



POWR Post

May 2011 (Vol. 2, Issue 5)



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 Continuation Memo (May 20, 2011)

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops/Migration and Refugee Services is committed to building on the successes of the Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugees (POWR) Program. POWR is supported entirely by the USCCB/MRS and uses no federal government funding. As an expression of our satisfaction with program participants' accomplishments and recognition of the value of your work, we will be continuing the POWR program in the following format:

1. Six Month Continuation of Current Grant Cycle

- All current POWR program participants are invited to **submit a six month continuation line-item budget, accompanied by a statement of need (not to exceed 2 pages)**, which outlines a specific continuation plan based on previously stated goals and outcomes.
- **Awards will be distributed for up to 50% of the total amount awarded last year.** If all funds for the previous grant period have not been spent, qualifying programs will receive the difference between a full six-month award and the unspent money from the 2010-11 POWR Award. For example, programs that were awarded \$20,000 and are projected to spend \$15,000 by June 30th, 2011, will receive \$5,000 for the period of the six month extension (a \$10,000 extension minus

the \$5,000 of unspent money). The continuation grant cycle will begin on July 1, 2011 and end on December 31, 2011.

- **Continuation grants will be awarded based on the strength of the proposals as well as the POWR program's performance in the previous program cycle.** Dioceses interested in applying should submit their POWR Continuation Proposals to dsturm@usccb.org by June 6, 2011. Applicants will receive award notifications by June 13.

2. Continuation of POWR into 2012

- The USCCB/MRS intends to make funds available to continue the POWR program into 2012. **All Reception and Placement budgeted sites will be eligible to apply for this program.** Current POWR program participants are welcome to apply for this grant again.
- **All applicants must demonstrate how funds will help develop long-term, sustainable programs. The new grant cycle will begin January 1, 2012 and end on December 31, 2012.**
- **MRS will circulate a new Request for Proposals by October 1, 2011.**

POWR materials developed in the 2010-11 program cycle are available on the Members-Only Website at:

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

Donations

Refugee Cooking Dinners are Starting to Pay Off (Portland, Maine)

This month's donations came from people who attended our international dinners. We will use the supplies we were able to acquire to teach refugee women how to sew, and how to make hats and scarves.

Bonnie Bagley, bbagley@ccmaine.org

Volunteers Fill Warehouse with Donated Goods (Des Moines, Iowa)

Every Monday the volunteer specialist and a group of volunteers made an average of eight stops, doubling the typical one team/four stops approach. At the end of the month, we moved all large furniture items into the new warehouse. This process, which took a half day, utilizing 12 volunteers, led to a packed warehouse sufficient to prepare many apartments for soon-to-arrive families.

Megan Thibodeau, mthibodeau@dmdiocese.org

Bike Donations Spike (St. Paul, Minnesota)

We continue to work with the Sibley Bike Depot and have learned that we will be able to provide 20 bikes for up to 20 clients. The training and kick-off will take place Monday May 23rd. Many of the clients are very excited. We held our bike drive at a suburban parish which provided three bikes in very good condition. We also received four bikes through a parish connection from a local bike shop. All seven of these bikes were quickly distributed among clients. One newly recruited parish volunteer's goal will be to familiarize her refugee family with public transportation and assist them in accessing community resources, such as food shelves and free stores if needed.

Meg KenKnight Burman, megan.kenknightburman@cctwincities.org

Noteworthy:

In response to the question, "Do you want a bike?" one of our clients told us that he found employment in Kenya by driving a bicycle taxi! He used to carry up to five people at once.



Reluctant Parish Decides to Chip In (Indianapolis, Indiana)

Holy Spirit Geist, the church that originally did not want to participate, has dedicated its men's group to work with the refugee program. On April 15th, 72 volunteers set-up 15 apartments. The apartment complex owners, who were parishioners, had heard about the program. They allowed our program to pre-set the apartments for future arrivals. The refugee ambassadors asked volunteers to show-up. In related news: We have just received 750 BRAND new twin mattresses. Gabrielle Campo, gcampo@archindy.org

Employment

POWR Buzz Brings New Employer to the Table (Jacksonville, Florida)

A new employer stepped forward in April after hearing positive feedback about POWR. He has made two employment positions available for refugee clients, but these positions have yet to be filled. Shannon Cutler, scutler@ccbjax.org

News Stories Generate New Job Leads (Brooklyn, New York)

After running bulletin announcements for two months, we have had a few parishioners who own businesses contact our refugee job developers with staffing needs. These leads are currently being pursued to determine their suitability to match appropriate refugee clients. Sara Suman, ssuman@ccbq.org



Media & Outreach

Refugee Storyteller Project Posting New YouTube Videos (Nashville, Tennessee)

These are the latest three videos created by some of our staff, with the assistance of Nashville Public Television.

Kelley Branson, kbranson@cctenn.org

www.youtube.com/watch?v=OoQoCRTGbh0&feature=related

www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJ-L3WbMXy&NR=1

www.youtube.com/watch?v=kC82-HcXjMU&feature=related

New Brochure Achieves its Goal (Hartford, Connecticut)

We are using an effective handout that describes our services, and the three ways people can assist with the refugee resettlement process: Volunteer, Donate, Connect. This has been very helpful in broadening people's outlook on how they can help our agency. We hope the handout will also provide connections to employers and landlords with good rentals. Alice Noyes, anoyes@ccaoh.org

Volunteer Service Awards Draw Media Attention (Richmond, Virginia)

Commonwealth Catholic Charities advertised its Community Service Awards on local television, bringing attention to all CCC programs. Since the advertisements have aired, we have seen an increase in traffic on our website. The added exposure is helping to bring in new volunteers. Marilyn Breslow, marilyn.breslow@cccovfva.org

World Bazaar Creates Media Buzz (Amarillo, Texas)

We are seeing a terrific response to our initial outreach for the World Bazaar. A local media specialist is donating her time in order to book me on radio and television shows, and several media reps have committed to covering the Bazaar.

Dena Dyer, denadyer@gmail.com

Parish Video Now Available on YouTube (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania)

Our video is now complete, and available via a YouTube link on our website. We have also finished a brochure that accompanies the video. We used these new marketing tools during a presentation at the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare employees. It was well received. State workers now have a better understanding of how they can serve this population.

cniebel@ccpgh.org

New POWR Newsletter Makes a Difference (Anchorage, Alaska)

I have been sending out the POWR newsletter to all parishioners who give me their emails. I've received positive feedback from parishioners and pastors. The newsletter provides information about refugees globally, as well as in Anchorage. At the end of the email, I include a message highlighting the work of parishioners who have volunteered that month.

Natalie Magnatta, nmagnatta@cssalaska.org



POWR Webinar Resources

Recordings and presentations are now available on the Members-Only Website. The next webinar on **Marketing and Social Media** is scheduled for June 28th.

1 Webinar on School Partnerships (03/15/2011)

This webinar highlighted partnerships with schools and discussed the development of a *Refugee Ambassador's Guide* in Indianapolis, Ind.

→ <http://www.usccb.org/mrs/diows/etrainings.shtml>

2 Webinar on Volunteer Management (04/26/2011)

This webinar explored different approaches to utilizing volunteers, with a special focus on the use of AmeriCorps Vista funds.

→ <http://www.usccb.org/mrs/diows/etrainings.shtml>

3 Webinar on Marketing & Social Media (06/28)

This webinar discusses how social media and marketing strategies can increase a program's visibility, donations and volunteer power.

→ <http://www.cvent.com/d/ddqhfk> (Registration)

4 Webinar on Special Events (07/19)

This webinar highlights the opportunity of utilizing special events, such as the *Refugee Cooking Class* developed in Portland, Maine. Mark your calendars!

Registration will open by 07/05/2011

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

Partnerships

POWR Program Wins New University Partner (Chicago, Illinois)

We developed a partnership with Northwestern University's OLLI program for adult learners. They will have a Refugee Class (which we will cofacilitate), and will provide mentors to our clients as a component of the class.

Marie Jochum, mjochum@catholiccharities.net

More and Better Relationship through POWR (Portland, Maine)

Through the POWR program we have been able to form a number of relationships with community partners. Not only has it provided us with the opportunity to collaborate with local parishes, but we have also developed relationships with other community agencies such as the Salvation Army and The Children's Museum of Portland. These relationships will prove invaluable even after the POWR program is completed.

Bonnie Bagley, bbagley@ccmaine.org

Houston is Harvesting the Fruits off its POWR Committee (Houston, Texas)

The POWR committee is becoming a very useful medium for service agencies and individuals who are collaborating. One example is a refugee farming initiative whose collaborators include a software company, Catholic Charities, and the Bhutanese community (all are on the committee). We are also using the POWR committee to bring a greater awareness to our services. One committee member is helping us prepare a public service announcement for local television and ethnic newspapers. Many members are also serving on Houston's World Refugee Day committee. The good ties we have established through POWR are enabling us to recruit volunteers from parishes for the event, and to get the word out.

Peter Stranges, pstranges@catholiccharities.org

Special Events

One World Fundraiser a Success (Richmond, Virginia)

Hampton had a very successful "One World" fund raiser - \$4,000 was raised from auctioned donated goods and a 50/50 raffle (which the winner donated back to the program)!
Marilyn Breslow, marilyn.breslow@cccovfva.org

Lost Boy and Mayor to Attend World Refugee Day (Indianapolis, Indiana)

Our World Refugee Day guest speaker is John Dau. As a fundraising strategy, we sent out new DVDs of "God Grew Tired of Us" along with a bag of popcorn and a special sponsorship letter. To date, we received \$1,275 in donations. The night of the event will feature John, the ambassadors, ethnic food, dancing and fun. We will give out the stipends and awards that evening. The Mayor of Indianapolis will attend to proclaim June 20th as World Refugee Day.

Gabrielle Campo, gcampo@archindy.org

Makeup Class Used for Outreach (Amarillo, Texas)

We decorated a booth and participated in a Girl Scouts Day event at the civic center. At our booth, some Middle Eastern friends and a former refugee did eye makeup for the girls and I helped them to create "wishes for the world" crafts. It was a huge success, and we weren't able to do makeup for everyone. At the end of the day, we had reached out to hundreds of girls from all over the area.

Dena Dyer, denadyer@gmail.com

Volunteers Clean and Learn about Refugees (Richmond, Virginia)

On April 12th, a group of eight students and one faculty from North Cross School came to finish a cleanup project of our 9th street property. They also had the chance to learn more about refugee resettlement. This was the second part of a two-part program, where the same students who volunteered with us in the fall will come back for a second day in the spring. This gives these high school students some exposure to refugee resettlement, and allows them enjoy volunteering, while having a day off of school to do so.

Marilyn Breslow, marilyn.breslow@cccovfva.org

Volunteer Management

Focus on Sewing Skills, Craft Making, Housekeeping (Hartford, Connecticut)

Three volunteers were involved in training more than twenty clients in cleaning skills, to prepare them for hotel housekeeping jobs. Other volunteers taught teaching sewing and other crafts. We also accompanied the clients to a Multi-Cultural Craft Fair, where they were able to sell their crafts. We are encouraging entrepreneurship opportunities for our clients who have craft skills and have an International Threads Program which supports these efforts.

Alice Noyes, anoyes@ccaoh.org

Volunteers Pack Goodie Bags for Refugee Children (Des Moines, Iowa)

The volunteer/donations specialist held a parish liaison meeting that was attended by four parishes. They discussed special projects, including washing bedding, baby-specific needs and different volunteer opportunities. One parish intends to produce "goodie bags" for all children, which will be given upon arrival. And one parish was approached about hosting the next Refugee Welcome Party in June.

Megan Thibodeau, mthibodeau@dmdiocese.org

Community Service Center Now Fully Operational (Albany, New York)

The Drop-in Community Service Center is fully operational and serves refugees exclusively every Wednesday, and with others in need during the rest of the week.

Mokaya Bosire, desd@nycap.rr.com

Mentors Waiting in the Pipeline (Lansing, Michigan)

As Welcoming Committee Members finish their volunteer training, the Refugee Services staff will match them with families. Refugee Resettlement staff have a dozen volunteers ready to be matched. However, due to the current delay in refugee arrivals, matches have not yet been made.

Julie Picot, picotj@stvcc.org

Active Outreach Translates into More Volunteers (Amarillo, Texas)

I matched a small group at a local Baptist church (high school girls) with a family of six, and connected them with a volunteer interpreter (a local schoolteacher who had been a missionary). A local group of university students bought dishes, towels, and silverware for a newly-arrived couple, as a class service project. They found out about our services through a class I had spoken to earlier in the semester.

Dena Dyer, denadyer@gmail.com



Volunteer Guide Books *Special*

VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT GUIDE BOOKS

The following volunteer guide books were developed in the context of the 2011 Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugee program (POWR). Please let us know if you wish to add your program's volunteer resources to this growing directory (dsturm@usccb.org).

Amarillo, Texas

Volunteer Guide

→ <http://www.cfsama.com/images/stories/RRS/cyoa.pdf>

Anchorage, Alaska

Volunteer Manuals

→ <http://www.cssalaska.org/files/RAIS/MANUAL.pdf>

→ <http://www.cssalaska.org/files/RAIS/Warm%20Meals.pdf>

→ <http://www.cssalaska.org/files/RAIS/Transportation.pdf>

Indianapolis, Indiana

Refugee Ambassador's Guide

→ <http://www.usccb.org/mrs/diows/indianapolisrefugeeambassadorguide.pdf>

Refugee Ambassador's Passport

→ <http://www.usccb.org/mrs/diows/indianapolisrefugeeambassadorpassport.pdf>

Richmond, Virginia

Volunteer Handbook (Part I-III)

→ Word documents of this guidebook are attached to the May 2011 POWR Post Newsletter E-Mailing

GENERAL VOLUNTEERING RESOURCES

Community Corps – an organization that connects IT volunteers with organizations in need of tech assistance

→ <https://thecommunitycorps.secure.force.com>

Google for Nonprofits – this website offers a variety of free or discounted resources, applications and outreach tools

→ <http://www.google.com/nonprofits/index.html>

HandsOn Network – an online volunteer recruitment service with many local chapters

→ <http://www.handsonnetwork.org>

Idealist.org – a website offering a myriad of resources related to volunteer management and recruitment.

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

International Rescue Committee Volunteer Management Guide – a useful guide book on how to operate volunteer programs

→ <http://tinyurl.com/2b7x54g>

Serve.gov - the U.S. government's online resource for finding volunteer opportunities

→ <http://www.serve.gov>

ServiceLeader.org – an online clearinghouse offering a wide range of information related to volunteering

→ <http://serviceleader.org>

USCCB/MRS Members Only Website Volunteer Management Resources

→ <http://www.usccb.org/mrs/diows/programadministration.shtml#volunteerism>

Volunteer Match – this online service matches interested volunteers with organizations that need help in U.S. metro areas

→ <http://www.volunteermatch.org>

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