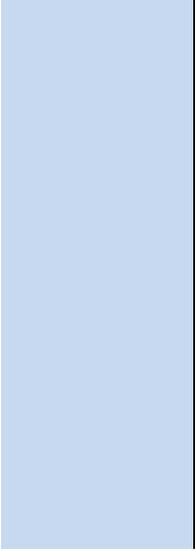


Topic: Program Management/Outreach
(Original plan developed by April 2010 Community Orientation Skills Development Workshop participants in Ft. Wayne, IN, and further developed by the Cultural Orientation Resource Center)

Activity: Building Bridges 101: Commonalities

Objective	<p>Participating service providers will recognize commonalities between cultures, and feel increased understanding and empathy.</p> <p><i>Note: This lesson plan is meant to be one of many for staff and volunteer training.</i></p>
Lesson Time	<p>Up to one hour with flexible time at the end for a question-and-answer period.</p>
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Statements that could apply to individuals regardless of culture, nationality, religion, language, etc. (e.g. I like to sing, I like to dance, I like to eat)• A/V presentation showing pictures from common refugee settings overseas (camps, urban, etc.)• Optional: music, video, pictures from refugee settings• Computer, projector, screen/blank wall for projection
Practice	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Participants take part in a culture-commonalities game. All participants stand on one side of the room. The facilitator reads a statement aloud. If the statement applies to the participant, they walk to the other side of the room. If the statement does not apply, the participant stays standing where s/he is. Once participants have determined which side of the room to stand on, ask participants to all stand on the same side of the room again before reading the next statement aloud.2. Ask participants to share how they felt during the game. What commonalities and differences did the participants have with individuals in the group? What did they notice that surprised them during the commonalities game? Focus the discussion on commonalities among the group.3. Deliver an A/V presentation to provide the context of refugees living overseas. The optional materials (music, video, pictures) can be shared during this part of the lesson.4. Ask participants to share their thoughts from watching the presentation. How did they feel about the A/V presentation? What struck them most about it? Ask participants to identify commonalities with the refugees. Then ask them to identify ways that the refugees' lives might be very different in the U.S., and that might involve help from others in the community.5. Discuss how participants as a community will assist refugees in moving into the community.
Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Solicit feedback from the group regarding what worked during the lesson plan and what did not work. Ask participants to consider what was challenging and how this might affect their work with refugees in the future.
Variations	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The question-and-answer session would be particularly effective if a refugee were present (whether as the facilitator or as an attendee) to discuss some concerns and potential situations.

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2. After the discussion about ways to help refugees with adjustment (which most likely will include English language assistance), distribute cue cards with pictures, the English word to describe the picture, and the word in the languages common to refugees with whom participants will be working. Each participant takes a turn describing the picture displayed on her/his card to the group without using English or another common language. Afterwards, ask participants to share how they felt during the activity, and how refugees might feel. Ask participants to consider what tools (such as a picture or translation dictionary) would have been helpful to them for communication methods without a common language. What are some techniques they would use when communicating with refugees with whom they did not speak the same language?
 3. Use this activity with potential employers, landlords, business people, individuals in the medical field, or others who will be working with refugees in your community.
 4. Use this activity when attempting to increase community, communication, awareness, and empathy with U.S. teens.

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