

**Topic:** Program Management/Outreach  
(Original plan developed by April 2010 Community Orientation Skills Development Workshop participants in Ft. Wayne, IN, and further developed by the Cultural Orientation Resource Center)

**Activity:** Cultural Exchange

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<b>Objective</b>	Community members will better understand the different refugee experiences represented locally and understand the advantages refugees bring to communities.
<b>Lesson Time</b>	1½ hour meetings, offered to different participants on a regular basis (monthly is suggested)
<b>Materials</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PowerPoint presentation with visuals of what overseas refugee settings look like (keeping in mind that settings can be very diverse)</li><li>• Laptop, projector and screen</li><li>• Panel of refugees</li><li>• Evaluation surveys</li><li>• Visual aids (such as the free posters on the Web site of the USA for the United Nations Refugee Agency's Teacher's Corner: <a href="http://www.unrefugees.org/site/c.lfIQKSOWFqG/b.4803803/k.CDEB/Posters.htm">http://www.unrefugees.org/site/c.lfIQKSOWFqG/b.4803803/k.CDEB/Posters.htm</a>)</li></ul>
<b>Practice</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Introduction: provide a brief history of the relevant refugee-producing circumstances of the country or countries in question. Explain what a refugee is, why refugees are in the United States and in the host community, and what refugees bring to communities. Share concrete examples such as those on the UN Refugee Agency posters. Show the PowerPoint slideshow to provide visuals.</li><li>2. Have a refugee panel to discuss living in exile, sharing brief anecdotal stories.</li><li>3. Separate participants into small group, roundtable discussions. Have one or more refugees join each group to help the community understand what life is like as a refugee overseas, and how refugees may view the opportunities and challenges of resettlement.</li><li>4. Gather again as a large group and have participants discuss how, as a community, we can get the best out of our diverse community. (The group may choose to talk about ways to assist others, and/or about ways refugees can and do contribute to the community. Guide the discussion to address the topic you feel is most relevant or urgent to that particular group of participants.)</li><li>5. Discuss volunteer opportunities for all members of the community. Discuss how volunteers can get involved in helping refugees in their community and how refugees can also contribute, whether within the refugee community or the community at large.</li></ol>
<b>Evaluation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have participants complete surveys at the end of the session with 2-3 questions such as<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. What can refugees bring to your community?</li><li>b. In what ways can you assist refugees in coming to your community?</li><li>c. What is one important thing you learned during this session?</li></ol></li><li>• Contact local agencies to see if anyone has signed up to volunteer following session.</li></ul>

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**Note**

1. You may need to experiment with the date and time of sessions to meet the needs and availability of community members.

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