



jiran collective
neighboring across dividing lines



the issue

why we do, what we do

Metropolitan Detroit is a new home to many refugee families, who have endured the harrowing experience of being forced to flee their home country due to civil war and instability, settle in metropolitan Detroit. Their struggle continues as they face language and cultural barriers in an unfamiliar country. Families may face multiple, often overlapping challenges such as:

Employment: Refugees meet many challenges in establishing work with a livable wage to support their often large families.

Limitations to social services: Resettlement support is usually available to families for three to six months and is difficult to navigate, especially for those learning English.

Child development challenges: School-aged refugee children may face bullying at school and lack the English proficiency to thrive.

Mental health and wellbeing: The effects of trauma and war are debilitating. Many refugees suffer from trauma, depression, and anxiety.

Racism and social exclusion: Language and cultural barriers, racial prejudice, and hate crimes deepen isolation and fuel the cycle of depression and anxiety.

These barriers create a vulnerability to abuse, exploitation, and even human trafficking.

Dearborn, MI is known as the "Arab capital of North America"

- Between 41-48% of Dearborn's population is Arab
- Most of the Arab population originally comes from Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Yemen, and Iraq
- 4,000+ Iraqi refugees have settled in the metro Detroit area since the Iraq War in 2003
- Hate crimes against the Middle Eastern community in Michigan are on the rise

about us

how we respond

The underlying problem is division and brokenness in community. Many refugees live in fear in an uncertain world. Many members of the Church, too, are paralyzed by fear of their Arab neighbors.

Jiran Collective seeks to make Jesus' love tangible to Arab Refugees and Immigrants by showing courageous compassion and facilitating transformational community.

We envision a day where racism and prejudice are replaced with love and reconciliation. We envision the process and outcome of this to be sacred and shared spaces where paradigm shifting experiences can happen. The outcome of living in love, dialogue and conversation will be households of Arab immigrants discovering, experiencing, and trusting Jesus.



“

A scared world needs a fearless Church"

- A.W. Tozer

what we do

Following the Good Samaritan story, we befriend and neighbor as Jesus calls us to do. We engage in the sacred process of building community in three core ways:



Around the table

We visit the homes of our Arab neighbors. We invite our friends into our homes. We share meals and journey together. We seek opportunities to pray with our friends and often conversation centers around the stories of Jesus and the invitation of Jesus.



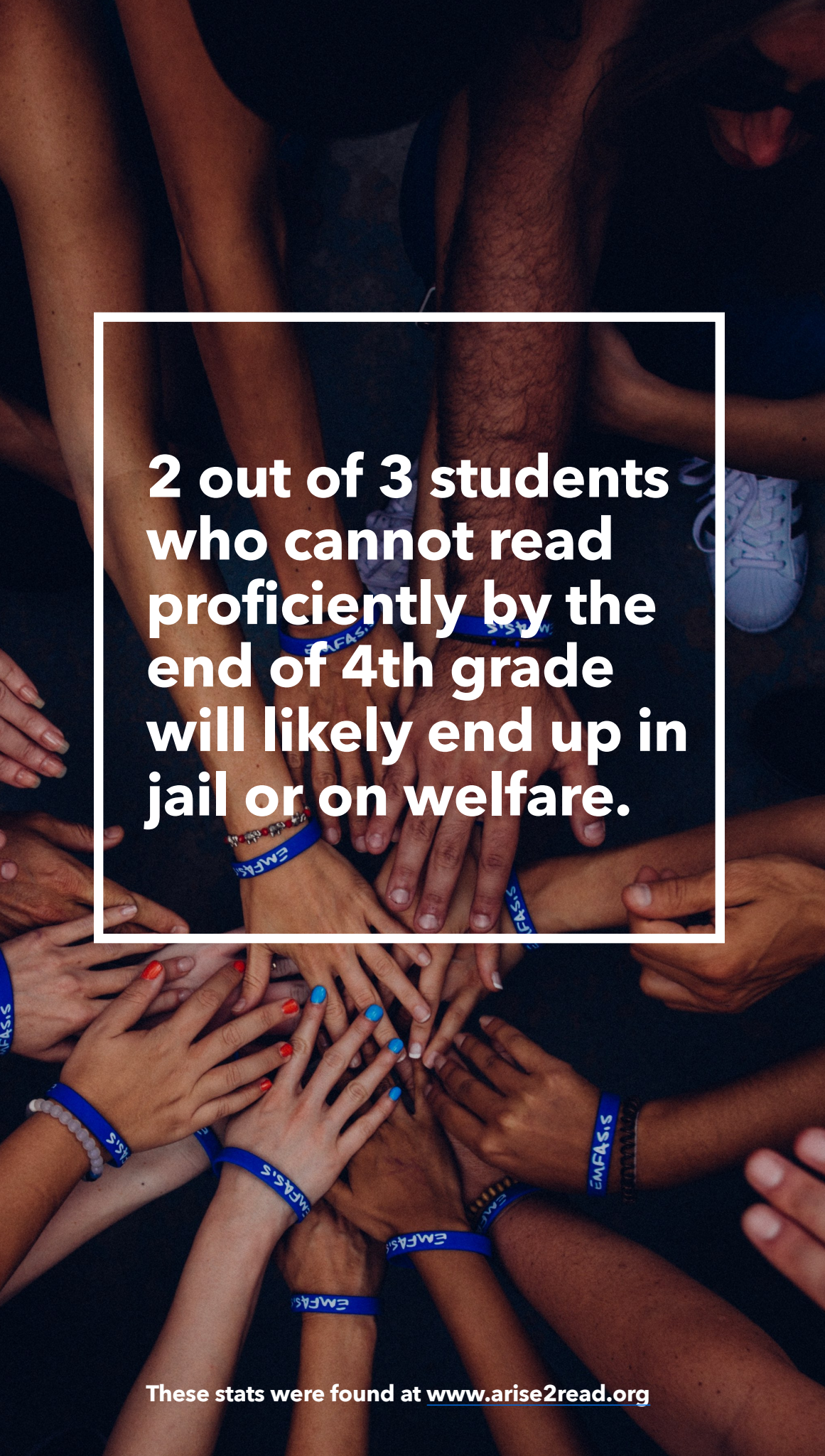
Community gatherings

We host events such as English camps, community dinners, and soccer tournaments. By bringing the community together in meaningful ways, we help break down barriers and have the unique opportunity to demonstrate and proclaim the wholistic nature of the Gospel through the context of relationship with our Arab friends.



Compassionate action

We believe in the power of coming alongside. We listen to the needs of the refugee community, especially lower-income families. We seek a Spirit-led response to help reduce vulnerabilities and elevate wellbeing. We endeavor to advocate, encourage, and help in whatever ways make sense: English conversation practice, tutoring, helping with paperwork, transportation, driving lessons, connecting families to community resources, and more.



**2 out of 3 students
who cannot read
proficiently by the
end of 4th grade
will likely end up in
jail or on welfare.**

values

As we seek the Kingdom of God and live counter-culturally, we practice these core values:

Prayer: We depend on the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit in all we do

Partnership: We work collaboratively with other likeminded believers

Reconciliation: We believe in the reconciling ministry of Jesus who tore down dividing walls

Discovery: We believe all people are made in the image of God and seek to help people discover, experience and trust Jesus is who He says He is

Contextualization: We believe the message of God can be communicated in understandable ways

Empowerment: We seek to empower our refugee friends to thrive and live toward self-sustainability



Our Team

Megan Weber

Megan Weber is a learner and apprentice of Jesus; following Him has led to a richness of experiences that she would have never imagined. Megan is an Ordained Elder in the Free Methodist Church and is a graduate of Asbury University and Asbury Theological Seminary where she studied Bible and Theology and Pastoral Counseling. She is married to Dustin and they have two children, Charis and Zechariah. She is a passionate advocate for the marginalized, overlooked and sometimes hated of society. She has served in the Middle East and is now living intentionally in Dearborn ministering among Arabic speaking refugees and fostering space where walls can come down and community fostered. Megan envisions a day when the Church becomes all that we were created to be for a broken and hurting world.



Adam & Emily Holverson

Adam & Emily Holverson have worked in both the local church and secular fields. These experiences have given them the valuable opportunity to reflect on their perspectives, practices, and experiences as followers of Jesus. As a result they have had to face their own prejudices, pre-conceived notions, and assumptions about what it looks like to love, forgive, and minister in a complex and dynamic world. Most recently this journey has led them to relocate from Monroe, Wisconsin to metro Detroit to express love, foster community, and be neighbors to the sizable refugee community in the area. Adam and Emily are joined on this journey by their three children, Natalie, Kaylee, and Jamin. Adam and Emily are both ordained Elders in the Free Methodist Church and are graduates of Greenville University.

Partners

Our team of missional practitioners is joined by a growing movement of like-minded people in our Church and community. **We partner strong with local, national, and international agencies, including:**



Jiran Collective is a part of the Mission Igniter incubator. Finances are managed by Mission Igniter, a 501(C)3, and all gifts are tax deductible.

ways to connect + get



Prayer

Pray that the Church would follow Jesus across dividing lines compelled by love in a posture of humility. Pray for inner healing from trauma and hope-filled futures for refugees. Pray that refugees would sense our love for them and for their thirst to explore who Jesus is.



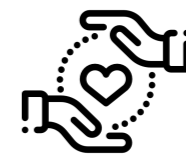
Give

Your financial support can help support our missional practitioners to engage in this critical work.

Give online: jirancollective.org

By mail: Jiran Collective

PO BOX 271 Spring Arbor, MI 49283



Serve

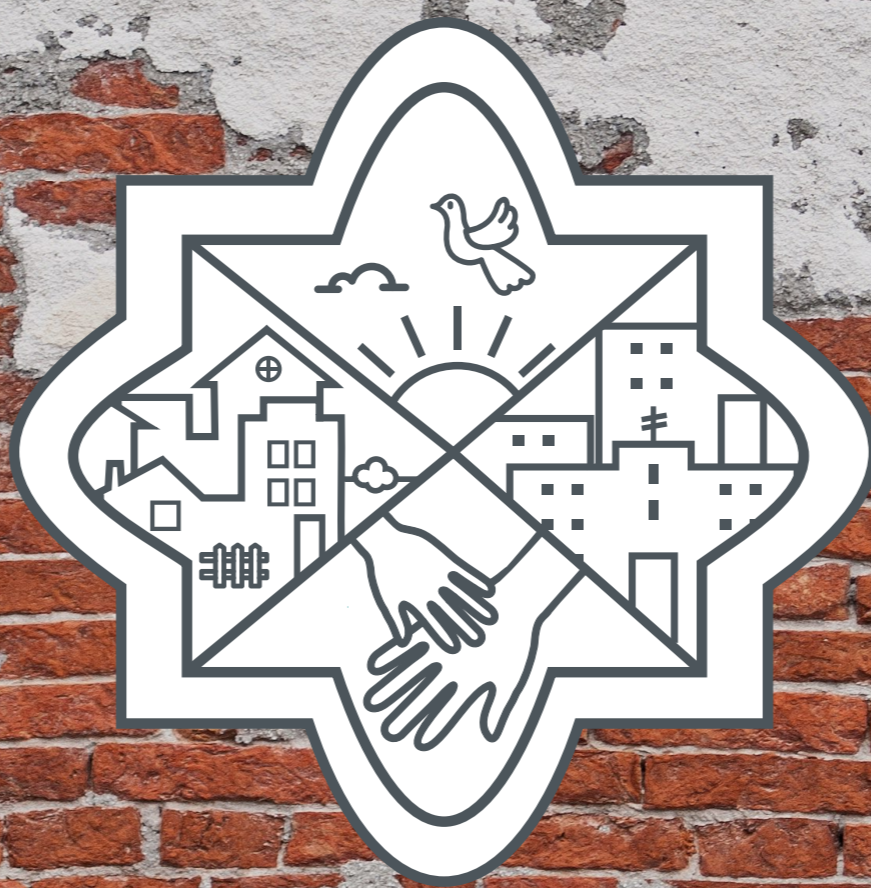
We welcome volunteers who are interested in helping with our English and soccer camps, as well as compassionate action.

For more information, please contact:

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Adam Holverson
adam@jirancollective.org

Emily Holverson
emily@jirancollective.org



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SET  FREE

 **DEARBORN**
FREE METHODIST CHURCH


mission
igniter

