

BUILDING PEACEFUL BRIDGES

"Bridging the hearts and minds of all people"



Clockwise from left:
Fan delivery to Asha,
Grace and Nuhru;
Sunday outing with
Mohammed, Zahra and
Abdullah; Adam and Lori.



BPB Family Update

Building Peaceful Bridges (BPB) continues to meet virtually with the Kadjemba family. Weekly sessions include practicing English and laughing while learning, geography lessons of the USA, Congo and Burundi, and an introduction to the 4th of July with photos and slides.

BPB has Introduced the family to our partners for other services. The ICNA Food Pantry provides necessary food. RefugeeOne is constantly working to identify employment opportunities. BPB has corporate contacts and we will leverage them to address the joblessness challenges.

Our Bridge Builder's Call to Action in July resulted in rental assistance for 5 months. Lifting this housing burden temporarily allows them to begin working and providing for the family.

During our weekly sessions, the BPB Mentoring Team engaged in lighthearted discussions centered around art.

Both Hawa and Grace have artistic abilities. BPB has supplied them with art supplies. They show us their creations during our meetings. Nuhru loves basketball and plays, mask on, in the park.

We are very thankful to Father Joseph for his Swahili translation and to Monique Woel for her French translations. Both have proven invaluable in the BPB Team effort to help assist in the family's integration into America.

Bushra and Zeyad's family continues to thrive in Indiana. Their daughter, Zahra finishes high school this December; their oldest son Abdullah starts high school; the younger son Mohammed starts middle school, and the youngest, Adam begins 3-year-old daycare.

The Personal Financial Training with Bridge Builder Christina is expanding their future housing opportunities. BPB initiated Speech and Accent Training, with Cindy Cole, chicagolandaccentmod.com to improve communication and employment opportunities. A Bridge Builder donated this training to enhance their conversation skills.

CALENDAR

Election Day 2020
Tuesday, November 3

Annual Fall Event
Thursday, November 19
7 pm - 8 pm
Details to Follow

Upcoming Luncheon Meeting

Virtual - December 7
Monday: Noon - 2 pm

Please visit our website
or send an email for
more details

Dear Bridge Builders,

As we head into Fall, the enjoyable days "outside" start to shorten; however, Building Peaceful Bridges (BPB) services are rapidly being sought, especially by the unprecedented times of COVID. We need "volunteers" for our refugee programs, active followers on Social Media, and, expanded virtual platforms leveraged to reach our Bridge Builders and educate interested Americans on the refugee stories.

BPB's Call To Action in July for rental payment for 5 months raised \$6,000 in donations and a first time Matching Grant. Thank you to everyone for your generous support enabling us to provide housing "peace of mind" for the Kadjemba family as they seek employment.

Thank you to Dr. Galya Ben-Arieh, Professor of Political Science at Northwestern University, for her thorough introductory seminar on "U.S. Immigration and Refugee Policy." Our Bridge Builders gleaned knowledge to advocate for stronger refugee government and private sector support. BPB will be partnering with COMPASS, Dr. Ben-Arieh's nonprofit, on a variety of needed refugee services.

BPB's virtual platforms (website, Facebook, Instagram) exist thanks to Kevin Harvey, IT Consultant, Charlie Suse, creator of our Social Media platforms and Roqayah Mohammed, Intern and Social Media Manager. Increased awareness of BPB via

our website and social media enables a stronger network of partners, donors and volunteers.

Our Volunteer Recruitment Program creation is ahead of schedule thanks to Ashley Greene, NextGreatJob, and Sarah Lane-Hill, Volunteer Bridge Builder. VolunteerMatch and LinkedIn will post our volunteer opportunities soon. We look forward to welcoming new Bridge Builders!

Thank you to our donors, volunteers, speakers, and communities for all of their support of "bridging the hearts and minds of all people." These are unprecedented times and our Board and Volunteer Staff are providing the heart and energy to further BPB's impact.

"If not me, who? If not now, when?",

Lori Consadori Lucchetti

Lori Consadori Lucchetti, President & Co-Founder

Thank you Chris Heeter, The Wild Institute, thewildinstitute.com, for an amazing team building evening!



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.





BPB September Virtual Luncheon with speaker Dr. Galya Ben-Arieh

Learning Luncheons

On September 21, BPB was delighted to hear Dr. Galya Ben-Arieh speak about “immigration and refugee policy” at the virtual quarterly luncheon.

Galya Ben-Arieh, J.D., Ph.D., is an international expert in refugee and forced migration studies, and is a professor in the Political Science Department at Northwestern University. As an academic and attorney, she has used her knowledge to broaden understanding of the role of law in settlement and inclusion in host societies, with an emphasis on refugee protection. In 2018 she founded COMPASS – Community Partnerships for Settlement Strategies, a public charity that works to design effective approaches in support of the long-term wellbeing of refugees and asylees.

Professor Ben-Arieh highlighted the 1980 Refugee Act, which established the refugee resettlement program that created asylum protocol and standardized resettlement services. This key piece of legislation laid the groundwork for hundreds of thousands of refugees to safely resettle in the United States. However, Galya explained that many of the program's objectives have not been met. Declines in federal funding for the resettlement program caused refugee resettlement to become a heavier financial load on already stretched state budgets. Additionally, the number of refugees admitted has decreased significantly, resulting in additional funding cuts. Those refugees who are resettled are not given sufficient support to be financially independent and to

successfully integrate into American society. This emphasizes the importance of the work done by organizations like COMPASS, who works to design effective approaches in support of the long-term well-being of refugees in our communities. BPB is pleased to work in partnership with COMPASS on critical issues confronting the refugee community.

www.compasspartnerships.org

If you are interested in watching Dr. Galya Ben-Arieh's September 21 presentation, please follow the YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/UNrIEpKAnjo>

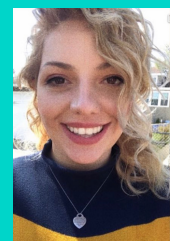


Dr. Galya Ben-Arieh -
COMPASS

Welcome to Our Fall Interns



Roqayah Mohammed
DePaul University
Graduate Student



Ardita Rocl
Roosevelt University
Student

Volunteer Recruitment



Ashley Greene
@NextGreatJob

Volunteers are the backbone of Building Peaceful Bridges, and we need more to broaden our support of those we serve. To branch out, BPB teamed with Ashley Greene, founder of NewGreatJob ([@NextGreatJob](#)) to build BPB's recruitment process, taking care to understand BPB's mission, vision, and values. Ashley comes to BPB with a 20 year background in corporate and contract

recruitment, career services and career coaching. She lives in Houston, Texas with her husband and her 5 year-old daughter, Jade. She loves matching top talent with world class organizations and is overjoyed to be a part of BPB's volunteer recruitment program.

Ashley formulated our recruitment story, created volunteer postings templates to source qualified volunteers, developed interview questions and strategies to recruit top candidates. Once on board, implementing the training program will help volunteers transition into their roles.

At the end of the engagement, BPB will launch a recruitment initiative not only for the Mentoring/ Sponsoring Program, but for all volunteer and intern programs across the organization.

BPB is learning how to garner awareness and support through strategic posts and connections on VolunteerMatch and LinkedIn. Our goal is to use these channels for telling the BPB story as well as soliciting interest from the new volunteers, donors and friends.

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

-Mahatma Gandhi

Clothing Drive

COATS, BOOTS, HATS, GLOVES AND SCARVES



With the days getting cooler, our families need clothing to take them through the fall and winter months.

Please donate!

Contact Sarah Lane-Hill
sjlanehill@buildingpeacefulbridges.org
with donations.

Thank You!



Thank you for supporting the BPB mission!

Support Building Peaceful Bridges – Be a Donor, Educator, Influencer, Mentor, Speaker, Sponsor

We are thankful for our sponsors and partners:



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OUR BELIEFS

Compassion bridges to Trust.
Honesty bridges to Resilience.
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Knowledge bridges to Achievement.

