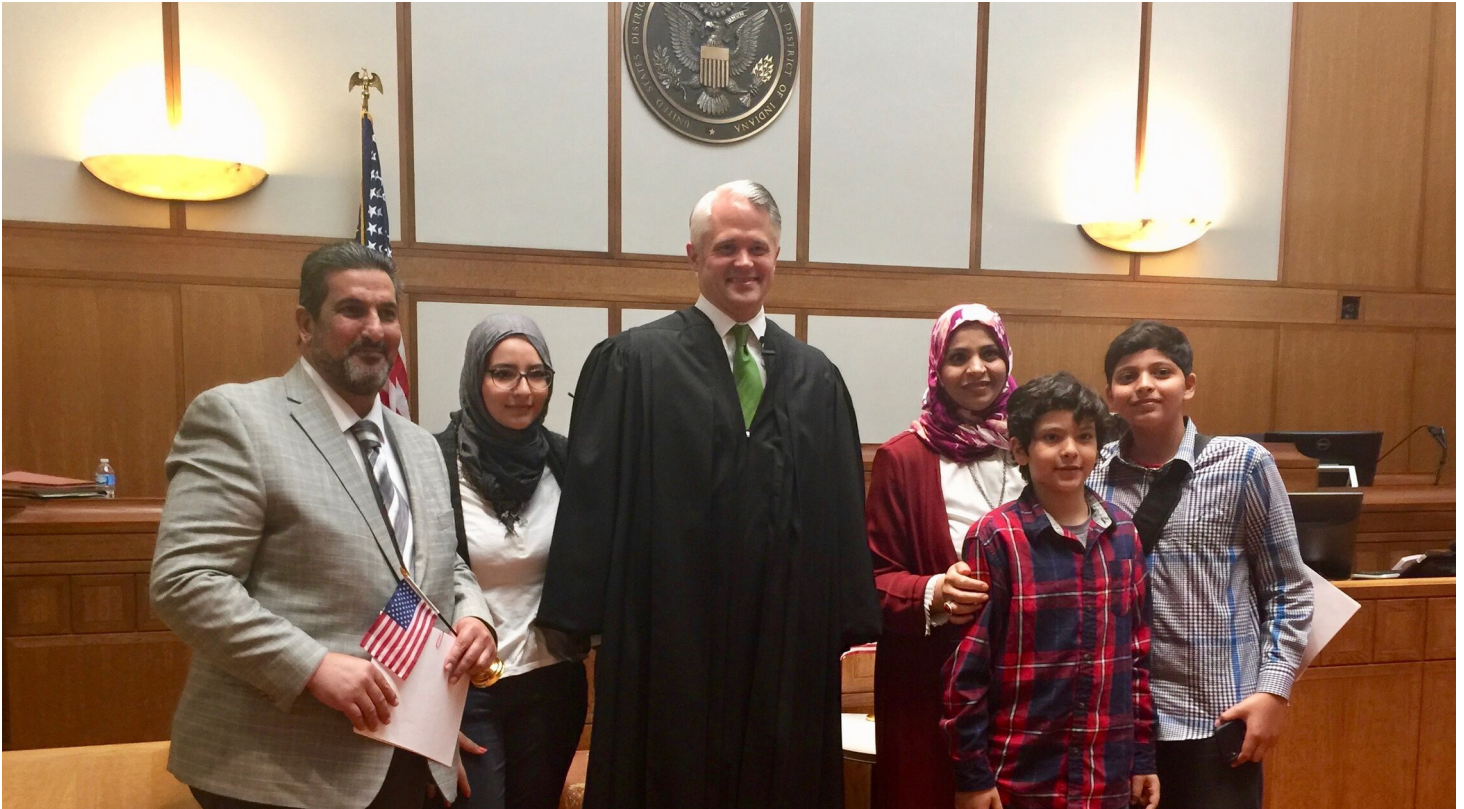


BUILDING PEACEFUL BRIDGES

"Bridging the hearts and minds of all people"



Above: May 10, 2019 U.S. Citizenship Swearing in Ceremony

We Met Hope Along the Way

It was a seven-year journey from Iraq to Jordan to the USA for Bushra, Zeyad and their children. They arrived in Chicago in 2014 (from sand to snow) and stayed focused on their desire to be U.S. Citizens. They worked and studied and on May 10, 2019 they became citizens of America. They left a war-torn Iraq and Baghdad, their home, devastated. Zeyad was a successful civil engineer running his own company providing him the skills and knowledge to work towards re-building Baghdad. However, they were forced to flee to Jordan and next to the United States. Upon their arrival to Chicago, the

family had assistance from the U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program. They were provided immediate assistance of an apartment, food, medical, and schooling for the children. After help from the U.S. Resettlement Program ended, ICNA Relief Chicago offered assistance –food, friendship, and rent support. Building Peaceful Bridges (BPB) partners with ICNA Relief Chicago and was asked to mentor and sponsor this family two years ago. What a gift it has been for all families involved. BPB visits twice a month assisting in integrating them into their town in Indiana. BPB supports a variety of family needs, children's schooling, and cultural understanding. The family is thriving and we will keep you updated on their progress.

CALENDAR

Annual Fall Event

Saturday, October 26
6:30pm - 10:30pm

Upcoming Luncheon Meetings

October 21
November 18
December 16
Mondays from Noon - 2pm

*Please visit our website
or send an email for
more details*

Dear Bridge Builders,

As the warm days of Summer turn to the crisp days of Fall, Building Peaceful Bridges (BPB) continues its mission of fostering multicultural relationships by assisting in the integration of refugees into American culture and educating communities on the challenges facing refugee populations through their stories.

Daily, people ask us “What does BPB do?” “How do I help?” We say “Become a Bridge Builder – we and they need your help.”

Join Kerry, Marcia and Ahlam in mentoring and sponsoring a refugee family. Provide the hope and “the how to navigate America” through weekly/monthly interaction with a refugee family. Learn about their country and culture and what they want to achieve and “give back” in the U.S.A.

Host a Book Club discussion similar to Linda’s in order for our communities to understand refugee life and dreams. Join Ahlam at a speaking event sharing her refugee story.

Participate at a BPB cultural program. Take Joanne’s lead and host a BPB Speaker Event in your city.

Work with Sarah to pick-up from and/or deliver to families in Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin. Send an email “blast” to neighborhood boards asking for seasonal clothing for refugee families. Join us monthly at Lori’s for an educational luncheon and hear refugee stories and “knowledge experts” speak on immigration and refugee programs.

BPB supports Phase II (building relationships) and Phase III (giving back to others) of the integration journey. Our Bridge Builders fill the refugee integration void left by U.S. Refugee Resettlement agencies. Thank you to our donors, volunteers, communities for all their support of “bridging the hearts and minds of all people.”

“If not me, who? If not now, when?”

Lori Consadori Lucchetti

Lori Consadori Lucchetti, President & Co-Founder



Above: Bridge Builders

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

-Margaret Mead

Building Peaceful Bridges is a nonprofit organization supporting people of all faiths whose mission is to foster multicultural relationships by assisting in the integration of refugees into American society and educating communities on the challenges facing refugee populations through their stories.





Above and Below: ICNA and BPB Volunteers with Members of the Community

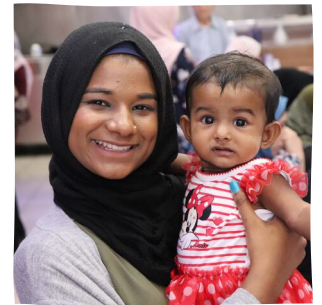
A Mommy and Me Tea in Chicago

Being a new mom is never an easy task and to that end BPB is partnering with ICNA Relief in support of ICNA Relief’s exciting expanding outreach program.

The program will specifically support moms of newborns for up to six weeks following delivery of their infants in such critical areas as providing meals, lactation advice and postpartum depression screening. Additionally, ICNA will assist with translation during medical visits, babysitting and light housework. Announced earlier this summer at a luncheon for participants in the Mommy League project, volunteers aim to establish a support system for refugee mothers suffering from little to no family or community in their new country.

Representatives of both BPB and ICNA Relief explored means of achieving these goals, at their first social/parenting luncheon for 12 new mothers and their children at the Delhi Spice Restaurant on June 22. New moms from Iraq, Syria and Myanmar attended and with two translators (Arabic and Burmese provided by ICNA) the room was abuzz with lively conversation and the occasional fussy baby. Smiles and hugs also paved the way for easy communication.

Representatives from both BPB and ICNA plan to expand their outreach program with additional luncheons, noting the



shared experience of motherhood provides a great tool to cross cultural boundaries and finding common ground.

Ahlam at St. Ambrose

Ahlam's spoke at St. Ambrose Church (pictured right), Crest Hill, IL on May 22. Almost 100 interested individuals from the Joliet North Will-Kendall Deanery communities, who sponsored the event, heard Ahlam speak about her humanitarian work in Iraq, Syria and the United States. She spoke of her friendship with Deborah Campbell (author of "A Disappearance in Damascus"), early life, kidnapping in Iraq, being a refugee and prisoner in Syria, and life in Chicago with her two children. Roqayah, her daughter and a Senior at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, accompanied her to the event. We began the evening with a mass in St. Ambrose Church commemorating women followed by a delicious dinner and Ahlam's speech. "A Disappearance in Damascus" detailing Deborah and Ahlam's friendship and Ahlam's life was available for a \$15 donation to BPB. The Herald News previewed the event in the May 19, 2019 article "My Story is Not a Private One", <https://www.theherald-news.com/lists/2019/05/14/c6008c97ba9d4b83b8170b2a53afa53a/>



"Be the change that you wish to see in the world."
-Mahatma Gandhi

Thank you for supporting the BPB mission!

Choose how you want to support Building Peaceful Bridges – Mentoring, Sponsorship, Speaker, Publicity, Educational, and Donating Items

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