

NEW NEIGHBOR VIRTUAL VISITS

In this new era of “social distancing,” you can keep in touch with your refugee friends in a variety of ways. In order to protect everyone’s health, we are recommending virtual visits with refugees during this time of

Call, Text or Mail

The easiest option is to call or text. Let refugees know you cannot visit right now, but you want to know how they are doing. Keep it positive, and reassure them that you look forward to seeing them again in the future.

A phone call will mean the world to them!

Another idea is to send a card through the mail. Even if they don’t speak English, if you keep things basic, they may be able to use Google translate to interpret your message.

Video Chats

If you want to try something a bit more technological, you can use FaceTime, WhatsApp, Skype or countless other options to video chat.

The key to these video chat platforms is that both you and the person you’re calling need to use the same app. In other words, you can’t call WhatsApp from FaceTime. So you’ll have to start by asking (via phone or text) which platform your refugee friends use. Using an app your refugee family is already familiar with will make connecting easier.

Here are a few popular apps for video chat:

FaceTime

If you and the person you’re calling both have an iPhone or Mac computer, FaceTime video calls are easy, because FaceTime is automatically activated when you set up any Apple device. However, it’s not available for Android, so this option works only if you and the person you’re calling have Apple products.

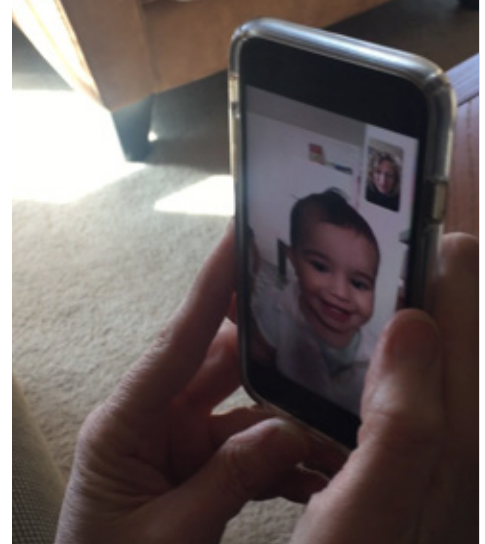
Go to your contacts and select your refugee friend. Under their name are several blue circles, with options like “message” or “mobile” (meaning a regular phone call) or “video.” Tap the “video” circle and you will initiate a video call. You’ll be able to see the other person when they answer.

WhatsApp

Because WhatsApp can be used for free voice and video calls over the Internet, even international calls, many refugees already use it and are comfortable with it. WhatsApp can be used for calls, texts, and video calls, or to send photos or voice recordings. It’s available for free at the App Store on Apple devices and at Google Play on Android. Find a detailed tutorial [here](#).

Skype

Skype is another free app, which you can use from your phone or computer, and works on both Apple and Android products. Both parties need to have the app installed on their device. Check with your refugees to see if they have Skype. If so, here’s a brief tutorial on [how to set it up](#), and another on [how to use it](#).



Video chats are a great way to connect.

Please don't hesitate to contact the Exodus program team with any questions.