

2016

# The Muslim Jewish Interfaith Dialogue Group's Alternative Spring Break

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# Muslim Jewish Interfaith Student Dialogue Group

**Alternative Spring Break**

# Abstract

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Every year, the Muslim Jewish Interfaith Dialogue Group (MuJew) has an alternative spring break trip, both as a way to build bridges between the two religious groups and to engage with the greater community. This was MuJew's second year working at the Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees in Utica, New York. MVRRCR is a non-profit organization provides a variety of services to Utica's growing refugee and immigrant populations. While there, MuJew attended educational talks on refugee resettlement, policy, and experience, and assisted in a variety of tasks in the center. MuJew recognizes the limits of such a short-term volunteer experience in terms of long-term effects. The service learning trip is designed to educate participants on the refugee experience, allow them to form meaningful relationships within a diverse community, and enable them to return to Ann Arbor ready to continue advocating or working with one of world's most vulnerable populations.

# Objectives

- ❖ Strengthen ties between the Muslim and Jewish community
- ❖ Empower participants
- ❖ Learn about the refugee experience in America
- ❖ Service work



# Challenges

- ❖ Group dynamics
- ❖ The work itself
- ❖ Entering/Exiting a community

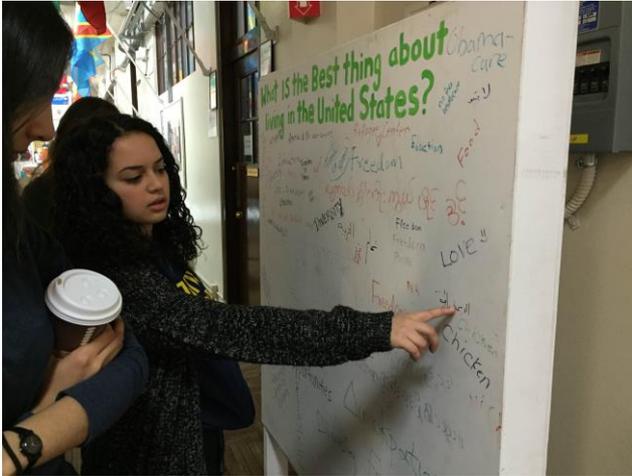


# What I Learned

- ❖ Leadership skills
- ❖ American Refugee Resettlement process
- ❖ [Storymap](#)



**Real Life Impact**



**Empowerment through Knowledge**



**Service Work**



## Interfaith Relations



## Community Connections

# Further Work

What's next?

- ❖ Maintaining new bonds
- ❖ Working with local interfaith organizations
- ❖ Future ASBs
- ❖ Acting as advocates
- ❖ Internships/Careers



# Acknowledgements

Jen Cieslewitz





Yasmeen Farran

# The Participants

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Tina Al-khersan  
Youssef Farran  
Alona Henig  
Eman Jacksi  
Areeba Jibril  
Sidra Kader  
Marie Keith  
Ayyub Khan  
Naoshin Khan  
Aifa Muhammad Radzi  
Ibrahim Rasheed





**MVRCR** MOHAWK VALLEY  
**RESOURCE CENTER FOR REFUGEES**

# Library Partnership

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