

TOOLKIT:

Host an Adopt-A-Future Fundraising Dinner *in support of education for refugee children*



unusa.org/adopt-a-future

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Background: *About the refugee crisis and Adopt-A-Future*

An unprecedented [65 million people](#) across the globe have been forcibly displaced due to war and persecution, according to recent estimates from the UN refugee agency (UNHCR). Twenty-two million of those displaced are refugees who were forced to leave their own country. More than half of refugees are children who could spend the entirety of their formative years in refugee camps. **Sadly, only 61 percent of refugee children attend primary school, compared with a global average of 91 percent.** UNHCR is working to prevent a lost generation by educating refugee children in camps and other settings around the world, but they need our help.

In response to this call, the United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA), in partnership with USA for UNHCR, launched the [Adopt-A-Future](#) campaign to empower American communities to provide direct support for refugee education. **UNA-USA invites you to use this toolkit to host a fundraising dinner in support of Adopt-A-Future.** Whether you host a dinner at your home, a restaurant, or place of worship—every dollar raised makes a real difference in the lives of refugee children. In fact, just \$25 provides school supplies and clothing for a refugee child to enroll in school.

In January 2018, UNA-USA [announced](#) world-renowned chef, author, TV personality, and former refugee Lidia Bastianich as its first celebrity champion for Adopt-A-Future. Lidia will host her own fundraising dinner for Adopt-A-Future in March 2018 at her flagship Manhattan restaurant, Felidia. Watch Lidia's [special video message](#) about Adopt-A-Future, which includes recipe suggestions from her new cookbook, "[Lidia's Celebrate like an Italian.](#)"

Step-by-Step Planning Guide: *9 steps for success*

Step 1: Prepare your budget

Consider what a realistic budget for your dinner would be. Make sure to cover full event costs (food, venue, supplies, etc.), plus your fundraising goal for Adopt-A-Future.

Step 2: Secure a venue

Whether you keep it simple and barbeque at home, host at a restaurant, or organize at your place of worship or child's school, make sure the venue can accommodate your full guest list and is within a reasonable budget to make the largest impact on funds raised for Adopt-A-Future.

Step 3: Invitation list

A good mix of interesting, engaging people always makes for a good party. You can reach out to a refugee and invite them to the dinner to share his or her story; ask a representative from a resettlement agency to attend to discuss current events; or inquire if a local politician or well-known business leader can attend. Of course, also invite your fellow UNA-USA members, friends, and neighbors. Whether you send invitations out in the mail, by e-mail, or share online using social media, we recommend that you include an RSVP date and any bios of refugee or other VIP attendees.

Step 4: Fundraising

You can raise money for Adopt-A-Future in a variety of ways. Many hosts will generously provide the food and beverage costs, and then ask their guests to make a donation in support of Adopt-A-Future. Another simple approach is to have a ticket price that covers event costs and a donation amount to Adopt-A-Future.

Recommended Donation Levels: Encourage your guests to donate \$25, \$50, \$100, or more. Any amount will help and make a real difference. Plus, all donations will be fully matched by the Educate a Child Fund, doubling the impact of your contribution. Donate the proceeds of your dinner at unausa.org/adopt-a-future-give. To donate via mail, download a donation form [here](#). Questions on donating? Email membership@unausa.org.

Step 5: Promotion

We recommend heavily promoting your event to ensure that it's well-attended. If you promote your event on social media, be sure to use compelling images to grab people's attention. (Click [here](#) to create an event using Facebook.) Let local media outlets know about your event to raise awareness for Adopt-A-Future. This can make a huge difference!

Step 6: Inform UNA-USA of your plans

We want you to have the most successful event possible. So, once you have your venue and invitation list finalized, reach out to us at membership@unausa.org. We'll send you a small kit of materials to use at your event.

Step 7: Plan the menu

Whether you cook at home, have a restaurant sponsor the dinner, or even plan a potluck, make sure there is good variety for all different types of tastes and food allergies. Watch this [special video message](#) from Adopt-A-Future Champion, world-renowned chef, and former refugee Lidia Bastianich, where she shares recipe ideas from her new cookbook, "[Lidia's Celebrate like an Italian](#)."

Step 8: The ambiance

Create a warm and welcoming space for guests so they feel comfortable and excited to learn more about Adopt-A-Future. Play music, have good lighting, and display the Adopt-A-Future materials in the kit we'll send you. Make sure to take plenty of photographs (or hire a local photographer). Post about the event on social media using #USAforUN and tag UNA-USA:

Facebook/Twitter: [@UNAUSA](#)

Instagram: [@UNA.USA](#)

Step 9: Say thank you

The day after the event, send an email to all attendees thanking them for going to the party and supporting Adopt-A-Future. Make sure to include a link to the Adopt-A-Future donation website at unausa.org/adopt-a-future-give. You can also encourage attendees to join UNA-USA at unausa.org/join.

WANT MORE RESOURCES?

For additional Adopt-A-Future resources, including recipes, a PowerPoint presentation with talking points, and special graphics, visit unausa.org/adopt-a-future. Thank you for your support!

DONATE TO ADOPT-A-FUTURE: unausa.org/adopt-a-future-give