For more information or help, feel free to contact our Outreach and Advocacy Coordinator, Josh Utter, at [joshua.utter@jrsusa.org](mailto:joshua.utter@jrsusa.org) or 202.629.5929.**

**Jesuit Refugee Service/USA**

(JRS/USA) is an international organization dedicated to serving refugees and other forcibly displaced people. Our mission is to accompany, serve, and advocate. JRS meets refugees regardless of location, race, ethnic origin, and religion and provides them with services that are needed to restore their dignity and build their new lives.

## January 2020 – #DoIThing Campaign

No matter where you live there are ways that you can respond to today's refugee crisis. Doing just one thing in your community can help refugees and migrants. Share how you **#DoIThing**.

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## February 16 - March 2, 2020 – JRS Speakers Tour featuring Danielle Vella

Danielle Vella, director of the International Reconciliation Program for JRS, will be touring across the U.S. to promote her new book entitled, "Dying to Live: Stories from Refugees on the Road to Freedom." Learn more about the book and tour at [www.jrsusa.org/dyingtolive](http://www.jrsusa.org/dyingtolive)

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## February 26 - April 9, 2020 – The Season of Lent

A season to accompany, serve, and advocate on behalf of refugees through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

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## April 2020 – Advocacy Day

Join JRS/USA in advocating for refugees and forced migrants in meetings with legislators on Capitol Hill.

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## June 20, 2020 – World Refugee Day

World Refugee Day was first commemorated by the UN in 2001. On this day, people around the world celebrate the achievements and resilience of refugees and the displaced.

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## August - September 2020 – Back to School Campaign

The fundamental right of children to access an education is most at risk during emergencies. Join JRS/USA in building awareness, fundraising, and advocacy for programs centered on the right of refugees to quality education.

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## September 29, 2020 – World Day of Migrants & Refugees

Each year the Vatican designates a World Day of Migrants & Refugees to recognize the plight of the displaced around the world. Celebrate this day in your community!

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## November 14, 2020 – JRS Day & JRS's 40th Anniversary

Help us to commemorate JRS's 40th Anniversary by participating in JRS Day! To learn more about JRS Day, please contact JRS/USA at [outreach@jrsusa.org](mailto:outreach@jrsusa.org) or 202-629-5929.

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## December 1 - December 24, 2020 – The Season of Advent

Join JRS/USA on a journey as we accompany refugees and migrants through prayer during the Advent season