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**THE WALKING BOOK CLUB EVENT FEATURES
BESTSELLING AUTHOR JEANINE CUMMINS AND NARRATOR YARELI ARIZMENDI**

Virtual chat will raise funds for the International Rescue Committee

LEBANON, NJ (May X, 2020) — The Walking Book Club is proud to partner with Jeanine Cummins, author of the #1 *New York Times* bestseller, *American Dirt*, to raise funds for the International Rescue Committee (IRC). A book chat with Cummins and Yareli Arizmendi, who narrated the audiobook, is scheduled for Friday, May 29 at 1 p.m. EDT.

“I’m really excited about this event, as it brings my personal and professional passions together,” said Julie Kaminski, founder of The Walking Book Club, which has seen a spike in signups as COVID-19 forces people to change their lifestyles. “My compassion for the migrant population stems from my college days at the University of Arizona, and during this very unusual time, I’m delighted The Walking Book Club is a source of engagement, meaning and joy that’s making a difference in people’s lives.”

American Dirt chronicles the ordeal of a Mexican woman who had to escape to the U.S. with her son as an undocumented immigrant. The Walking Book Club announced the book selection in December 2019, prior to the announcement that it was chosen by Oprah’s Book Club and Barnes & Noble. The novel was highly anticipated and met with controversy; navigating the sensitivities surrounding it inspired The Walking Book Club to dig deeper to better understand the topic and the issues. Through her story, members gained a better understanding of the humanitarian crisis at the border.

“Last year, a migrant died along the U.S.–Mexico border every 16 hours,” Cummins wrote on her fundraising page for the IRC. <https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/borderlands> Cummins has been a supporter of smaller-scale organizations in the borderlands since her research for the novel took her to the region several years ago, but the “Remain in Mexico” policy, combined with the COVID-19 pandemic, prompted Cummins to partner with the IRC. “The situation for migrants is grim, and the humanitarian need is greater than ever,” she said.

A limited number of virtual seats are available for the event, and reservations can be made at <https://juliekaminski.com/american-dirt/>. A suggested donation of \$25 is requested to participate — but any amount will help. Because Kaminski feels so strongly about working together to make a difference, The Walking Book Club has pledged to match every donation up to \$2,500. Cummins is also matching all donations generated by the event.

About The Walking Book Club

The Walking Book Club is a free, virtual, global community that moves while listening to audiobooks. Members meet for online and virtual discussions on books and the Healthy-Body Happy-Mind lifestyle. Its facilitator, Julie Kaminski, is a National Board Certified Health & Wellness Coach who holds ACE certifications in group fitness and personal training and a master of arts in counseling psychology. She has 30+ years of experience helping women discover and manifest their health and happiness goals. To learn more, visit <https://juliekaminski.com/walking-book-club/> or <https://www.facebook.com/TheWalkingBookClub/>.

About the International Rescue Committee

The International Rescue Committee responds to the world's worst humanitarian crises, helping to restore health, safety, education, economic well being, and power to people devastated by conflict and disaster. Founded in 1933 at the call of Albert Einstein, the IRC is at work in over 40 countries and over 20 U.S. cities helping people to survive, reclaim control of their future, and strengthen their communities. Learn more at www.rescue.org.

