

Rutgers Presbyterian Church Refugee Ministry

The Refugee Task Force of Rutgers Presbyterian Church (now The New Americans Committee) began work in the Fall of 2015 to plan how the church community could help to address the refugee crisis. Since then, they have supported 27 people and continue to partner with other organizations doing the work of justice amongst the refugee, asylee, and asylum-seeking community.

Contact information:

Address : 236 W. 73rd St. New York, NY 10023

Phone #: 212.877.8227

Main email: Dave Mammen - dmammen@rutgerschurch.org

Website: <https://www.rutgerschurch.org/advocacy/>

Volunteer Opportunities:

Be a tutor at Rutgers Presbyterian Church.

Contact Dave Mammen at dmammen@rutgerschurch.org

- Sundays at 12:30 – 3 pm, read with English language learners (children and adults).
- Sundays from 1 – 2:15 pm, read and write with a 10th grader.
- Occasionally from late January through April, be an academic coach with a grad student in international affairs, for classes on Economic Development and South Asia political and economic affairs.
- Occasionally, tutor adults taking the GED and/or community college classes in reading, writing, and math.

Attend a Dinner with Mayada and Friends.

Contact Dave Mammen at dmammen@rutgerschurch.org

Rutgers Presbyterian Church sponsored Mayada Anjari and her family. She recently published the cookbook, *The Bread and Salt Between Us: Recipes and Stories from a Syrian Refugee Kitchen*. Support her further by attending one of her meals.

- Friday, March 20 at Society for the Advancement of Judaism
- Friday, April 24 at Temple Israel

Help the Refugee Employment Partnership (REP).

www.refugeeemployment.org

Contact David Coleman at dcoleman@refugeeemployment.org

- If you have an employer who might have job openings, or know of one, please introduce them to REP.
- If you are able to serve as a volunteer, they will be onboarding new mentors in the coming months.

Become a Partner Family with the New Neighborhood Partnership.

<https://www.newneighborsclothingpartnership.com>

Contact Shoshana Akabas at newneighborspartnership@gmail.com

- New Neighbors Clothing Partnership matches newly-arrived refugee families with local NYC families who have slightly older kids and can provide ongoing hand-me-downs from their own kids for 2 – 3 years.

First Friends of New Jersey and New York

First Friends of NJ and NY upholds the inherent dignity and humanity of detained immigrants and asylum seekers. We promote compassion and hope through volunteer visitation, resettlement and advocacy.

Contact information

Address: 53 So. Hackensack Ave. Kearny, NJ 07032
Phone #: 908.965.0455
Main email: info@firstfriendsnjny.org
Website: www.firstfriendsnjny.org

In-person Volunteer Opportunities

If someone wants to visit through First Friends, or offer post-release services, they will need to attend a 2-hour workshop and undergo a background check. Afterwards, the volunteers will be able to start visiting.

Visitor: Break up the isolation and monotony of someone in detention by becoming a visitor. We make personal contact with detainees to assure them that their dignity is respected and to facilitate a channel for contacting those outside of the detention system. Visit immigrant detainees at the Elizabeth Detention Center (EDC), the Hudson County Correctional Center (HCCC), the Bergen County Jail (BCJ) and at Essex County Correctional Center-Delaney Hall (DH). Training and access for visiting are provided by First Friends. Hundreds of detainees are requesting visits because they have no one - be a first friend to one of them today! Urgent need for Spanish speakers.

Drivers: Drivers are needed to accompany the released individuals to appointments, to access refugee resettlement benefits, apply for social services, social security card, etc.

Other Volunteer Opportunities

Office Help: Bilingual Spanish speaker needed to assist in the office to answer calls coming from immigration detention, entering data in the system, etc.

Pen-Pal: We need volunteers who can write to detainees regularly. This is a great opportunity for those who are house-bound or who are not able to visit the detention centers.

Stamp Out Despair: Stamp Out Despair is our semi-annual collection of writing materials for detainees - paper, envelopes, stamps, and when funds permit, phone cards - so they can keep in touch with family members. We need donations, as well as help to pack folders of materials.

Phone Cards: Provide phone cards that are used by First Friends to allow detainees to call family members or attorneys.