



POWR Post

February 2011 (Vol. 2, Issue 2)

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.

~Daniel Sturm, MRS Special Projects Manager

POWR Webinar on Partnerships

You are invited to register for the upcoming POWR Webinar on Partnerships scheduled for March 15 at 2 p.m. EST. This is the first in a series of webinars aimed at sharing promising practices gained during the first six months of the Parishes Organized to Welcoming Refugees (POWR) program. Specific webinar login instructions will be sent to registrants by March 7. All resettlement directors are invited to attend, regardless of whether your program is a POWR recipient.

→ Register here: <http://guest.cvent.com/d/cdqby>

Donations

Haircuts and Dental Services (Amarillo, Texas)

We set up a dental clinic for students at a local elementary school and provided transportation and interpretation. The clinic treated 11 children with cleanings and antibiotics. A couple donated haircuts and a local health clinic donated flu shots. Both events were well attended, and we would like to do this again. Dena Dyer, denadyer@gmail.com

Organizing Inventory After Huge Donation Drive (Arlington, Va.)

We spent the majority of January organizing the inventory of 7,000 new donations for quick access, locating storage space, moving the items to storage, and thanking parishioners. Rebecca Cormier Ruiz, r.ruiz@arlingtondiocese.org

Philanthropic Group Supports Refugees (Des Moines, Iowa)

A Catholic Charities board member and a member of 100+ Women Who Care made a presentation about the refugee resettlement program. This local philanthropic organization voted to donate its entire quarterly donations of \$15,000. We are using these funds to purchase 100 new twin beds and frames. Megan Thibodeau, mthibodeau@dmdiocese.org

Church Cuts a Big Check (San Jose, Calif.)

We were awarded \$18,000 through the New Life Covenant Church. Claire Collins, ccollins@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org

San Antonio Raises Significant Cash Donations (San Antonio, Texas)

The amount of cash dollars raised in financial contribution through POWR for this month is \$3,217 and \$11,498. St. Peter Prince of the Apostle was responsible for an additional 750 dollars in cash. Paula Walker, pwalker@ccaosa.org



Employment

Job Training Workshops Offered in Six Languages (Jacksonville, Fla.)

We held two job training workshops utilizing two POWR volunteers as trainers. 46 refugees participated in the workshops, which were taught in six languages. The training covered topics (in role play) such as appropriate business attire, interviewing techniques, proper work ethic, employer expectations. Shannon Cutler, scutler@ccbjax.org

Job Readiness Program Launched (Richmond, Va.)

This month saw the advent of St. Mary's Parish Job Readiness program. Two staff and two volunteers assisted refugees and other community members in preparing for the job market. Marilyn Breslow, marilyn.breslow@cccovfa.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@cccofva.org

Answer #1--Shannon Cutler, scutler@ccbjax.org (Jacksonville, Fla.)

We use the Microsoft Outlook Contacts area to keep a separate database for our volunteers. It allows for all the necessary contact information to be stored and a section for notes as well. It also gives the option of printing reports.

Answer #2--Daniel Sturm, dsturm@usccb.org (Washington, D.C.):

Idealist's volunteer resource center offers good tips. The second website reviews volunteer management software.

→ <http://www.idealists.org/info/VolunteerMgmt/Financial>

→ <http://manage-volunteers.org>

Evaluation of Services

Refugees Report Positive Resettlement Experience (Anchorage, Alaska)

The first resettlement experience survey came back fully positive (we will collect another survey at 6 months). We offer this survey in French, Spanish, Arabic, Somali and Nepalese. Natalie Magnatta, nmagnatta@cssalaska.org

Media

Global Storytellers Project Launched (Amarillo, Texas)

The Global Storytellers Group met for the first time. We hope to develop a blog where people can read the stories. Several people have volunteered to transcribe stories for those who don't speak English well, and a university professor has volunteered to create a website. Dena Dyer, denadyer@gmail.com

USCCB Traveling Companion in Demand (St. Paul, Minn.)

The USCCB/MRS *Traveling Companion* DVD has been an asset to our recruitment. Since using the DVD, the number of interested parishes has increased. megan.kenknightburman@cctwincities.org



TV Documentary Promotes Diversity and Refugee Resettlement (Richmond, Va.)

Nice piece on refugees and immigrants in our area – “E Pluribus Unum: The Changing Face of Henrico County” – aired on local TV. This may raise our visibility and bring in more support. Marilyn Breslow, marilyn.breslow@cccofva.org

<http://tinyurl.com/4tbteve>

Refugees All Over the News (San Antonio, Texas)

There were three articles in *The San Antonio Express News* about the refugee community. The first article was about the employment program of Catholic Charities and how it helps refugees find jobs at local medical facilities. The second article discusses how refugee youth bond while by playing soccer. The final article follows the story of a young hearing impaired refugee. It discusses his triumphs and struggles as he encounters assistance at school and as his family tries to help him overcome barriers in a new country. Paula Walker, pwalker@ccaosa.org

<http://tinyurl.com/4du7ywd>

<http://tinyurl.com/5sg48at>

<http://tinyurl.com/5s46bew>

Partnerships

Children's Museum Partnership Takes Off (Portland, Maine)

We partnered with Maine Medical Center and the National Children's Study for two refugee and immigrant families information nights at the Children's Museum of Maine. 25 local parish members served as "ambassadors" during these events, welcoming and interacting with refugee families.

Bonnie Bagley, bbagley@ccmaine.org

Volunteer Management

Volunteers Now Ready for Training (Brooklyn, N.Y.)

POWR refugee mentor recruitment was in full swing. We recruited through the parish bulletins, community postings, and through the Diocese's newspaper, *The Tablet*. I fielded phone calls from more than 20 individuals interested in volunteering and several pastors hoping to get their parishioners involved in the POWR initiative. Those applicants were vetted and invited to come to the upcoming volunteer training.

Cristina Grisham, cgrisham@ccbq.org

Martin Luther King Day Draws New Volunteers (Richmond, Va.)

January was a successful month for garnering attention surrounding the National Day of Service on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. We seized this opportunity and recruited volunteers to help set up two refugee apartments by moving furniture, cleaning, shopping for basic necessities. These volunteers were sent home with information about long-term volunteer opportunities.

Marilyn Breslow, marilyn.breslow@cccovfva.org

University Partnership Draws Volunteers (San Antonio, Texas)

Twenty-five new volunteers started the application process. Six volunteer were recruited by the volunteer coordinator or staff. Nineteen volunteers came on board through a partnership with The University of the Incarnate Word and a class on Global Refugees. This university will supply our program with more mentors in the future. Catholic parishes are also opening up to the idea of Refugee Ministry, due to media coverage and ongoing outreach through presentations.

Paula Walker, pwalker@ccaosa.org

Future Funding Ideas

POWR Continues With Private Foundation Money (Hartford, Conn.)

We were able to leverage private funds through the Rascob Foundation to continue the program after June 30th, 2011.

Judy Gough, jgough@ccaoh.org

Writing Grant Proposals

Association of Fundraising Professionals Chapters – offer grant writing seminars that are also open to non-members

→ <http://www.afpnet.org>

Foundation Center – offers grant proposal writing training courses

→ <http://foundationcenter.org/getstarted/learnabout/proposalwriting.html>

Grantsmanship Center – offers training workshops with an emphasis on government grants

→ <http://www.tgci.com>

International Rescue Committee/Project SOAR – offers sample grant proposals

→ <http://tinyurl.com/69q5tre>

Raise-Funds.com – veteran fundraising executive Tony Poderis shares professional advice on his website

→ <http://www.raise-funds.com>

Raisefunds.org – 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>

POWR  Post

February 2011 (Vol. 2, Issue 2)

Daniel Sturm, Special Projects Manager, USCCB/Migration and Refugee Services

3211 Fourth St. NE, Washington, DC 20017-1194

Phone: (202)-541-3226

E-Mail: dsturm@usccb.org

Archive: <http://www.usccb.org/mrs/diows/powr.shtml>