



ALL THINGS IGNATIAN

Celebrating Mission at Creighton University

Team Arrupe: Welcoming our Refugee Neighbors

Schlegel Center for Service and Justice

Who We Are

The SCSJ founded Team Arrupe in 2016 with the support of a Creighton Global Initiative (CGI) Grant. Named for Fr Pedro Arrupe, S.J. who directed the Jesuits to be “women and men for and with others” and who also founded Jesuit Refugee Services, Team Arrupe focuses on welcoming migrants and refugees.

Inspired by Pope Francis’ “Share the Journey” movement and call to share the journey with refugees and migrants, the SCSJ seeks to emphasize supporting and walking in solidarity with our Omaha neighbors and creating a more welcoming community.

Team Arrupe students lead weekly service in Omaha, facilitate campus events, engage in Ignatian Advocacy with and for our refugee and immigrant neighbors, and connect with the local Omaha community. In all our programs we end with an Ignatian style of reflection, allowing participants to reflect on their experience, allow their hearts to be changed and consider what action they will take to make our community more welcoming to our newest neighbors.



Local Service: Yates Community Center



Yates provides adult education for immigrant and refugee parents. Weekly volunteers serve as conversations partners in English class but perhaps more importantly learn from these new Nebraskans and develop relationships through service. One participant says, “Refugee neighbors I met are some of the most resilient people I’ve met and I’ve learned a lot from them.”

Local Service: Lutheran Family Services

LFS is a refugee resettlement agency in Omaha. Volunteers help behind the scenes to prepare for new arrivals and support recently arrived families. Work includes sorting and delivering donations, setting up apartments and welcoming newly arrived families. Both service sites conclude each week with Ignatian reflection and at the end of the semester participants do social analysis and advocacy.



Refugee Simulation

As part of the “Share the Journey” campaign, Team Arrupe co-sponsored “Omaha Neighbors Share the Journey: A Refugee Simulation Through Stories” with LFS in 2018 and 2019. Hundreds of Creighton community members participated each year, living out our Jesuit value of being women and men for and with others and a faith that does justice. The mission of the simulation is to encourage individuals in the Omaha community to pause and experience the frustrations, disappointments, and hopes of refugees around the world. Participants heard stories from five refugees in our community speaking on fleeing their homes, crossing borders, living in a refugee camp and resettlement in the US. After reflection, participants were able to meet with local agencies serving refugees and were invited to continue their involvement.



Connections between Creighton and Omaha Community

- Annual Coat Drive for refugee neighbors
- Attend community meetings and events
- Organize documentaries, panels and other campus educational events
- In 2017 Yates service coordinators were honored at the OPS Migrant/Refugee dinner as Outstanding Volunteers. In 2019 Team Arrupe was honored as Lutheran Family Services’ ‘Volunteers of the Year’ at World Refugee Day.



Share the Journey
#sharejourney



MISSION WEEK