

# American International School Vienna

## Service Learning – Refugees

Developed over years – from a small idea to a Grade level experience

**Students:** Grade 6 (whole grade) and CAS students

**Time:** November – January

**Contact:** Sabine Ganneval – s.ganneval@ais.at

**Content – Learning about:** Refugees/Immigrants/Migrants/Asylum Seekers/Foreigners in Austria (Who? Why? Where? When?, etc.); organizations supporting refugees; refugee homes; the refugee policies in Austria; etc.

**Service need:** Support the Refugee Association Ute Bock/Connecting People by providing personal items for newly arrived refugees in Vienna; organizing a Summer Charity Celebration at school for young adult refugees; selling T-shirts for these organizations at the Flea Market; inviting refugee children for activities outside school, (e.g. ice skating and swimming) and organizing different collection drives for them, e.g. toys.

Sixth grade students are supporting a local refugee help organization called **“Ute Bock Verein,”** where Frau Bock herself works with an expanding team of volunteers to assist refugees from war and poverty-stricken countries who have landed in Vienna seeking asylum. This organization has received numerous national and international awards for the unusual level of humanitarian assistance it has provided for needy people for the past several years. Each December, the students deliver between 100-300 Billy Boxes (shoe boxes filled with food and personal hygiene items) to “Mama” Bock, who distributes them to the most needy refugees in her care.

The second organization that the sixth grade students are working with is the Austrian organization **“Asylkoordination Österreich”** which deals with the living conditions of young, unaccompanied refugee minors in Austria.

Major problems being faced include:

- refugee minors are often taken into custody pending deportation;
- placement is almost always under the federal care in institutions which are inappropriate for minors;
- the asylum process does not adapt to the specific situation of young people;
- the desire for German courses, education and work is frequently denied.

**Asylkoordination Austria** has operated in collaboration with **UNICEF** on the project **“Connecting People”** since autumn 2000. This organization brings together unaccompanied minors and young adult refugees who arrive in Austria alone and Austrian volunteers who act as supporting sponsors to help the young refugees with the difficulties they face.

**The investigation, preparation, action and reflection part of this project takes place during our Advisory classes, academic classes and after school.**

<b>Team:</b>  <b>Grade 6 students + teachers</b>  <b>CAS students</b>  <b>SL coordinator</b>	<b>Start</b>  What is SL?	<b>Investigation, Preparation, Planning</b>  Identify a need	<b>Action</b>  Direct or indirect service, research or advocacy	<b>Reflection</b>  Journal writing, discussion, role play,...to guide the students' thinking	<b>Demonstration/ Celebration</b>  Finished product (assembly, article, brochure,...) to report to their peers and to the community
<b>Academics:</b>  <b>Humanities 6</b>  <b>Books:</b>  <u>Three Cups of Tea</u> <u>The Circuit</u> <u>Journey of the Sparrows</u> <u>The Clay Marble</u> <u>Any Small Goodness</u>  Different activities, depending on reading level  <b>Writers 6</b>  Reflection to SL experience  <b>German Native 6</b>  <b>Book: "Hesmats Flucht"</b> by Wolfgang Boehmer (ctb)	<b>Advisory:</b>  <b>What is SL?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quotes?</li> <li>• Service?</li> <li>• Community?</li> <li>• Learning?</li> <li>• Personal Survey (Experience? Interest? Talents?)</li> <li>• SL Symbol</li> </ul>	<b>Advisory:</b>  <b>Intro:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>What is a "refugee"?</b></li> <li>• <b>Personal connection</b> (When did you move? Feelings?)</li> <li>• <b>Activity:</b> Suitcase – What would you pack in a suitcase?</li> <li>• <b>Suitcase vs. Billy Boxes</b></li> <li>• Introduction of <b>Billy Boxes</b> (What do you think newly arrived refugees need?)</li> <li>• Read <b>personal stories</b> about refugees (UNHCR material, e.g. Einstein, children ,...) and the book "Four Feet, Two</li> </ul>	<b>Research:</b>  From where do the refugees/immigrants in your home country/Austria come? (Worldmap)  Interview with refugees/Frau Bock/social workers  Workshop "Stations of a refugee" led by the organization Asylkoordination  <b>Indirect Service:</b>  Preparing and delivering of Billy Boxes  Organizing drives, e.g. toy drive  Selling T-shirts, e.g. at the flea market	<b>Advisory:</b>  Ongoing feedback/reflection/discussion  Reflection paper for Portfolio  <b>Writers Class:</b>  Journal writing	Assembly about SL experience (What happened?)  Celebrate with refugees at a summer party  Newspaper article about the interviews with refugees  Video about Frau Bock

<p>Students create timeline, write monologues, etc.</p> <p><b>Book: "Papa, was ist ein Fremder?"</b> by Jelloun Tahar Ben</p> <p>Students prepare roleplays between father and son.</p> <p>Filme: Ute Bock for president/Little Alien/Kick off</p> <p><b>Choir</b></p> <p>Refugee Songs, e.g. Streets of London</p> <p><b>Math</b></p> <p>Refugee Statistics</p> <p><b>Computer</b></p> <p>Assembly help</p> <p><b>P.E.</b></p> <p>Team Building – New to a group</p> <p><b>Art</b></p> <p>Huge painting together with refugees "Connect"</p>		<p>Sandals" (K.L. Williams &amp; K.Mohammed)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Discussion:</b></li> </ul> <p>What feelings would you have arriving in a different country with very few possessions and lack of information/language?</p> <p>What makes you feel you belong to a place?</p> <p>What makes you feel that you belong to the AIS community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Activity:</b></li> </ul> <p>Draw community! From there: Did you feel welcome in Austria/AIS/your class? Come up with 10 key ways to help newcomers feel home (poster/booklet/...)</p>	<p><b>Direct Service:</b></p> <p>Invite refugee children for activities, e.g. ice skating, swimming, picnic, etc.</p> <p>Organize a summer charity event in school with different activities for young refugee adults, e.g. soccer game</p> <p>Drum/Dance workshop with refugees</p> <p><b>Advocacy:</b></p> <p>Newspaper Article about the interviews with refugees</p> <p>Organizing an informative awareness assembly for the community</p>		
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