



POWER Post

June 2011 (Vol. 2, Issue 6)

The POWER 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

Important Program Announcement!

Please note the following program changes that go into effect on July 1st of 2011 – the start of the continuation cycle:

- Your progress reports will be due every two months covering a 2-months period. The next progress report will be due Aug. 16th, 2011.
- Beginning July 1st, the *POWER Post Newsletter* will be published every other month. The next newsletter will be published in August, covering the months of June and July 2011.



Donations

Storage Unit Jam Packed with Donations (Cleveland, Ohio)

Our outreach has been fantastic. We have been speaking at schools, parishes and local community service centers. Our storage unit is so full that we had to postpone donation pick-ups. We have collected a lot of household items also.

Stacy Dever, sdever@clevelandcatholiccharities.org

Computer Donations Coming (Arlington, Virginia)

Three volunteers and five Eagle Scouts are working with a longtime IT volunteer to procure and refurbish the more than 20 computers that were donated by the MITRE Corp. for use by refugee students.

Rebecca Ruiz, r.ruiz@arlingtondiocese.org

One Parish Takes over ESL Classes (DesMoines, Iowa)

Planning has begun for a second set of ESL classes, which will be held at one of the large apartment complexes. The organization of ESL classes will be hosted by a specific church, illustrating one way in which a specific parish has embraced the opportunity for more interaction with refugee families.

Megan Thibodeau, mthibodeau@dmdiocese.org

Drop-In Center Becomes a Magnet for Community Integration (Albany, New York)

The POWER grant has enabled us to start, staff and operate a Refugee and Immigrant Drop-in Center in the heart of Albany, bringing together groups as well as diverse cultures of immigrants. It is of immense significance that our clients can receive much needed assistance here even after their R&P period— whether they are connected to a dedicated volunteer group or not. At this Center, clients are also receiving services from providers in the community who use the center as a meeting place to explain their services and procedures. The popularity of this center is such that clients served by other Volags are finding their way there and refugees who have settled are volunteering here to help others.

Mokaya Bosire, desd@nycap.rr.com

Employment

Job Search Orientation Continues (Jacksonville, Florida)

Fifty-six of the 74 clients who attended our Job Search Orientation and Employment Practices have found employment (76%), exceeding our goals. Two additional JSOEP workshops are scheduled for June and July.

Shannon Cutler, scutler@ccbjax.org

Guitar Donation Makes Client Happy (Amarillo, Texas)

I put out a call for a gently-used guitar on a local email newsletter that goes out to about 3,000 folks. One of our job developers made me aware that a client of ours was a songwriter and singer who had lost his guitar, was having trouble finding work, and was depressed. A local artist almost immediately contacted me and donated a guitar, and we were able to present the instrument to our client. The job developer said it was the first times she'd seen him smile in weeks.

Dena Dyer, ddyer@cfsama.com

	USCCB Expense	Network Outcome	Yield
Cash- and In-Kind Fundraising (Total)	\$308,685	\$914,316	1 : 3
Cash- and In-Kind Fundraising (Per Site)	\$11,024	\$32,654	1 : 3
Number of Volunteers Recruited (Total)		1707	

Media & Outreach

Materials Support Outreach Efforts (San Antonio, Texas)

We are using training materials to communicate how the refugee program is assisting refugees to resettle in San Antonio. The USCCB's DVD, "Traveling Companions – The Parish Refugee Resettlement Ministry," has proved to be a valuable resource as well, giving a look at how lives can be affected, both refugee and volunteer. St. Francis of Assisi parish produced a tri-fold pamphlet to disseminate to its congregation, to help educate and bring awareness of the refugees and their needs. The pamphlet describes the process on how refugees arrive in the U.S., and where volunteers are needed. St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church has named its refugee ministry "New Neighbor Ministry."

Paula Walker, pwalker@ccaosa.org

Media Experts Donate Time for Event Planning (Amarillo, Texas)

I made dozens of phone calls and visits to local businesses to garner support and donations for the World Bazaar. Many of them were quite generous. A local publisher of several magazines volunteered to take all our silent auction items, create packages and baskets with them, and set them up at the event. Another church leader who has a media background offered to set up interviews for me on all the local television and radio stations, as well as send press releases to newspapers and magazines in the area. A marketing expert lent her fundraising and event-planning experience to the effort, and a member of a local parish offered to photograph the event for free. In addition, one of the small group members (who adopted a family this month through FOR) designed an eye-catching and beautiful invitation and poster for the Bazaar. Another friend of CFS donated money for decorations, and both a local radio station and a T.V. network donated airtime to advertise the event.

Dena Dyer, ddyer@cfsama.com

Catholic Charities Board Helps with Connections (Jacksonville, Florida)

As a result of a POWR presentation, one Catholic Charities Board member is providing us with a list of people and churches that have a history of assisting Cuban refugees. The POWR coordinator will reach out to these churches to see how we might join efforts to assist refugees in Jacksonville. Thus far, some 15 parishes and other community organizations have been involved in some fashion with POWR by attending presentations, volunteering, helping with employment-related opportunities, or in other ways, which surpasses the goal of 12 groups for this outcome.

Shannon Cutler, scutler@ccbjax.org

YouTube Refugee Videos Help Increase Program Visibility (Nashville, Tennessee)

We participated in three awareness events. One was at Ingram Industries and had over 200 attendees. Another was at the launch of the Turkish American Chamber of Commerce and had over 100 attendees. The last was at the Cameron

Middle School Cultural Fair where our Volunteer Coordinator networked with more than 150 students and faculty. Additionally, several more Storytellers videos were posted to the YouTube site.

Kelley Branson, kbranson@cctenn.org

Outreach Video Debuts at World Bazaar (Amarillo, Texas)

I worked with my church (Paramount Baptist Church) on a professional video, which they donated the time, manpower and equipment for, to show potential donors and volunteers (especially FOR volunteers). It included testimonies by a minister's wife whose family has built a relationship with a Burmese family over the last several years; two of our employees who are former refugees; an ESL volunteer; and three parishioners from a church who worked with refugees this spring. The video will debut at our first-ever World Bazaar on June 25.

Dena Dyer, ddyer@cfsama.com

Partnerships

Catholic Relief Services Partnership Flourishes (Phoenix, Arizona)

We continue to develop the collaborative effort between Catholic Charities Community Services Refugee Resettlement programs and Catholic Relief Services to welcome refugees living within the parish, to support them through mentorship, companionship and material assistance, while using these opportunities to develop awareness of global living conditions and global solidarity.

Calla Floyd, cfloyd@aol.com

Partnerships with Archdiocese Social Justice Ministry Takes Off (Hartford, Connecticut)

We met with staff at our Archdiocese Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry. They had many good ideas for broadening communications in the Archdiocese about our services and needs. When I am speaking at a church they will publish it as an event that parishioners from other area churches can attend. This will be a good partnership that other Archdioceses may want to cultivate.

Alice Noyes, anoyes@ccaoh.org

Volunteer Management

Student Interns Complete One-Year Mission (Richmond, Virginia)

This month concludes a long year for our student interns. After a great deal of planning and hard work, the Essex Village ESL Community Garden has been started, with three raised beds to grow food for the local newcomers living in that neighborhood. Community members were very involved setting up the garden, and have been responsible to its care henceforth. We are eternally grateful to the interns and other volunteers who made this project possible through their research, fundraising, proposal to the property management, and work in connecting the project to the ESL curriculum. A local Catholic Worker house shared information and resources, as did a handful of local Catholic volunteers. Should the project be a success, future volunteer coordinators may look to replicate such a project at a local parish.

Marilyn Breslow, marilyn.breslow@cccovva.org

Global Refugee Class Students Learn about Refugees (San Antonio, Texas)

At the University of the Incarnate Word, students gave presentations on their experiences of learning about refugees in San Antonio. The student presentations were made to their peers, faculty and the public. Students in a UIW Global Refugee Class spent the semester journeying and learning with selected refugee families. Their presentations gave the students and audience a sense of the plight of the refugee.

Paula Walker, pwalker@ccaosa.org

Volunteer Organizes Weekly Tea Get-Together (Cleveland, Ohio)

We started a women's group that meets on Friday afternoon for tea, conversation and speakers. We wanted to create a comfortable environment for refugee women to come together and socialize and ask questions. We have a volunteer who is committed to organizing the weekly topics based on interest. The idea is to share cultural experiences with one another, in addition to learning about health issues, raising children, caring for themselves and domestic laws. The program is very successful right now and we have high participation. The interaction between cultures has created a very welcoming atmosphere at our office.

Stacy Dever, sdever@clevelandcatholiccharities.org

Catholic Charities Website Helps (Hartford, Connecticut)

Beyond outreach to churches, our Catholic Charities website helps bring in volunteers and donations. Also, the churches are very cooperative in publishing our bulletin announcements in our weekly and monthly bulletins. Many callers mention seeing our notices in their church bulletin or newsletter, which is very encouraging.

Alice Noyes, anoyes@ccaoh.org

School Signs Up for Refugee Ambassador Program (Portland, Oregon)

We invited two Catholic High Schools to participate in our new Ambassador Program. One school agreed to participate, the other is considering offering the opportunity to its students.

Jeanne Toal, jtoal@catholiccharitiesoregon.org

Teachers Chip in, Too (Portland, Oregon)

After outreach efforts to a local Catholic high school, 10 teachers committed to spending the day helping our donation coordinator.

Jeanne Toal, jtoal@catholiccharitiesoregon.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.usccb.org/mrs/diows/etrainings.shtml>

4 Webinar on Special Events (TBA)

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 TBA

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



Open House Opportunities (San Jose, Calif.)

We found that having parishes come on a tour of our facility helps them visualize what we have been presenting and give them a chance to meet with the staff.

Claire Collins, ccollins@catholiccharitiesscc.org

High Cost for Volunteer Screening (Richmond, Virginia)

The \$64 cost for volunteer screening has prompted an analysis of the cost benefit ratio. Why do some volunteers not follow through with their commitment and how can we guard against bad investments? We will share information once the responses are compiled.

Marilyn Breslow, marilyn.breslow@cccova.org

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