



Helping Unaccompanied Refugee Youth

How can I help unaccompanied refugee children and youth?

Observe and Engage: Look around your neighborhood to see who the refugees are. In your community, connect with others who are serving refugees and learn about the situation for unaccompanied refugee/asylum-seeking children and youth. Ask God to reveal what needs you can assist with. Then volunteer or gather others together to serve needs that are not currently being met.

Start a Program at Your Church: After you've assessed the situation in your community, ask God to reveal how you might engage your church in helping unaccompanied refugee/asylum-seeking children and youth. Consider addressing needs in ways that build relationship. For example, rather than handing out food, invite refugee youth to join a weekly meal with your church members. And find ways to collaborate for greater impact, such as:

- Connect with organizations in your community that are helping refugee children and youth, and ask how your church can help them.
- Partner with other churches in your community to see how together you can meet larger needs, i.e. shelter, education, language, etc.
- Build relationships with government shelters where refugee and asylum-seeking children are housed to build relationships of trust that will enable you to visit with/run programs for the youth there.
- Connect with foster care organizations or the local child protection and/or immigration authorities to see what the opportunities are for your church members to provide homes for unaccompanied children and youth.

Open your Home: While the process varies by country, there are often opportunities for families to offer a room in their home to an unaccompanied refugee/asylum-seeking youth. A home setting can be a healing environment for these youth and you can help them to rebuild their lives, re-engage in their education and start to have dreams for their future again. Contact your local foster care agency, child protection services, or the immigration authorities to learn about programs in your country.

Join the Mobilised for Unaccompanied Minors (MUM) Network: This network connects Christian organizations, individuals and churches across Europe to share learnings, develop resources, raise awareness, and pray for one another as we build friendships with and care for unaccompanied children and youth in our communities. You can join monthly calls, receive updates via email and participate in the Facebook group. Complete the [Contact form](#) for more information.

Become an Advocate: Independently or through an existing campaign, e.g. The Refugee Campaign www.eearefugees.org, raise awareness and motivate engagement with unaccompanied refugee children by sharing information and stories of hope with Christians throughout Europe. Leverage your social media community and ask your friends and your Church to leverage theirs. The goal is to provide ways to advocate for these youth within each country and connect others with ways to give and serve.

Pray: As prayer is a powerful tool that God has given us, this is an excellent way to intercede spiritually on behalf of unaccompanied refugee and asylum-seeking children and youth. Pray for them daily and/or consider allotting a day/time each week to specifically pray for refugee children and youth. Join others in the [9:36 Prayer Initiative](#) or create a prayer group at your church.