Refugee Awareness #1

Say: Welcome to Operation Wheels! Do you know what ‘refugee’ means? (encourage kids with positive affirmation for their responses) Is it a person or is it a thing? A refugee is someone who cannot live in their own country because they fear that they will lose their lives if they stay because of their religion or political beliefs. When you are given refugee status by another country you are allowed to live in that country, safe from harm. Did you know that we have refugee families that that have come to our country to live? Maybe they even come to our church! Do you think it would be scary to leave your home and come to a new country where you may not even know the language that everyone speaks? (what for responses)

We are going to play a little game that helps us experience what it is like to leave our country and travel to another country.

AFTERNOON ACTIVITY

North American Division Children’s Ministries presents
Operation Wheels Mission Project

Welcome To My World!

Matthew 25:31-46: “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”
What Will You Take?

Sometimes all a child has is a small suitcase filled with just the essentials when they have to leave their home and country. What would you take?

**Supplies Needed**

- 2 suitcases filled with basic clothing: shirt, pants, socks (oversized) and a stuffie
- Masking tape or rope for start and finish lines

**Pre-Prep**

1. Set up a start and finish line at least 25 feet apart.
2. Divide the clothing into the two suitcases and place both at the finish line a little way apart from each other.

**Activity Instructions**

1. Divide players into two teams and have them line up.
2. On the go signal, one player from each team must race to his suitcase and put on all the clothing and carry the stuffie. Then they must race back to their team and take off all of the items, passing them to the next player along with the stuffie. That player then puts on all the items and races back to the suitcase and takes them all off and leaves them in the suitcase... with the stuffie! And then races back to their team.
3. This cycle continues until the last player has changed clothing and made it back to the team.

Say: Whew! That was a lot of running and changing cloths! Sometimes a refugee family has to leave quickly with only a few belongings.

**Leader Tie-in:** Sometimes people fleeing war and violence have to leave their homes at very short notice. While some may know where they are going and have families waiting for them in another country, others do not and need to find a place to stay safe and food to feed their family. Jesus talks about this a lot! See right here in the Bible Matthew 25:31-46... (read all verses with emphasis on verse 45-46) “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” Let’s watch a story about a young refugee girl from Burma. Before Jessica was born her family had to leave their home in Burma and go to Malaysia where Jessica was born. Then her family moved again, this time all the way to the United States.

**Operation Wheels Video Story #1**

Jessica needs our help! And that is why our project called Operation Wheels is so important. It’s a chance for all of you to help bring in money that will be used to provide transportation for refugee children and their families. You can help! kids helping other kids who happen to be refugees...that is what it is all about! Isn’t that cool? Kids helping kids! All you have to do is bring your money and put it in the special Operation Wheels container. Look ... I want to help. I’ll put in some dollars now!

Operation Wheels, is a project helping the Arizona Conference Refugee Ministries, that provides transportation to local refugee families so they are able to travel to the Christian school, adult English classes, work, church and shopping.

Now let’s make a pouch for you to put your money in each time you earn some dollars for Operation Wheels. Then, when you come to church you can put your money in the Operation Wheels container or in a tithe envelope marked: Operation Wheels Mission Project.
“Helping Hands” activity is a great way to teach your children to be compassionate and generous with those who need help! This would make a great mission activity for 13th Sabbath.

**Supplies Needed**
- Oven Mitten (Dollar Tree)
- Non-toxic paint
- Foam paint brush (disposable)
- Paper plates and paper towels
- Aprons (disposable) (Walmart.com)
- Blow dryer
- Large bowl for soapy water

**Activities Instructions**
1. Place oven mitt at each child’s workstation.
2. Write child’s name inside oven mitt.
3. Place small paper plate and sponge paint brush at each child’s work station.
4. Fill large bowl with water and soap
5. Instruct children to put paint on the palm of their hand.
   Assist them in painting one hand and pressing it firmly onto the oven mitten.
6. Immediately wash hands in large bowl of soapy water. Dry with paper towel
7. Take oven mitt to blow dry station.
8. Children will take their oven mitten home and use it to insert money donations.
   Instruct children to bring their filled oven mitten back for the 13th Sabbath offering.
9. Send an Operation Wheels letter home with each child. (Download adventistvbs.org)

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS OUT TO:**
NAD Children’s Ministries Department  
North American Division of SDA  
9705 Patuxent Woods Drive  
Columbia, MD 21046  
Memo on check: VBX Mission Project Operation Wheels offering code 3752 (TRS)