

## THE BEST OF HUMANITY: WELCOMING REFUGEES & IMMIGRANTS AROUND THE WORLD

While I was teaching mathematics to my refugee students in Turkey, I asked what they wanted to be in the future. One of them said that she wanted to be an astronaut. I was very happy to hear that because she was hopeful despite all her obstacles. She did not know how to speak our language and was extremely poor. No one in her family was educated, and she was responsible for all the chores in her house due to her mother being ill. Despite her circumstances, she was full of hope. She believed that it was possible to reach her dreams regardless of her present life because she believed that there is goodness in the world, and that goodness in people would help her achieve her dreams. She preferred to see the hope in that darkness. Since the start of the Syrian Civil War (2011), the refugee/immigrant issue has become a more visible problem to the world. According to the UNHCR, 68,500,000 people have been forced to leave their countries. (1) Although people in hosting countries are polarized about refugees and immigrants, and in spite of constant tragic news about the issue, there is plenty of good news to prove that there is always hope and humanity never dies. Here are some of those heart-warming examples:

Some Canadian citizens went to the Toronto Pearson International Airport in Canada to greet Syrian refugees who escaped from war, fear, terror, scarcity, hunger and death caused by the Syrian Civil War. They carried welcome posters in English and Arabic. They didn't even know the identities of the families they were waiting for. They learned that Syrian refugees would be arriving, and wanted to give them a welcome hug. Applause to these great people!

(2)

Kindergarten students from a school in Turkey started a fundraiser to buy gifts for refugee students. These little hearts are proof that generosity can come from any member of society.

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