



Westchester Jewish Coalition for Immigration (WJCI) works to improve the lives of refugees, asylum seekers, and all immigrants living in our community and learn or educate others about the historical and moral reasons we care about and do this work. Email [info@wjci.org](mailto:info@wjci.org) to get connected to these opportunities and more.

### **SPECIAL EVENTS/PROJECTS**

> **FREEDOM SEDER:** WJCI plans to have a community Seder in March 2023 at JCC Mid-Westchester and we need volunteers to help! It will be an evening of storytelling sharing, food, ritual, and flavor with traditions and a sit-down meal. To use the Biblical story to honor our traditions and spark conversations about the modern challenges around refugees and integration. *Let the Maggid Speak: Haggadah to Inspire the Sharing of Our Refugee Stories* will be used to facilitate the Seder.

### **COMMUNITY MEMBER OPPORTUNITIES:**

> **FORMING WELCOME CIRCLES:** [Uniting for Ukraine](#) is the federal program [announced on April 21](#), through which the U.S. government will accept 100,000 people fleeing the war in Ukraine. Although those arriving through this program are [not eligible for traditional resettlement](#), local resettlement affiliates are working to provide as much support as possible. And so WJCI is stepping up! We are not only offering to provide funds, but one of our team members is an official HIAS Welcome Circle Liaison and can walk you through the process step by step. Read our one-sheet [here](#). Many synagogues have stepped up to do this work, including Westchester Jewish Center, Larchmont Temple, Congregation Sons of Israel, Bet Torah, Riverdale Temple, Conservative Synagogue Adath Israel of Riverdale, Hebrew Institute, Chabad of Rivertowns, and Tehillah, Temple Beth El of Northern Westchester, and Temple Shaaray Tefila.

> **HELPING NEW ARRIVALS:** Volunteers with specific skills can provide English tutoring for new arrivals, career counseling, and donations to ensure that basic needs are met.

> **HELPING ASYLUM SEEKERS AT PORT AUTHORITY:** Team TLC-NYC has been meeting the buses at the Port Authority to help these travelers with food, clothes, healthcare evaluation, and transport to sponsors or to shelter ... but with few volunteers. As a response, [WJCI](#) is organizing a group of volunteers to help. This is a powerful experience; help is needed to welcome these migrants after a long journey. We ask that volunteers bring a backpack and a package of new socks to help make the newcomers more comfortable. This is an excellent opportunity for community members to get involved with people being impacted by a current crisis.

> **MONTHLY UKRAINIAN GATHERING:** WJCI is working with [St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church](#) to unite Ukrainian individuals and families to meet each other and learn about services, resources, and tools to improve their new lives in America. Speakers are coming to educate the Ukrainian community about legal advice, career counseling, and safeguarding. Refreshments are served, and signups go around the room to allow people to request things they need.

### **HOLDING A DRIVE (these make great B'Nai Mitzvah projects!)**

> **WELCOME PACKS** with cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, paper towels, etc., for newcomers. The baskets will be distributed to recently arrived refugees because it helps families save money and work towards self-sufficiency.

> **NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS FOR UKRAINIAN NEWCOMERS:** Local Ukrainian families need the following items at St. Michael/s Ukrainian Catholic Church. Email Sophia at [nycnightingale@gmail.com](mailto:nycnightingale@gmail.com) for drop-off details: Flour, Oil, Salt, Sugar, Yeast, Coffee, Tea, Cereals (Plain oatmeal, etc.), Milk (condensed milk), Rice, Pasta, Canned Meat/Fish, Baby/Toddler Food (not Formula), Soaps/Shampoo/Dishwashing Liquid, Toothpaste, Paper Towels, OTC Medications (Tylenol, etc.), Diapers (Baby/Toddler), Diaper Wipes, Toys for Children. Gently used and working mobile phones, iPads, and computers are also needed.

> **DRIVE FOR UNACCOMPANIED MINORS:** [Abbott House's Transitional Resources for Children](#) program welcomes migrant children and collects much-needed backpacks, pajamas, flip flops, bath towels, wash clothes, panties, bras, feminine napkins (pads for periods), bracelet-making kits, drawing sketch pads, journals, coats, gloves, and hats.

> **RUTH'S REFUGE NEEDS DRESSERS!** Here's [a link to their item donation page](#) if you have one in excellent condition that you would like to give to a refugee. Here is their [high-need items wishlist](#) if you'd like to make a gift to a refugee for their new home.

> **BABY CLOTHES ARE NEEDED:** The NW Bronx Welcome Circle is seeking baby clothes for their Ukrainian family's new baby! Purchase something from [this list](#).

> **JOBS WANTED FOR REFUGEES:** Hotels - housekeeping, food service, audiovisual, set up for meetings; Information technology - help desk services for laptop and desktop computers; Events and conferences - organize meeting space including audiovisual; Restaurant - waiter, server, food preparation; Museum - security guard, lighting, audiovisual, cleaner; Business services - office assistant, administrative assistant, receptionist, office manager; Design - graphic design, package design, and production; Artist - studio assistant; Art Gallery - assist with hanging, packing and shipping art; Restaurant - waitress, hostess, server, assistant manager; Museum - hanging, moving and storing art and security guard. Email [info@wjci.org](mailto:info@wjci.org) with leads.

## EVENTS FOR TEENS & TWEENS

> **WITNESS THEATER:** [Selfhelp Community Services, Inc.](#), in collaboration with UJA-Federation of New York, presents Witness Theater, an innovative intergenerational program bringing together Holocaust survivors and high school students to elicit, expose, and memorialize the moving stories of survival.

> **CONCERTS IN MOTION:** [Concerts in Motion \(CiM\)](#) has terrific options for students who want to engage in meaningful outreach to alleviate social isolation. Their application-based Youth Roster is an excellent way for high school students to serve the elderly and homebound while developing leadership skills and earning valuable community service hours.

## ADVOCATING TO PROTECT IMMIGRANTS

> Here are immediate actions that will help immigrants and refugees:

- Ending Title 42;
- Ensuring that Afghans and Ukrainians have a pathway to citizenship;
- Protecting the right to apply for asylum; and
- Providing the necessary resources for the State Department to bring refugees here and get them resettled.