

A close-up photograph of a smiling woman with dark skin and short hair, wearing a pink and black striped shirt, holding a baby. The baby is wearing a red, white, and blue striped shirt and is also smiling. In the background, a white banner with blue text and graphics is visible. The text on the banner includes "NH" and "The U" followed by "gee A". There are also blue silhouettes of people on the banner.

Rotary & UNHCR: Helping shelter 2 million refugees



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

WHAT IS

THE UN REFUGEE AGENCY?

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), also known as the UN Refugee Agency, is the world's leading organization aiding and protecting people forced to flee their homes due to violence, conflict and persecution.

For over 65 years, UNHCR has helped millions of people. They include refugees, returnees, stateless people, internally displaced people and asylum seekers. UNHCR is the only global organization that offers this all-round direct support to refugees and displaced people, of whom 80 per cent are women and children. As a UN agency, we are able to negotiate directly with governments throughout the world to ensure refugees' safety and their future return, their local integration or resettlement.

UNHCR in Canada

In 1976, UNHCR Representation opened its doors in Canada to fulfil four key roles:

Protection: Observe Canadian asylum practices and policies in order to promote the highest standards of protection for refugees and asylum-seekers.

Resettlement: Work with the Canadian government and private sponsorship groups to help coordinate resettlement opportunities in Canada.

Awareness: Inform and educate Canadians about the situation of refugees and other displaced persons around the world.

Fundraising: Encourage the Canadian public and the Government of Canada to provide financial assistance to UNHCR programs worldwide.

Why are Rotary and UNHCR a good fit?

Rotary has a passion for service and has a range of areas of focus, from promoting peace, fighting disease, supporting education and growing local economies. UNHCR has similar aims and promotes these focus areas throughout our day-to-day activities.

UNHCR's mandate is to aid and protect people that are forced to flee their homes due to violence, conflict and persecution. To achieve this objective, UNHCR employs 9,700 people and works in 126 countries to provide on-the-ground assistance in emergency and refugee situations. Through this presence in host countries and transit refugee camps and cooperation with various stakeholders, we promote peace every step of the way as refugees flee violence and look to resettle.

UNHCR tackles issues associated with the forcibly displaced by coordinating, establishing, and managing refugee camps, and critical emergency supplies. UNHCR strives to ensure that all refugees are able to access life-saving and essential healthcare, critical to fighting disease. This can include HIV prevention, protection and treatment, reproductive health services, and water, sanitation and hygiene services. The assistance we provide is transforming lives and is essential to fighting disease in refugee camps, settlements, rural and urban populations around the world.

Education is a basic human right. Of the nearly 20 million refugees under our care, half are children below the age of 18. Access to education for this marginalized group is limited, with only 50 percent of refugee children enrolled in primary education. In times of displacement, education is crucial. It can foster social cohesion, provide access to life-saving information, address psychosocial needs, and offer a stable and safe environment for those who need it most. It also helps people to rebuild their communities and pursue productive, meaningful lives. We partner with governments and international organizations to ensure quality and protective education for refugee children and young people everywhere.

By advocating for the rights of those forcibly displaced, providing critical assistance and working with communities, governments and non-governmental organizations, UNHCR accomplishes Rotary's mission of achieving local and global impact.



NOBODY LEFT OUTSIDE

Forced displacement, most of it from war and conflict, has risen sharply in the past decade, much of it a result of Syria's crisis, but also from a proliferation of new situations and unresolved old emergencies. We are currently facing the worst displacement crisis since WWII and UNHCR is suffering from a half-billion-dollar shortfall in funding to help the over 60 million people who have been forcibly displaced. Currently, 33,972 people are forced to flee their homes every day. The rapid increase in the number of people depending on UNHCR for life-saving assistance and protection has far outstripped the funding the organization has at its disposal.

This fall, UNHCR launched the *Nobody Left Outside* Campaign with the goal of providing shelter to two million refugees by 2018. We believe that shelter should be a non-negotiable human right. Shelter provides protection, safety, privacy, comfort, protects health and is the basis of recovery. Once people have a home, they can begin to rebuild their lives. Shelter is also crucial for peaceful host communities.

UNHCR is best equipped to manage this shelter crisis and provide the necessary aid to refugees, but we need your help.



How can you shelter 2 million people?

We would be delighted to have your help as Rotary supports projects that have the same values and goals as UNHCR. As an organization that is united for the common good and has a passion for service, Rotary embodies the ideals of UNHCR. Your donation towards UNHCR Canada or the *Nobody Left Outside* Campaign would have a local and global impact, including:

- \$525 will provide a family with a durable tent that can be erected anywhere,
- \$800 will provide a refugee family with a mud brick house, equipped with sleeping mats, blankets, a cooking set and water cans,
- \$1,500 will allow a family to live rent-free for nine months in a building renovated with new walls, doors, windows and weather-proofing,
- \$2,550 will help renovate an abandoned building to create safe, private spaces for three families, with shared bathroom and cooking facilities.

CONTACT DETAILS

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

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