Who We Are

BRYTE is a student-led organization run in collaboration with the Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island and the Swearer Center for Public Service at Brown University. Through BRYTE, Brown students tutor and mentor students in refugee families who have recently relocated to Providence. We work with families who come from countries such as Burundi, Eritrea, Liberia, Iraq, Nepal, Somalia, and Burma.

The Coordinators

BRYTE is led by six student coordinators. Each semester, coordinators recruit, train, and manage volunteers. In addition, coordinators run trainings throughout the semester and plan community events, such as the annual Thanksgiving potluck held at the International Institute of Rhode Island. Finally, each student coordinator is in charge of around twenty volunteers with whom they check in regularly throughout the semester, by both e-mail correspondence and individual meetings.

Contact Us:

brown.refugee.tutoring@gmail.com
refugeetutoring.com

Our Community Partners:

dorcasinternational.org
iiri.org
swearercenter.brown.edu
Mission
“BRYTE empowers refugee youth to overcome academic and social obstacles during a critical time of transition through our one-on-one, in-home tutoring model. BRYTE tutors build strong and stable relationships with refugee youth to support their success in school through English proficiency. BRYTE coordinators collaborate with BRYTE tutors and Providence community partners to provide refugee families with resources to thrive in their new community.”

Core values
- **A holistic approach to education:** Inspiring critical thinking, creative self-expression, and a love for learning through academic tutoring and enrichment activities
- **Reciprocity:** Building strong relationships, fostering bidirectional learning, and promoting cross-cultural understanding
- **Asset-based approach:** Drawing on the existing strengths of the Providence refugee community and its local institutions
- **Empowerment through literacy:** Enabling Providence refugees to access resources and advocate for themselves and their communities through English proficiency

Volunteers and Training
BRYTE volunteers work one-on-one with refugee students in their homes at least three hours per week. Volunteers spend time primarily tutoring (providing homework help and building on foundational literacy skills), but also engage in enrichment activities such as taking their students to visit the zoo, playing soccer at the park, or bringing them up to Brown’s campus for community events. Every week, BRYTE volunteers complete a Progress Report outlining the various academic and enrichment activities completed with their student. To ensure effective tutoring sessions, volunteers participate in a five-hour introductory training session, and attend additional trainings throughout the semester. These trainings aim to give volunteers the tools they need as tutors and culturally sensitive community members to teach literacy skills, work in a refugee family’s household, and take advantage of activities in Providence.

BRYTE & Providence Schools: Why is collaboration essential?
BRYTE volunteers provide homework help to their students as well as supplement their school work by creating additional lesson plans. Communication between tutors and their student’s teachers is essential for the tutors to provide worthwhile and complementary lessons for their students. Through increased collaboration, we hope to create a consistent learning experience for our students.

Numbers
- Coordinators: 6
- Tutors: 123
- Refugee Families: 47
- Families come from 13 different countries: Burundi, Eritrea/Ethiopia, Nepal/Bhutan, Burma, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Liberia, Iraq, Somalia, Congo, Iran and Togo
- Kids: 116
- Adults: 9
- Hours of tutoring per week: ~370