

MAY
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ECE[®] Aid Newsletter

A charitable initiative developed to provide free evaluation reports for vulnerable and displaced populations.



Dear Friends,

Spring continues to bloom as we work towards assisting more and more ECE[®] Aid recipients. I know it may seem like these newsletters are just ways to ask for more donations. But I truly enjoy writing every month to tell you about the wonderful progress ECE[®] Aid continues to achieve because of folks like you. You are such an integral part of the success behind ECE[®] Aid, and I feel like I can never thank you enough.

Speaking of progress, we're closing in on nearly 600 completed evaluations for refugees and displaced people through ECE[®] Aid. The free evaluation reports that ECE[®] Aid recipients receive help fill crucial skills gaps in the workforce and drive further education and innovation. That's a lot of positive change for communities everywhere! And that's something we can all be proud of.

In this issue:

ECE[®] Aid Updates

ECE[®] Aid Recipient Story: Deo from Uganda

ECE[®] Aid joins with A26 Backpack

We need you!

This month we have a lot to talk about. First, a story from Ugandan immigrant Deo shows us that even after immigrating over a decade ago, you can still strive for your dreams and aspirations. Sometimes, with just a little bit of help.

Next, we showcase another incredible addition to our ever-growing list of ECE® Aid participating organizations with A26 Backpack. You'll learn about their amazing initiative and how ECE® Aid will be able to assist even more displaced people who are living in refugee camps right now.

Finally, you'll read about our latest project to inspire, engage, and get your creativity flowing with our new ECE® Aid Cookbook.

Thanks for reading. See you in June!



ECE® Aid Recipient Story Deo from Uganda

Deo came to the United States in his mid-thirties with the dream of continuing his education. "My dream was to continue with my education in the U.S. but I had my papers from Africa... I didn't know who and how to have them recognized." It wasn't until 15 years later that he learned about what credential evaluation was and how it could help him pursue his dream.

[Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants \(CIRI\)](#) became an ECE® Aid participating organization in 2019. Deo currently works as a case manager at CIRI. One day while at work, a colleague told him how ECE could compare his bachelor's degree from Bugema University in Uganda to those earned in the U.S. After ECE verified his university's regional accreditation and evaluated his degree in social work, Deo was able to apply to a U.S. graduate program. Now Deo is studying global development and peace as he pursues his master's degree.

"I thank you for supporting refugees and immigrants in such wonderful way." - Deo

ECE® Aid joins with A26 Backpack

We are so excited to share another big announcement about a brand new ECE® Aid participating organization. This month we finalized the details with [Article 26 Backpack](#), and we couldn't be happier.

For those unfamiliar with Article 26 Backpack, the initiative was developed in 2016 and 2017 to assist refugees and students in uploading their academic and other educational documents to a digital cloud platform for safekeeping. The initiative has been described as "a cloud-based 'ecosystem' to help refugees and other vulnerable young people reclaim their education."

The program's name comes from Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948:

"Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit."

This partnership will allow ECE® Aid to have direct contact with displaced people overseas, some who are living in refugee camps, looking for educational opportunities in the U.S. You can learn more about Article 26 Backpack on their [website](#).





We need you (and it's not just about money)!

You may have received an email recently asking for submissions to our new ECE® Aid cookbook. We want this to be a fun experience for everyone and to provide a creative outlet. Please contribute your recipes and stories revolving around food and the joy of cooking delicious homemade meals with your family and friends. We also hope this will be a special way of saying thank you to our ECE® Aid contributors and supporters.

For the first edition, we want to feature comfort foods your family made for you and/or foods you started the tradition of making for your loved ones.

We are inviting all our ECE® Aid donors and supporters to submit recipes for consideration in the 2022 ECE® Aid Cookbook, along with a story about what makes this recipe so special or why you choose to donate to ECE® Aid.

Recipes for this edition will be accepted through June 1 and can be submitted [here](#).

This year's book will be digitally published in August in honor of the founding of ECE® Aid. Those who have donated \$10 or more to ECE® Aid will receive a PDF copy of the final cookbook to enjoy for years to come.

We hope you will contribute and help make this donor incentive a fun AND delicious success!



Donate to ECE® Aid



With gratitude,

Zachary Holochwost (he/him/his)
ECE® Aid & Market Research Manager



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