



# Reykjavík Red Cross

Sigrún Egilsdóttir



Rauði krossinn  
Af mannúð - í 90 ár

# Immigrants and refugees



Immigrants and  
refugees

Craft around the  
globe

Homework club

Resettled refugees –  
Syrians 2016

Open house –  
immigrant support

# Craft around the globe

- Every Monday from 10-13
- Craft group mainly of immigrants
- Welcome packs for resettled refugees

# Homework club

- Started in 2008
- Cooperation of Reykjavík City Library, Reykjavík Red Cross and Reykjavík department of education
- Based in part on a Danish project called “Projekt 100 lektiecaféer.”
- Target group: students with mother tongue other than Icelandic
- All children are welcome

# Our aim

- Support and strengthen students in their studies
- Boost students self confidence
- Get to know the library
- Get access to fun books, movies and music
- Enjoy good company in creative surroundings

# What we offer

- Homework assistance at the library
- Red Cross volunteers, 2-3 students per volunteer
- The library - neutral, relaxed and informal place where everyone is welcome.
- The library offers all kind of study material and the staff can help the students and volunteers find appropriate material and information.

# Our students

- 4th to 10th grade students
- High school students
- Adults studying Icelandic

# Numbers

- Registered students: 59
- Active volunteers: 25
- 5 city libraries
- 1 elementary school – school library



# Resettlement refugees

- 2016: 7 families in Reykjavík and 4 in Akureyri.  
Total of 55 individuals
- Each family gets support families to assist and act as guides into Icelandic society
- Municipalities provide apartments
- Red cross volunteers furnish the apartments
- 84 red cross volunteers in 2016
  
- 2017 (end of january): 4 families in Reykjavík, 1 in Hveragerði, 2 in Selfoss and 1 in Akureyri

# Open house – immigrant support

- Started in January 2016
- For persons who have obtained refugee status in Iceland and other immigrants.
  
- Twice a week, 2 hours each time
- 6-8 volunteers each time
- 8-18 guests each time

# Provides an opportunity for:

- Increasing participation in Icelandic society
- Getting information about rights and duties in Icelandic society
- Building a social network

# Volunteers provide

- Information and support related to various practical matters, such as:
  - Finding rooms/apartments for rent
  - Creating a CV/resume
  - Searching for employment
  - Locating affordable furniture and appliances
  - Educational opportunities and academic support
  - Accessing available emotional support/counseling services

# Numbers

- 2016:
- 1000 visits
- 170 guests
- 58 individuals found housing
- 28 volunteers



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