RCA Global Mission

Update from

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Will you join RCA Global Mission in Observing World Refugee Sunday?

Dear Friends & Supporters,

World Refugee Day (June 20) is just one month away, and RCA Global Mission invites you to join us in observing World Refugee Sunday by choosing a Sunday in June to lift up the more than 120 million forcibly displaced people in our world today who are seeking refuge.

While World Refugee Day is a secular day set aside to yearly to shine a spotlight on the global phenomenon of forced displacement and the people and places affected by it, World Refugee Sunday is a day where the church raises awareness about forced displacement, prays for the people and places affected by it, commits to learning more about God's love for refugees, and mobilizes the people of God to love refugees in the name of Christ.

Will you join us?

There are many ways you can join us in observing World Refugee Sunday. Some churches will simply add a prayer for refugees to their regularly scheduled worship services. Some will use additional resources from the RCA World Refugee Sunday toolkit (https://www.faithward.org/world-refugee-sunday-worship-toolkit/) and center the lives of refugees in liturgy, prayer, song, teaching, preaching, and missional engagement. Some will take a special offering to fund refugee care needs around the world. Some will also take a moment to pray for the work of missionaries and organizations that care for refugees.

If you observe World Refugee Sunday this year, I'd love for you to send me stories and/or photos of your World Refugee Sunday events! **This year—more than perhaps the past 12 years I've served as a missionary working with refugees—it would really boost my morale to see a large number of churches participate.**

A large part of my work as refugee ministries coordinator for RCA Global Mission has been to raise money for special refugee care projects. Every single project is carefully vetted to make sure that the mission partner receiving the funds aligns with the mission and ministry of RCA Global Mission, and has proven themselves to be good stewards of the funds provided.

This year, I am currently working on fundraising for TWO specific refugee care projects:

1. The RCA Global Mission Refugee Crisis Fund (www.rca.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Refugee-Crisis-Fund-Promo-Flyer.pdf). This fund was started in 2014 to respond to the emergency needs of Syrian refugees fleeing their homes during the largest forced displacement crisis in recorded history. Since that time, RCA Global Mission has continued to use money from this fund to respond to emergency needs of people fleeing their homes in places such as Ukraine (conflict), Afghanistan (conflict),

Syria/Türkiye (earthquake/conflict), Lebanon (conflict), and Sudan (conflict/famine). **Having money ready and waiting in this fund is essential to responding to emergency situations that leave large numbers of displaced people at risk of death—waiting for months to raise funds when disaster strikes puts the lives of forcibly displaced people at great risk.**

Above left to right: Pastor at a refugee camp in Hungary for Ukranian refugees that you helped provide; Casa Esperanza.

2. Casa Esperanza. (https://www.rca.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Casa-Esperanza-Promo-Flyer.pdf) Ruth and James Padilla DeBorst—longtime missionaries with Resonate Global Mission—have chosen to end their partnership with the CRCNA, and will officially become RCA Global Mission missionaries in July 2026. One of their areas of missional engagement is operating Casa Esperanza (along the Costa Rica/Nicaragua border).

   Casa Esperanza meets the urgent needs of providing meals, safe housing, trauma care, and more for thousands of people forcibly displaced from their homes throughout Latin America due to conflict and violence, political and economic instability, and pervasive poverty–many who have also experienced overwhelming trauma and loss along their migration journeys in search of protection and refuge.

   I was blessed to visit Ruth and James in Costa Rica in February, and during that trip we learned that Casa Esperanza was at risk of closing because the mission partners who jointly owned Casa Esperanza wanted to end their mission work there and sell the facility. RCA Global Mission is now working with the Padilla DeBorsts to raise $35,000 (USD) to keep the doors of Casa Esperanza open.

Today I leave you with two invitations:

1. Will you join us in observing World Refugee Sunday?
2. Will you invite your church to take a special offering for the RCA Global Mission Refugee Crisis Fund or for Casa Esperanza?

As always, I am deeply grateful for your continued support as I strive to faithfully live out the calling God has placed on my life to serve as a missionary through RCA Global Mission, and as I invite others into this sacred space of loving people in search of refuge as well.

Serving with joy & gratitude,

JJ TenClay
Missionary
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