

refugee friendship network

accompaniment • advocacy • empowerment

“I would like to ask you all to see a ray of hope as well in the eyes and hearts of refugees and of those who have been forcibly displaced. A hope that is expressed in expectations for the future, in the desire for friendship, in the wish to participate in the host society also through learning the language, access to employment and the education of children. I admire the courage of those who hope to be able gradually to resume a normal life, waiting for joy and love to return to brighten their existence. We can and must all nourish this hope!”

— POPE FRANCIS

Imagine trying to resettle in a foreign country – a place where you don’t know the language, traditions or ways of life. With few resources at hand, you need to find a place to live, a school for your children, a way to put food on the table and a way to navigate through a totally unfamiliar world.

Imagine, now, the impact you can have by accompanying a refugee or refugee family through this journey.

The Scranton Refugee Friendship Network (SRFN) invites faculty and staff members of The University of Scranton who reside in the Scranton area to pair with refugee families to accompany and advocate for them with the goal of empowering refugees to transition to a new life in our region.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE! HERE’S HOW:

- Attend an information session in March, where we’ll provide more information about the Scranton Refugee Friendship Network and how you can get involved.
- If, after learning more about SRFN, you are interested in participating in the program, volunteer with others to be paired with a person or family.
- Over a four-month period, in collaboration with Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton, serve as a resource, friend and advocate for the refugee(s) with whom you’ve been partnered.

“...refugees must not only be accepted, but also integrated.” — POPE FRANCIS

This is a project of The University of Scranton Refugee Crisis Committee.
To sign up as a volunteer, contact the Jesuit Center at ryan.sheehan@scranton.edu.