



BALTIMORE CITY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Refugee Youth Project

- After School & Summer
School Programming

<https://bcccryp.wordpress.com>

BCCC
Baltimore City Community College

PROMO ZINE

by Anna Sellheim, the RYP
Community Art Collaborative
AmeriCorps Member for 2022

WHAT IS RYP?

The Refugee Youth Project (RYP) strives to create a safe environment for refugee children to improve their literacy skills, enhance their sense of identity, and make their transition into the Baltimore community less difficult.

Since 2003, RYP has provided innovative after-school programming for more than 2,000 refugee children and young adults from ages 4-21 from over 17 countries across the world. It also expanded to include mentoring, community arts, and social enterprise programs to meet the needs of our newest neighbors.

Who are refugees?

A refugee is a person who is outside their home country and is unable or unwilling to return because of persecution or a well founded fear of persecution.

When we ask our students

Do you want to go back someday?

We get different answers:



Who do we serve?

Refugee and asylee youth, as well as other youth enrolled in ESOL in Baltimore City and the surrounding counties.

Where do we work?

Currently we work at Mount Royal Elementary / Middle School, Moravia Park Elementary School, and Patterson High School.

ESOL means English to Speakers of Other Languages. Some of our students speak 6 or 7 languages!

Of course that's impressive! And yes, you will be adding that to your college application!



Source: GIS Geography.com

Our students are from over 17 countries, including:

- Bhutan
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Eritrea
- Iraq
- Afghanistan
- Tanzania
- Myanmar
- Syria
- Sudan

RYP serves refugee youth and humanitarian migrants in Baltimore City and Baltimore County who, along with their families, face significant linguistic, educational, developmental, economic, and cultural gaps as they rebuild their lives in Maryland. RYP's vision is that newly-arrived youth reach their fullest potential through the successful coordination of public and private partnerships designed to meet their academic and social integration needs.

Refugees don't just have to adjust to their new life in the USA by learning English! They have to adjust to all sorts of aspects to American culture that differ from where they came from.



Most people don't think of these. I didn't!

● What kind of programs do you provide?

RYP provides after school and summer school programming focused on homework help, career and college readiness, and extra curricular activities like art, soccer, and STEM!

While many of our students are fluent in conversational English, their English reading and writing skills are behind their Native English Speaking classmates.

The next trivia question is:
What color are the stars
on the American flag?

Psst Ms. Anna! How do you spell "white"?



BTW, I'm Ms. Anna! I'm
the art teacher AmeriCorps
CAC* member serving
RYP this year!



* Community Art Collaborative

Making art helped me survive some nasty things that happened to me as a kid. It was my life line.



I want to create a safe space where my students have room to build their own creative practice that has the potential to help them as much as mine helped me.



I usually have an assignment for my students that lets them:

- 1 Express themselves
- 2 Practice English in a low pressure way

Today everyone is going to draw themselves as a

- superhero



- wizard

or



- mythical creature.



Community Rules

- No fighting - Be Kind
- No Cussing - Clean U
- No Bullying - Do W
- Keep your butt in your
- Respect
- ① yourself ② each of
- ③ the teacher

Then you will write out
a list of all of the powers
you want to have!



These are great!



Powers
- X
- Fly
- Speed
- Freeze + grime
- nice

Excellent power Z! The
world would be a better
place if everyone told
the truth!



her Power
is to make
everyone
say the
truth

But I'm teaching more of an art club than an art class-

My brother drew a pig!



Very shy, so he rarely talks



This is a very good pig!

so as long as they are making art and having fun, I'm happy!

RYP students, just like all refugees, have gone through traumatic experiences to get to the USA.

Trauma comes out in our students in different ways:

Having trouble managing behavior and emotions

What's going on here?



Physical symptoms that don't seem to have a physical cause.

I have a headache

Let's go somewhere quiet and get you some water.



General fear and anxiety

If I don't get this perfect I will fail!!!
It's worth 50% of my grade!*



this assignment was not worth 50% of her grade. She misunderstood the teacher.

A, take a deep breath in



INHALE

and out

EXHALE



It will be fine, we will get this done

ok.



At RYP we do our best to help students get through these kinds of things.

We have an amazing staff that speaks multiple languages. It helps our youth connect to their culture while at school, and eases new student's transition to their arrival to the US.



Mr. Solomon speaks Tigrinya Amharic, Arabic, and Afar

Ms. Agatha speaks Swahili

Ms. Girgis speaks Arabic

Ms. Lotara speaks Arabic

Mr. Mohammadi speaks Dari and Pashto

RYP also does things like provide meals to our students and has an annual coat drive.

These were filled out by our high school students and given to some of our volunteers who bought the coats for them.

What kind of Coat Do You Want?

YOUR COAT SIZE: 26
 COLOR OF COAT YOU WANT: black
 DESCRIBE THE COAT YOU WANT IN WRITING:
puffy w/hood

DRAW IT:



YOUR COAT SIZE: Large
 COLOR OF COAT YOU WANT: black
 DESCRIBE THE COAT YOU WANT IN WRITING:
large vest w/ hood

DRAW IT:



YOUR COAT SIZE: 60(5)
 COLOR OF COAT YOU WANT: black
 DESCRIBE THE COAT YOU WANT IN WRITING:

long vest w/ jacket with a hood

DRAW IT:



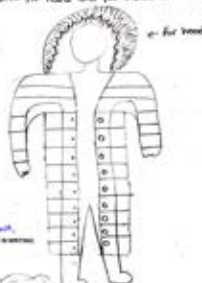
YOUR COAT SIZE: 2
 COLOR OF COAT YOU WANT: white
 DESCRIBE THE COAT YOU WANT IN WRITING:
alexander wong cropped jacket

DRAW IT:



YOUR COAT SIZE: medium (M)
 COLOR OF COAT YOU WANT: Red
 DESCRIBE THE COAT YOU WANT IN WRITING:
thick, full with fur hood and fur inside all the coat

DRAW IT:



YOUR COAT SIZE: Small
 COLOR OF COAT YOU WANT: black
 DESCRIBE THE COAT YOU WANT IN WRITING:

DRAW IT:



We are ALWAYS looking for more volunteers!

Alright, who needs help with homework?



I need help with physics!

I have math homework.



Algebra!

Humanities majors

ESOL teacher

English teacher

Artist
(need I say more?)



Uhhhhhhhhh

Hi! Is this the right room?



We're the new
volunteers
for the
Refugee
Youth Pro-



Do you know math???

yeah

Uh yes



WOOOO

phew

phew!

Volunteers help our students with homework on a regular basis.

Yeah, Mary Shelley can be tricky...



so naturally they end up forming bonds with them, which can be just as important.

Did you talk to your friend?

Yeah, she apologized.





REFUGEE YOUTH PROJECT

BALTIMORE CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Want to volunteer?

SCAN ME



Want to donate to RYP?

SCAN ME



PayPal

Get In Touch



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You can find more of Ms. Anna's
work at annaselheim.com