



# ECE<sup>®</sup> Aid Newsletter

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



## SUMMER/AUTUMN 2023

During times of crisis, tragedy, and conflict it is often my practice to return to what TV host and author Fred Rogers once said, “When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people that are helping.’” For the past few weeks I’ve been asking myself, what can I do to help more people? I’ve also been thinking a lot about what our role is at ECE and how we, as an organization, can be the helpers that Fred Rogers’ mother talked about.

Of course, the ECE<sup>®</sup> Aid initiative continues to help refugees and other displaced people with free credential evaluations. Financial assistance through ECE<sup>®</sup> Aid can make a world of difference in the lives of an individual as well as their family and community.

Likewise, as an industry leader, ECE takes a role in helping to guide our colleagues in international education towards resources, information, and knowledge of what we do best: comparative education and credential evaluation. In doing so, we can all be the helpers that are so vital in creating a more inclusive, peaceful, and compassionate world.

### Highlights

Crisis Management

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Visit to the Consulate of Mexico

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ECE<sup>®</sup> Marketing Team Meet-Up

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Happy Birthday to ECE<sup>®</sup> Aid and Quarterly Updates

## Crisis Management

Rest assured, ECE® Aid will continue to do what we have always done: provide free, high-quality credential evaluations to refugees and other displaced people who are in need of an evaluation for employment, education, licensing, or immigration purposes. Over the past 40+ years, ECE and ECE® Aid have assisted countless Palestinian and Israeli students and immigrants, among many others. And we continue to believe in the mission of ECE, to promote the betterment of individuals' lives and society.

ECE® staff members consistently check and update our own resources making sure we are using and providing the most current information. This is especially crucial during times of crisis and conflict. Our country specialists and other staff take pride in staying informed of changes in educational systems throughout the world to better fulfill our mission. Sometimes this can even happen in real time as crises are unfolding. Furthermore, frequent reviews of our documentation requirements, based on each individual country of study, are used to determine if the requirements are still considered reasonable and secure.

Additionally, we circulate resources through the ECE® Connection. Colleagues come to the Connection to ask questions, compare sample documents, watch webinars, as well as search through a multitude of other resources. Through the sharing of knowledge with our international education networks, community partners, and other colleagues, we can help eliminate undue barriers and propagate a better understanding of the needs of students and employment-seeking individuals across the world. Even in times of crisis.

## Visit to the Consulate of Mexico

In July we accepted an invitation from the [Consulate of Mexico in Milwaukee](#) to visit their offices. Community Affairs Consul Dante Gómez Martínez and Community Affairs agent Francisco Pineda provided a tour of their offices and introduced us to the many services the Consulate offers to the local Milwaukee community, as well as the broader Wisconsin area.

Embassies and consulates within the United States help individuals and families with a host of services, including employment, educational opportunities, and visa and other documentation issues. They also hold workshops for the community and help organizations like ECE connect with those they serve. We hope to continue to engage in future collaborative efforts with the Consulate, ECE, and ECE® Aid.

*ECE® marketing staff at the Consulate of Mexico in Milwaukee, WI.*





## ECE® Marketing Team Meet-Up!

Also in July, the ECE® Marketing team met in Milwaukee for an in-person professional development meet-up.

With our team spread out across several states, and all of us working remotely, any opportunity to see each other in-person is always a delight.

Activities included team development workshops, all-team meetings, and for a little fun and a true Milwaukee cultural experience, a tour of the Pabst Mansion.



*ECE® marketing staff at the Pabst Mansion in Milwaukee, WI.*

## Happy Birthday ECE® Aid!

This marks the 7th year of the ECE® Aid initiative, and we couldn't be prouder. ECE® Aid has served over 800 refugees and other displaced people since 2016. It is truly our honor to provide free credential evaluations to those most in need of them. We're excited to continue to seek further solutions for those we serve and to offer more fee waivers in the years to come. Thank you to everyone on the ECE® staff and to all of the ECE® Aid participating institutions and organizations. We could not do this work without the support and encouragement of you all!



## Quarterly Updates

**51** completed ECE® Aid evaluation reports in July, August, and September.

We're on track to have our best year ever of fee waivers distributed. We've already reached 2022 numbers and will definitely surpass our biggest year, 2020.

### Recent ECE® Aid activities & outreach:

- July Marketing Team meet-up in Milwaukee!
- Consulate of Mexico in Milwaukee visit in July
- August presentation at Semana Binacional de Educación hosted by the Consulate of Mexico
- Jewish Family and Community Services - Pittsburgh presentation in August to Immigrant Workforce Program cohort

Sincerely,

Zachary Holochwost *(he/him)*

*ECE® Aid and Market Research Manager*

