

Before the Story:

Say: Butch and Nell Green live in Houston, Texas, and work with refugees, international university students, and Muslims to provide friendship, help, and hope. (Show photo.) They connect churches and Christians to individuals to help them form relationships with one another.

Share the Story:

Food Basket Friendship

Carter was so excited! Today he was going with his parents to help CBF field personnel Butch and Nell Green put together food baskets and deliver them to new refugee families.

After his family finished eating breakfast, they drove across town to church. When they arrived, Carter listened to Butch give instructions.

"We will be making 50 baskets for 50 families today," said Butch. "Each welcome basket will have several food items, a gift card to a local grocery store, my contact information, and a welcome note." His family and the other church members began filling the baskets.

As the 50 baskets were completed, Butch asked everyone to sit down. "Now it is time to deliver these baskets. If you are invited to go inside someone's home, please take off your shoes at the door." Nell explained that the refugee families may offer tea, coffee, cookies, or fruit and encouraged everyone to politely accept.

Carter's family was assigned three baskets to deliver to three different families. They took the baskets to their car and agreed to meet back with the others after their deliveries. As they got to the first house, Carter was a little nervous. When he knocked on the door, he was surprised to see a boy about his age open the door. His mom, dad, and two sisters were also home. Carter and his family said, "Hello! We want to welcome you to America and let you know how glad we are that you are here!" They gave the family the basket.

The refugee family was surprised! These Americans were glad that they were here? They invited Carter and his family inside and got to know each other. Carter met Amhed and discovered that he was in the third grade, too. As Carter's family began their goodbyes, their new friends said, "Thank you for coming to meet us. You are our first American friends. We hope to see you again soon."

After the Story:

1. **Ask:** What did the church members take to the new refugees? Would you ever want to be a part of making and delivering welcome baskets to new people in our community?
2. **Pray:** Thank you, God, for the Greens and their work as they help churches connect to refugees in Houston.



Learning Activity:

Play a Food Basket Relay

Items needed: two laundry baskets or boxes; ten canned goods or non-perishable foods; notecards or index cards; markers

1. Divide all of the supplies into two groups on one end of a large open area. Place the laundry baskets or boxes on the other end of the room. Recruit helpers to participate if needed.
2. **Say:** Twice a year, around Easter and Thanksgiving, the Greens work with several groups to deliver food baskets to newly resettled refugee families. Members of churches assemble the baskets and deliver them, along with Butch's contact information, an offer of help, and a warm greeting of welcome.
3. Divide the participants into two teams. Explain how to complete the relay game. One person from each team will run down, collect an item, and run back to place the item in the basket and tag the next member of their team. The second person will repeat the process. Play continues until the basket is full.
4. Consider donating the canned goods to a local food bank.

Meet the Field Personnel:



Butch and Nell Green are CBF field personnel in Houston, Texas, where they distribute food baskets to refugees, connect churches with refugee families, and partner with Interfaith Ministries to meet the needs of newly-arrived refugees.