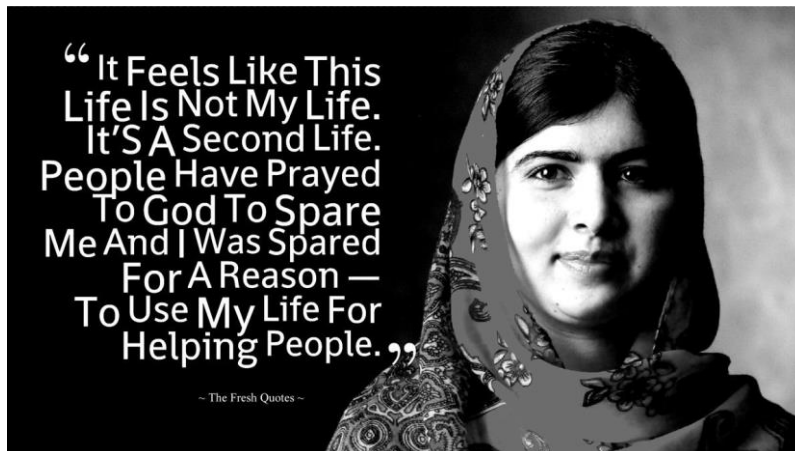




**UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Tampa Bay Chapter

Invites you to support
Picture My Life™: A Refugee Story



**Refugee Photography Exhibit, Auction
and Artistic Expressions Reception**
Thursday, October 17, 2019 (6-9 PM)

Morean Arts Center
719 Central Avenue – St. Petersburg

A Collaborative Project By
UNA-USA Tampa Bay, Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services, United
Methodist Cooperative Ministries, WOKE, Inc., Photography by Avery

Proceeds to Benefit
Photographers, Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services,
United Methodist Cooperative Ministries and UNA-USA Tampa Bay

Clint Elbow, President
United Nations Association of The United States of America
Tampa Bay Chapter
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According to the United Nations Refugee Agency, a refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war, or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. Most likely, they cannot return home or are afraid to do so. War and ethnic, tribal and religious violence are leading causes of refugees fleeing their countries. ***Tampa Bay is home to over 4,000 refugees from 57 countries from around the world; 51% are children.***

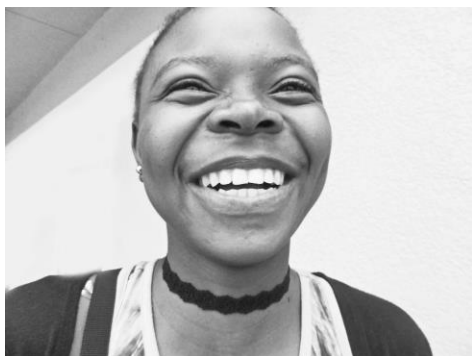


My name is **Roheed P.** I live with my mom, my 2 brothers and 1 sister. We now live in America. I am very happy but I came from Afghanistan. I can speak 4 languages: Dari, Pashtu, Urdu and some English. I started photography classes 2 months ago. Photography helps me capture beauty in the world. My dream someday is to become a doctor.

A few stories from the first annual Picture My Life™: A Refugee Story



My name is **Kiza**, I am from Tanzania, in Africa. I have a family of 7 people. My family and I left our country because life was very hard and dangerous due to war. I now live in America and I like it. I speak Swahili and English. I am learning about photography. I would like to be a photographer some day and a mechanic. I love to work on cars. I have 3 brothers and 2 sisters, and we live with our mom.



My name is **Rachel**. I am 11 years old and have 2 siblings. My dad came as a refugee from Togo. I love craft, gymnastic and playing outside. When I take pictures, I like to photograph nature. Photography helps me share my feelings and creative side, Photography can help people share what they want to say, but do not know how. The first time I got my camera, I knew I would take a lot of pictures! The first week I took over 200 photos! I took pictures of everything! My hope for the future is that I get to help more refugee children and become a teacher.

Hi my name is **Shiar**, I am from Syria and I'm thirteen years old. When we moved to Turkey, I was 8. In Turkey, I worked to help provide for my family. I also played a lot of soccer games and one of the best. My family decided to move to Tampa, FL because we really needed surgery for my sister, and it was easier in America. Since I came to America, I played in a lot of different soccer teams and now I am with my favorite team. Every day, I try to improve my English so that I can be good in school and know how to talk and interact with people and teammates on my soccer team; I also speak Turkish, Kurdish and Arabic. I have one sister who is 15 and one brother who is 5 years old. Thank you and love you all. Shiar-





**UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Tampa Bay Chapter

Event: Picture My Life™: A Refugee Story

Refugee Photography Exhibit, Auction and Artistic Expressions Reception

Date: Thursday, October 17, 2019

Promotion Timeframe: June 2019 – December 2019

Location: Morean Arts Center

719 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg

Complimentary Self-Parking

Host: UNA-USA Tampa Bay Chapter

Beneficiaries: Photographers, Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services, United Methodist Cooperative Ministries and UNA-USA Tampa Bay

Expected Attendance: 180-200

Event Description:

As the saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words. During this globally-themed reception, the experiences of 12 refugee children living in Tampa Bay, who have been given high-quality cameras and taught the basics of the photographic arts, will be exhibited and auctioned off during a night of moving stories and artistic expression.

How will this Initiative Help?

All of these children have witnessed and experienced atrocities. They were forced to leave their homes and many left behind family and friends. They spent time in refugee camps with an uncertain future. Now that they have begun to create a new life in the United States, the trauma from their experiences can have far reaching impacts in many areas of their lives. This program will give the photographers a creative outlet to express and communicate their emotions in a different medium. Besides being fun and creative, this project gives the students a voice and a unique outlet to share their own stories; the photographers will have control over how much or how little they want to share about the different emotions depicted in their photographs.'

More...

In addition to the Refugee Photography Exhibit and Auction, a backdrop of art will be all around during the reception as the Morean Arts Center is the epicenter of the renowned SHINE Mural Festival. SHINE is an art project that illuminates the power of art in public spaces by revitalizing areas, inspiring dialogue and uniting our community—while cultivating new standards of artistic excellence and reflecting St. Petersburg's creative and vibrant spirit.