



How My High School Club Is Helping Syrian Refugees

## By Bouchra Benghomari

y family is from the Middle East. So when I heard about the Syrian refugee crisis, it really hit home. I wanted to make a difference to the people suffering. I thought it could have just as easily been me in their place.

The UNICEF club I started at my school in Massachusetts held a couple of fundraisers to support UNICEF's work helping refugees. Then we heard about a local **charity** called NuDay Syria. It is a **nonprofit** organization that brings humanitarian aid to displaced people inside Syria and in nearby countries. Each

month, NuDay Syria sends two cargo containers (40-foot-long metal shipping boxes) packed with clothing, food, medical supplies, and toys to refugee camps in northern Syria.

NuDay Syria invites people to help organize and pack materials to be sent to Syria. We found that there was a NuDay warehouse about an hour away, and a group of us went there. We spent our entire Saturday volunteering, from helping throw 30-pound bags of rice off trucks to organizing mountains of donated clothes.

Even though it was hard and tiring, it was a fun experience that brought us all together for a great cause, and we'll be going to each volunteer date from now on. We



realized that all it takes to make an impact in other kids' lives is the desiré to help. No matter how big or small the action you take, any impact counts!

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Want to help child refugees in Syria and other places around the world? You can!

- Speak out for child refugees by writing the U.S. President a letter. Ask for greater U.S. leadership to get humanitarian aid to refugees and to resolve conflicts affecting children.
- Write to other federal officials—your U.S. Representative and Senator—to voice your support for helping child refugees.
- Start your own fundraiser to help children on the run and donate the money. You can find ideas for school-based fundraisers at bit.ly/UNICEFFundraising.
- Help refugees directly by volunteering for a local organization that provides aid, such as food and clothing, for refugees.
- Be a "buddy" to new students at school who have come to your community from other countries.