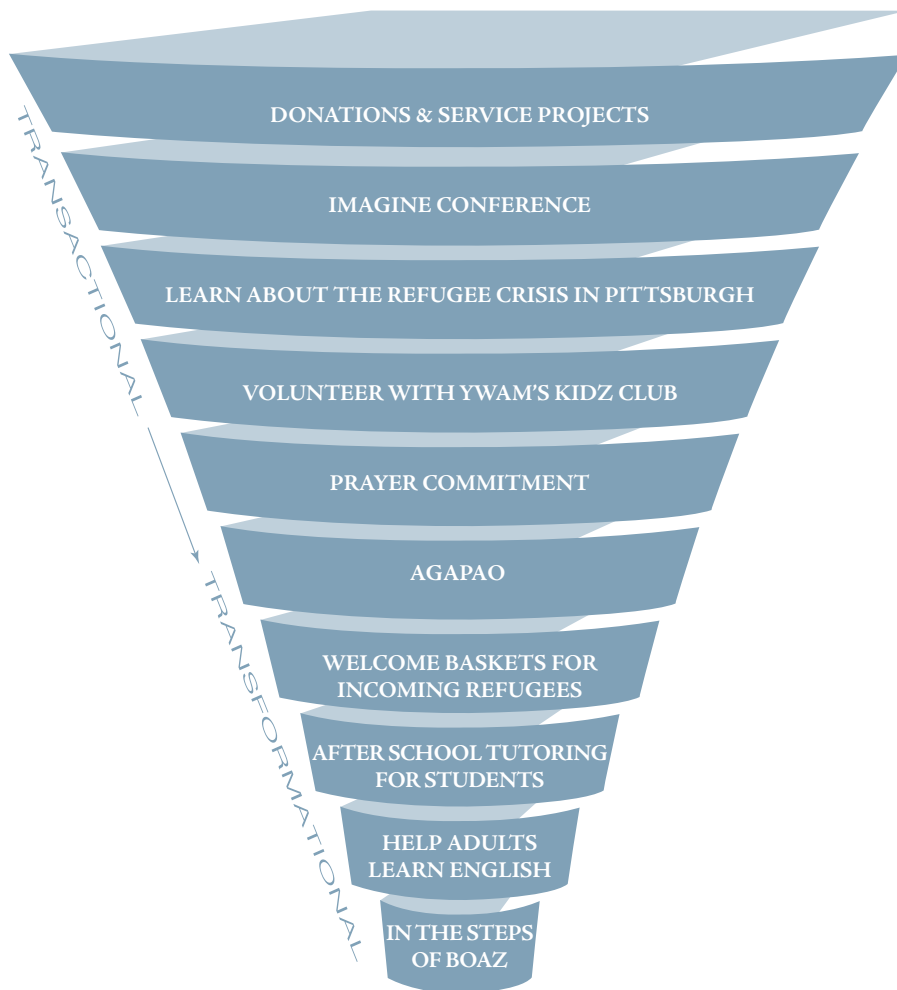


## REFUGEE MINISTRY



**Prayer Needs:** Around the world, war and persecution have forced millions from their homes to seek refuge in foreign lands. Several thousand of these individuals have found new homes in the Pittsburgh area. Many of these refugees arrive with almost no possessions, few connections, and limited English language skills.

- Pray for these refugees as they work to make new lives for their families far from home.
- Pray for North Way members partnering with local ministries serving refugees.
- Pray about how your group can get involved in helping this vulnerable population.

### Descriptions of Volunteer Opportunities:

**Donations & Service Projects** – *Ongoing and seasonal needs* – Donate household items and clothing through partner organizations. Opportunities include North Way's annual Warm Coat/New Toy drive and donating furniture for incoming families. Opportunities often arise for groups or individuals to participate in specific service projects involving refugees. These include house repairs and renovation, community improvement, and other projects.

**Imagine Conference** – [www.imagineconferencepgh.com](http://www.imagineconferencepgh.com) – *Annual event* – Imagine what would happen if followers of Jesus took a stand for the hungry, the hurting, and the fatherless. The Imagine Conference brings to life what it looks like to serve and love our neighbors near and far through inspiring speakers, educational breakout, and practical ways to engage in caring for the fatherless, the refugee, single moms, and trafficking victims.

**Learn about the Refugee Crisis in Pittsburgh** – *Ongoing opportunity* – The first step in engaging your group into refugee ministry may be learning more about the current refugee crisis. One great way to do this is to read *Seeking Refuge* by Bauman and Soerens.

**Volunteer with YWAM's Kidz Club** – *One-time or occasional need* – Every Saturday, YWAM Pittsburgh holds a Kidz Club for the children of the refugee families living in the Prospect Park neighborhood. While the YWAM staff leads these events, small groups can serve as volunteers to assist in running the weekly programs. Tasks for volunteers may include performing a skit, illustrating

the Bible lesson of the day, planning and participating in games, assisting with crafts, serving food to the children, or cleaning up at the end of the event.

**Agapao – Ongoing opportunities** – Plans are being made for the new Agapao Ministry Center in Prospect Park that will serve local refugee populations in a variety of ways. They are currently raising funds to build a facility and you can give at [www.seapc.org](http://www.seapc.org). This summer your group can help to clear the land where the Ministry Center will be built. Architects, contractors, landscapers, excavators, and tree service professionals are needed who will donate their services to see this vision become a reality! More serving ops coming soon!

**Welcome Baskets for Incoming Refugees** – *Ongoing opportunity* – Pending reopening of the U.S. government's refugee resettlement program, groups can help with collecting and organizing items and creating welcome baskets for incoming refugees. Volunteers may deliver the baskets to the newly arrived refugees where they can begin a relationship with them.

**After School Tutoring for Students** – *Weekly commitment* – Changing countries, languages, and schools all at once can be very difficult for the children of refugees. There is an opportunity to step into an area of need by supporting their education through basic homework support. Volunteers can meet with students at the YWAM building in Carrick, in their homes, or, eventually, at the Agapao Ministry Center.

**Help Adult Refugees Learn English** – *Weekly commitment* – While some refugees have been taught limited English in schools or refugee camps, many do not speak any English. However, most of the refugees have a great desire to learn English. Knowing our native language helps them to get training, better jobs, and navigate their new environment more successfully. A one-time, four-hour training is offered monthly to prepare you to step into this area of need. Once trained, we suggest a commitment of roughly 2 hours per week for 6 or 12 months.

**In the Steps of Boaz** – *Weekly commitment* – This group of Christians seeks to meet practical needs and develop relationships with the Somali-Bantu population of Pittsburgh. A required training is run twice a year to integrate new group members. They gather weekly for support and fellowship and also spend time interacting with and supporting the development of this refugee community.

**Contact Info:** Adam Gebhardt: [contact@adamgebhardt.com](mailto:contact@adamgebhardt.com) | 412-860-7806  
Jennifer Gebhardt: [jenni@adamgebhardt.com](mailto:jenni@adamgebhardt.com) | 717-552-9829