

Welcoming Ideas and Actions for the St. Louis Region

You can do this alone:

1. Support these immigrant businesses and thank the owners:

http://www.iistl.org/pdf/immigrant_businesses.pdf

2. Have coffee with a foreign born neighbor or co-worker, invite a speaker to your school or congregation or neighborhood association to talk about a different culture in our community.

3. Write a welcome note or card to refugee students and families at The Nahed Chapman Academy where the 500 refugee students attend school and the International Institute. As they receive them, these groups will post the cards on a Welcome Wall.

Address for Nahed Chapman New American Academy:

Nahed Chapman New American Academy

St. Louis Public Schools

1530-1616 S. Grand 63104

International Institute

3401 Arsenal Street

St. Louis, MO 63118

4. Send in a story idea or your short write-up about a foreign-born person you know to publications such as Humans of St. Louis, newspapers, EQ to keep up the positive stories about the value of refugees and immigrants, especially those with different ethnicities from traditional St. Louis heritage.

5. Become a mentor to the International Institute CAIP program adult students (Career Advancement for International Professionals), a 16 hour program for foreign born professionals to learn skills in networking, resume preparation, job interviewing. Especially needed in the Engineering and Health Care fields. Contact Gary Broome at broomeg@iistl.org

6. Tour a house of worship different from yours www.interfaithstl.org

7. Start an in-kind donation drive at your school, workplace, neighborhood, house of worship to gather these for the new refugee families at the International Institute: coats, blankets, or much needed household supplies (fill up plastic buckets?)

8. The YMCA Immigrant Coordinator in St. Louis has produced this welcoming yard sign. If you would like one, Mosaic will pay for it and you can pick it up at our office. Please just let us know.



You can do these with your friends, neighbors, congregation, and/or school:

1. Host a cultural exchange event for foreign-born you know and native born to share culture around a topic such as winter holidays or sports or food. Example: Mosaic Ambassador Maria Briggs did the following in January:



Melting Pot Pot Luck! Bringing together new and old friends, our party of 12 represented 8 countries from 5 continents (Czech Republic, India, Israel, Philippines, Poland, S. Africa, Dominican Republic/Venezuela, and U.S.)! Sharing stories of what brought us to the U.S., what brought us to St. Louis, and what brought us to each other, it was a great experience for not only appreciating our cultural differences, but also what we have to offer our country. At least half our table own our own businesses, contributing not only to the diversity of our region but also the economic growth of our country. We all have much to learn from each other and so many ways to support each other. As an ambassador for the St. Louis Mosaic Project, all it takes is a simple invitation to share a meal. Cheers to a new year and making new friends!

2. If you have a passport night or international breakfast/event, see if you can lead a discussion on getting this done at the district level so all the schools do it to broaden cultural awareness and acceptance.

3. Join three congregations (one each Jewish, Muslim, Christian) already meeting to plan having their families meet refugee families at St. Louis cultural and historical fun places to explore. Congregations are sponsoring the refugee transportation/snacks. First event is the Magic House in February.

4. Your congregation can design a larger project like doing a community quilt or collage that could be done over a few sessions held at the International Institute with congregants and refugees working together on the project.

5. Become a community partner to the Bilingual Migrant Program of the St. Louis Public Schools, which supports English Language Learners representing 55 countries, many of who are refugees. Partners enhance ongoing needs for backpacks and school supplies, hygiene/household items, goods/services/gift cards, volunteer opportunities. Contact Dr. Alla Gonzalez Del Castillo at 314-664-1066

Regional ideas you can join or lead:

1. Amela Kuckovic of Mosaic will work with FoodSpark to plan a multicultural potluck event in March.
2. Talk to your local library about how to get different books into their family reading programs and publicize this for expanding cultural awareness.
3. International Institute has started a [Speaker Bureau](#) and members will each make 3 presentations in 2017 of Institute slides to local groups. Contact Gary Broome at broomeg@iistl.org.
4. Need a Team to decide how to use sports as a connection point for inclusion.
5. Help plan with Mosaic, International Institute or industry associations to consider hosting potlucks for native born and foreign born on a certain topic like "medical careers" or "teaching careers".
6. Mosaic needs someone to help poll all the local universities to see which have local "host family" or "local dinner programs" for international students and which do not. With this info in hand, help those schools who do not have this program get some students invited to local homes for dinner. We have two people who want to lead this and could use help.
7. Mosaic needs someone to lay out what OCA (Asian organization) does in its mentoring program to see how we could expand this with other connections to mentors in other local ethnic chambers. We have one person who wants to lead this insight and could use help.