



DIY: OUTREACH

Organization: Oasis International

Project: Good Neighbor Initiative

IMPACT

A refugee is a person fleeing persecution based on their race, nationality, religion, social group, or political stance. Often, they flee war, torture, and traumatic situations and then spend at least two years in an application process to relocate. Statistics show that once they get to St. Louis, less than 10% of refugees will make an American friend. Imagine coming to a country with an unfamiliar language and culture after a horrifying experience and not having even one friendly face to welcome you, guide you, love on you!

Through the Good Neighbor Initiative, in partnership with [Oasis International](#), you'll build a friendship with a refugee family new to St. Louis. Not only will you be a much needed friend, but we're willing to bet your own life will change in ways you never imagined! The commitment for this initiative is once a month for one year, but hopefully, you'll build a friendship that lasts forever!

INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1: In order to understand the impact, we first need to understand the need. Read more about refugees in the United States [here](#), and then follow the link above to read about how Oasis International serves our new neighbors.

Step 2: Now that we've looked at the need, [let's see what the Bible says](#).

Step 3: Fill out [this application](#) online. Denise will be in touch with you to schedule your training. Email outreach@thecrossing.church if you need help with your reference form.

Step 4: Register your participation [HERE](#) so we can measure the collective impact on our city.

Step 5: Once you have been paired with an individual or family, spend some time learning about the country and culture of your family. Seek to honor their culture while also introducing them to American culture. Spend some time praying for your friendship.

FUN IDEAS

- While honoring their food traditions, introduce your new friends to some fun St. Louis food or to your own family tradition.
- Take pictures and post to social media using #forthelou. Please make sure to get permission before posting. **Pictures on the internet can sometimes be a safety risk for some refugees.**