

# POWR Post

## January 2011 (Vol. 2, Issue 1)

The POWR Post is a monthly e-newsletter sharing success stories of the USCCB/MRS Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugees program. Do you have any news items, stories or pictures relating to your parish program that you would like to share? If so, please contact Daniel Sturm at [dsturm@usccb.org](mailto:dsturm@usccb.org).

~Daniel Sturm, MRS Special Projects Manager



### Donations

#### **Tons of Household Help (Arlington, Virginia)**

Ten diocesan parishes hosted Giving Tree Drives for our clients. We found particular success in gathering items grouped under the category of "Household Help," including paper towels, toilet paper and floor cleaner. We also requested hats, gloves, new pajamas, socks, school supplies, baby clothing, general supplies and furniture, and gift cards to go towards transportation to jobs, food, and basic necessities. One parish also requested to collect toys for the children. Through these 10 Giving Trees, \$16,813 was raised in gift cards and \$1,130 in cash for client emergency needs. Additionally, more than 7,000 new items were collected.

Rebecca Cormier Ruiz, [r.ruiz@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:r.ruiz@arlingtondiocese.org)

#### **Flyer Campaign Succeeds (Des Moines, Iowa)**

Parishes circulated a flier requesting seasonal clothing and advertised information about an online Target gift registry. In December, we received more than 400 coats. Other outreach included a presentation to the Knights of Columbus chapter in Ankeny, Iowa. This group has hundreds of registered members. After learning about the realities of refugees' adjustment struggles, they were asked to assist with apartment set-ups and furniture pick-ups.

Megan Thibodeau, [mthibodeau@dmdiocese.org](mailto:mthibodeau@dmdiocese.org)

#### **One Hundred Students Donating Blankets (San Antonio, Texas)**

St. Peter, Prince of the Apostle, motivated its parish in creating a giving tree, and collecting Christmas gifts for 20 families with children. St. Matthew's Catholic School collected one hundred winter blankets for refugees. One hundred students and teachers participated in this donation drive. One volunteer was a Priest from Africa who was able to hear confessions of Catholic refugees in the refugees' native language. The amount of dollars raised through POWR for this month is \$15,261.38 (cash). The increase in giving is due to the volunteer coordinator having additional staff that can pick up more donations to distribute to refugees.

Paula Walker, [pwalker@ccaosa.org](mailto:pwalker@ccaosa.org)

#### **Refugee Christmas Party (Nashville, Tennessee)**

At our Refugee Christmas Party, \$30,000 worth of gifts were given to clients. Donations for this party itself – including the ballroom, food, family portrait photographers, and entertainment was valued at \$11,088. Donations of household items, clothing, and toys valued at \$15,325.

Kellye Branson, [kbranson@cctenn.org](mailto:kbranson@cctenn.org)

## Employment

### **Temp Job Successes (Hartford, Conn.)**

Kelly Temporary Services hired 28 refugees for food industry jobs in the Greater Hartford area. Although this is temporary employment, it gives our clients an experience of the interview selection process, American work life, receiving a pay check (some for the first time in their lives), banking and financial management.

Judy Gough, [jgough@ccaoh.org](mailto:jgough@ccaoh.org)

## Media

### **The Giving Tree Blossoms (San Antonio, Texas)**

A *San Antonio Express* news article featured Catholic Charities Director, Paula Walker, and St. Peter's Becky Finley in front of the Giving Tree. This article highlighted the POWR program.

<http://tinyurl.com/6by2vvu>

Paula Walker, [pwalker@ccaosa.org](mailto:pwalker@ccaosa.org)

### **Refugee Christmas Party (Nashville, Tennessee)**

We received excellent media coverage of our Refugee Christmas party, highlighting the stories of two of our refugee families. Links to some of the coverage is included.

Kellye Branson, [kbranson@cctenn.org](mailto:kbranson@cctenn.org)

<http://tinyurl.com/48lgngo>; <http://tinyurl.com/4zembya>

## Partnerships

### **Children's Museum Shows Interest in a Refugee Program (Portland, Maine)**

The Children's Museum of Maine has indicated an interest in partnering with Catholic Charities on a project that would match 10 refugee families with 10 host families from the area. These families would be involved in multi-cultural activities once a month at the Museum.

Bonnie Bagley, [bbagley@ccmaine.org](mailto:bbagley@ccmaine.org)

## ? Question of the Month

### **Question of the Month (Richmond, Va.)**

We are trying to find a useful volunteer database. I wonder if anyone is currently using an off-the-shelf product that they are happy with, or have developed something they like?

Marilyn Breslow, [marilyn.breslow@cccovva.org](mailto:marilyn.breslow@cccovva.org)

## Volunteer Management

### **Encouraged by Small Outreach Sessions (Anchorage, Alaska)**

I have found that holding small informational sessions is a very effective way of reaching interested people. Priests and bulletins announce meetings, and those who are interested can come to hear more about RAIS and our volunteer opportunities. We have two more sessions planned for January.

Natalie Magnatta, [nmagnatta@cssalaska.org](mailto:nmagnatta@cssalaska.org)

### **Forming Inter-Parish Committees (Anchorage, Alaska)**

We have devised a plan that will be very effective for organizing and maintaining volunteers. We are forming "Inter-parish Committees" that will focus on providing warm meals, transportation, education and outreach, to recruit family mentors and warm clothes. Several parishes are already on board and very enthusiastic about the idea of partnering across parishes to do this important work. I am also assembling a directory of important parish contacts that will serve as our go-to whenever we have needs.

Natalie Magnatta, [nmagnatta@cssalaska.org](mailto:nmagnatta@cssalaska.org)

### **Mentoring Opportunities Work Out (Jacksonville, Florida)**

We met with two volunteer job trainers to fine tune training programs that will begin in January. Two sessions are scheduled that will accommodate six languages, and a third is being scheduled to handle our Spanish-speaking populations. Training will cover appropriate business attire, interviewing techniques, work ethic and employer expectations.

Shannon Cutler, [scutler@ccbjax.org](mailto:scutler@ccbjax.org)

## Future Funding Ideas

### **Pitch to Junior League (San Antonio, Texas)**

We submitted an application to the Junior League requesting that their organization participate in a "Done in a Day" project with Catholic Charities Refugee Services. If successful, anywhere from 2-12 Junior Leaguers will participate in a hygiene product drive on behalf of the refugee community. This is of particular importance because many refugees do not have the income to purchase such items. One is not allowed to utilize food stamps for such products. Another reason why this event is so important is because it is a prerequisite for the Junior League grant application process.

Paula Walker, [pwalker@ccaosa.org](mailto:pwalker@ccaosa.org)

## Locating Funding Opportunities

### HOW-TO GUIDES ON FINDING FUNDERS

**Capaciteria.org** – a free service to help nonprofits find the best resources to build their institutional capacity  
→ <http://www.capaciteria.org>

**Foundation Center** – an extremely useful resource  
→ <http://foundationcenter.org>

**JUMO** – a new social networking platform to connect individuals with nonprofits  
→ <http://www.jumo.com>

**Raisefunds.com** – a fantastic resource with valuable advice and templates for grant writing and fundraising  
→ <http://www.raisefund.com>

**USCCB/MRS** – a directory of resource development materials has been posted on the Members Only Website.  
→ <http://www.usccb.org/mrs/diows/fundraising.shtml>

### FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES BY SOURCE

#### 1. Federal and State Funding

**Department of Justice** – The Multi-State Mentoring Initiative supports the expansion of mentoring programs targeting at-risk populations under 18 in several states. Apply by February 28.  
→ <http://tinyurl.com/45cmv7v>

**ORR** – Obtain grant details about ORR's Ethnic Program Standing Announcement.  
→ <http://tinyurl.com/4ofggne>

**USCIS** – This federal agency offers Citizenship and Integration Grant funding opportunities.  
→ <http://www.uscis.gov/grants>

**USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture** – Awards for integrated projects for small and medium-sized farms, and in the areas of entrepreneurship and small business development. Apply by March 23.  
→ <http://tinyurl.com/46vdsn7>

#### 2. Corporations and Foundations

**Bank of America** – This bank offers various grant programs to address community needs. Various deadlines.  
→ <http://tinyurl.com/4l2wdgo>

**Do Something Awards Program** – Five youth nominees who are young activists and community leaders will receive a \$10,000 community grant, and a grand prize winner will receive \$100,000 towards his/her work. Apply by March 1.  
→ <http://www.dosomething.org/programs/awards>

**Dollar General Literacy Foundation** – This foundation supports nonprofit organizations, educational institutions and libraries that offer literacy programs in communities served by Dollar General, in 35 states. Apply by February 24.  
→ <http://tinyurl.com/2b9vj6j>

**Ford Foundation** – This foundation recently launched a \$50 Million fund for next-generation documentary filmmakers. A major new source of funds for documentaries, JustFilms will focus on stories with social purpose.  
→ <http://www.fordfoundation.org/issues/freedom-of-expression/justfilms>

**Public Interest Projects** – This organization sponsors the Freedom From Fear Award, to honor ordinary people who commit extraordinary acts of courage on behalf of immigrants and refugees. Apply by February 28.  
→ <http://tinyurl.com/4ngwq38>

**RGK Foundation** – This foundation offers grants in health, education and social services. Submit a letter of inquiry.  
→ <http://www.rgkfoundation.org>

**MetLife Foundation** – Community-Police Partnership Awards of \$20,000 recognize innovative partnerships between community groups and police to promote neighborhood safety and revitalization. Apply by February 28.  
→ <http://www.lisc.org/section/ourwork/national/safety/awards>

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