

# Build a Backpack, Welcome a Refugee

Thank you for your interest in supporting youth and young adults in our Humanitarian Relief Programs. We are seeking in-kind donations to fill backpacks for teens who come to the United States as unaccompanied minors or who are survivors of labor or sex trafficking. These supplies will help make them feel comfortable and welcome as they are starting their new lives.

**Please visit our Amazon Wish List for their current needs. You are also welcome to purchase these items at a different store. You may choose to build backpacks yourself or choose to donate specific items only—the choice is yours!**

**Wish List: <https://amzn.to/3Nx5Ap>**

**This volunteer activity is perfect for individuals, families and groups like congregations, youth groups, and book clubs. Please note that all items must be new in their original packaging.**

As you engage in this collection, recall that your actions connect you to a long Jewish history and moral call to “love the stranger”. As our Torah states:

**The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as one of your citizens; you shall love them as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.**

— Lev 19:34

## For reflection:

- When have you felt like the “stranger” in a situation? What was challenging about that? Who/what helped you feel a deeper sense of belonging in that time?
- Why do you think our Torah calls us not only to aid the stranger, but to act with love? What feels important about the call to love the stranger “as yourself”?



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**Interested in getting started? Have questions?**

Contact [Volunteer Services](#) at [volunteer@jfsseattle.org](mailto:volunteer@jfsseattle.org) or (206) 861-3197.

[jfsseattle.org](http://jfsseattle.org)

The Jewish community understands what it is like to leave one's home and resettle in a foreign land. That historic experience fuels our desire to help refugees and immigrants make a successful transition to self-sufficiency.

## Survivors of Trafficking Program for Youth & Young Adults

We offer trauma-informed, comprehensive case management services for foreign-born survivors of sex and labor trafficking. The goal of this program is to help survivors of human trafficking achieve long-term stability and self-sufficiency as well as immigration relief. The majority of those with whom we work have experienced labor trafficking in industries including agriculture, restaurants, domestic servitude and housecleaning.

### Facts & Figures:

Main countries of origin include Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Mexico

23 teen clients have been enrolled in the program since June 2021

Of these clients, 70% are between the ages of 16-18

82% are survivors of labor trafficking

## Unaccompanied Minors Program

We provide evidence-based, culturally and linguistically appropriate case management services to children who entered the United States without the protection of an adult. The goal of this program is to help youth reunite with a guardian in Washington state and successfully integrate into their new community.

### Facts & Figures:

The main countries of origin include Guatemala, Afghanistan, Honduras, and Mexico

64% of unaccompanied minors are between the ages of 16 and 18 years old

21% are between the ages of 11 and 15 years old

14% are between 1 and 10 years old



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