



## POWER Post

July-August 2011 (Vol. 2, Issue 7)

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

~Daniel Sturm, MRS Special Projects Manager

### Important Program Announcement!

Please note the following program changes, in effect as of July 1, 2011 (the start of the continuation cycle):

- Your progress reports will be due every two months, covering a 2-month period. The next progress report (covering August and September) will be due Oct. 18, 2011.
- Beginning July 1<sup>st</sup> the *POWER Post Newsletter* will be published every second month. The next newsletter will be published in October, covering August and September 2011.
- Please continue to send your POWER reimbursement requests to MRS Accounting Services on a monthly basis.



### Donations

#### **Free Cell Phone Program (Hartford, Connecticut)**

We learned of Virgin Mobile's free 250-minutes cell phone service through the Lifeline Program, and successfully assisted clients in obtaining this service.

Alice Noyes, [anoyes@ccaoh.org](mailto:anoyes@ccaoh.org)  
<http://www.assurancewireless.com>

#### **Partnership with Men's Warehouse a Success (Albany, New York)**

We have partnered with the Men's Warehouse National Suit Drive to get new and like-new suits for clients in the workplace. Suits, dress shirts, ties and shoes are pouring in.

Mokaya Bosire, [desd@nycap.rr.com](mailto:desd@nycap.rr.com)  
<http://tinyurl.com/3t7b5hr>

#### **San Jose Receives Major Donation (San Jose, California)**

The Sunnyvale Presbytery has allotted \$200,000 to buy a transitional house. They will meet with CC about the details.

Claire Collins, [ccollins@catholiccharitiesscc.org](mailto:ccollins@catholiccharitiesscc.org)

#### **World Bazaar Generates Cash and In-Kind Support (Amarillo, Texas)**

Our first-ever World Bazaar, held in conjunction with World Refugee Day, generated a lot of community interest and support. In-kind donations for the silent auction, entertainment, publicity, and giveaways totaled \$5,000 and volunteer time leading up to and during the event totaled 53 hours. We also had new groups and individuals express interest in participating in our FOR (Friends of Refugees) program, and collected \$1,200 for our division.

Dena Dyer, [ddyer@cfsama.com](mailto:ddyer@cfsama.com)

## Events

### **Myriad of Special Events (San Antonio, Texas)**

More than 250 refugees were guests to CC's World Refugee Day festivities. The celebration included a naturalization and swearing in ceremony, and the Burundi Choir sang the National Anthem. It was a memorable day filled with fun and community, which strengthened awareness of the plight of refugees. Neighbors Helping Neighbors hosted another World Refugee Day Celebration, at which the pastor of St. Francis Episcopal and Paula Walker addressed attendees with words of welcome and hope. Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Program had a table with information and games. On June 20<sup>th</sup>, we hosted an art and essay show featuring the works of refugees and American elementary students, in honor of World Refugee Day. More than 70 guests heard and saw the children speak the universal language of art.

Tom Hoog, [thoog@ccaosa.org](mailto:thoog@ccaosa.org)

<http://www.satodayscatholic.com/WorldRefugee.aspx>

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/default/photo/Student-participants-in-Catholic-Charities-1066456.php>

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/default/photo/This-art-created-by-second-grader-Ernest-1066453.php>

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/default/photo/Misgina-Hagos-7-right-gets-a-kiss-from-her-1066455.php>

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/default/photo/Mu-Man-a-refugee-from-Burma-sells-her-wares-1062521.php>



### **Refugee Cooking Classes Kick-Off (Jacksonville, Florida)**

We held the first of five cooking classes at Apron's Cooking School, featuring Asian Grilling Ideas. We invited parishioners from Assumption parish and Burmese refugees. This free cooking class taught participants delicious recipes and classic knife cuts, including slicing, dicing, julienne, and chiffonade. Participants were able to share the meal together after working as a group to prepare it. All recipes were translated into Burmese and translators participated in the event so that refugees could experience everything the class offered. There are four additional classes planned, highlighting the foods of Cuban (2), Bhutanese, and Iraqi refugees. We created a recipe book that includes recipes in each language.

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

### **World Refugee Day Event Woos Reporter (Arlington, Virginia)**

Our World Refugee Day event included a BBQ, multicultural food spread, raffle, music/dancing, country poster presentations and a picture corner (where visitors dress up in cultural garb and have pictures taken). The reporter from the *Catholic Herald* was touched, and contacted the POWR coordinator to ask how she could help. She will be writing an article that follows a family, from arrival, to help raise awareness about refugees.

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

<http://www.catholicherald.com/detail/16058.html>

### **Parish Hosts Refugee Welcome Party (Des Moines, Iowa)**

Our quarterly Refugee Welcome Party was hosted by Ss. John and Paul parish. Nearly 70 people attended the American-style picnic party, including refugee families and American host families. The party featured get-to-know you activities, songs and children's activities. The parish priest also attended, which was a first for our Refugee Welcome parties.

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

### **Lost Boy John Dau Stars World Refugee Day (Indianapolis, Indiana)**

We had a fantastic World Refugee Day celebration. Former Lost Boy of Sudan and renowned speaker, John Dau, and CC Indianapolis joined the U.N. High Commissioner For Refugees in the event. We offered ethnic food and cultural dancing.

Gabrielle Campo, [gcampo@archindy.org](mailto:gcampo@archindy.org)

## Media & Outreach

### **Men's Warehouse Helps Create Media Ad (Albany, New York)**

We intend to build partnerships with donor agencies and initiatives (clothiers in our case) to increase our programs' visibility in non-traditional media. Men's Warehouse has helped us come up with an advertisement, and has put our mission statement in their ad, making us visible to customers.

Mokaya Bosire, [desd@nycap.rr.com](mailto:desd@nycap.rr.com)  
<http://tinyurl.com/3t7b5hr>

### **Getting National Public Radio to Cover Resettlement (Lansing, Michigan)**

We are currently working on establishing a long forum series with the local NPR affiliate, WKAR, with a focus on refugee resettlement. We also appear monthly on TV and radio and always speak about refugee volunteer opportunities.

Beth Mugavero, [mugaveb@stvcc.org](mailto:mugaveb@stvcc.org)

### **Media Expert Guarantees Free Coverage (Amarillo, Texas)**

Thanks to a media specialist who assisted us for free, we had significant coverage for the World Bazaar—including a local newspaper, a magazine, a dozen radio stations and two of the three main television networks in the Texas panhandle.

Dena Dyer, [ddyer@cfsama.com](mailto:ddyer@cfsama.com)  
[http://myhighplains.com/search-fulltext?nxd\\_id=197917&shr=addthis](http://myhighplains.com/search-fulltext?nxd_id=197917&shr=addthis)  
<http://www.connectamarillo.com/news/content.aspx?id=17498>



## **POWR Webinar Resources**

Recordings and presentations are now available on the Members-Only Website.

### **1 Webinar on School Partnerships (03/15)**

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

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

### **2 Webinar on Volunteer Management (04/26)**

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

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

### **4 Webinar on Special Events (08/23)**

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

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

*A new webinar series is planned for the spring of 2012. Please send your suggested topics to [dsturm@usccb.org](mailto:dsturm@usccb.org)*

## Noteworthy

### **Bicycle Donation Cuts Client's Commute in Half (Jacksonville, Florida)**

An eagle scout that is collecting bicycles for our program (POWR recruit) was able to deliver a bicycle to a 65 year-old Cuban client who had been walking one hour to the bus stop in order to get to his ESOL class (taking the bus took an additional hour). The client mentioned his situation to his caseworker who communicated his need to the POWR Coordinator. Through POWR, and the connections it is continuing to establish in Jacksonville, we were able to help this client, who was very moved by the donation.

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



## Volunteer Management

### **Colorado Volunteers Rock! (Amarillo, Texas)**

In late June, a group of three adults and ten high school students from Fort Collins, Colorado, traveled to Amarillo to do mission work with us. They helped with sorting and giving out donations to our clients, as well as hosting a Monday-Friday afternoon "Kids Club" (with crafts, sports, snacks, and music) at a local apartment complex where many of our clients reside. Their volunteer time totaled 416 hours.

Dena Dyer, [ddyer@cfsama.com](mailto:ddyer@cfsama.com)

### **One Refugee Ambassador's Moving Letter (Indianapolis, Indiana)**

Our nine Refugee Ambassadors are very dedicated and inspired by the program. In fact, please read the following speech, given on World Refugee Day, "My experience with the Refugee Resettlement Program has opened my eyes to the world I live in and even taught me much about myself. As ambassadors, we don't simply introduce them to the dishwasher. We introduce them to life as an American, in a place that they don't have to live in fear anymore. We help them find a purpose when they don't know where to look. Above all, we give them a place to call home; an unfamiliar feeling that never fails to fill their hearts. Something so simple that we take for granted each and every day, but to them it is the world. The gift I have been given by working with this program is bigger than you or I. It's bigger than money or a car for your sixteenth birthday. I've been given the ability to change lives, and today I stand here a new person and can tell you that this is the best gift of all."

Gabrielle Campo, [gcampo@archindy.org](mailto:gcampo@archindy.org)

### **Refugee Ambassadors Contribute 300 Volunteer Hours (Indianapolis, Indiana)**

Over the year, the Refugee Ambassadors collected 20,000+ items, valuing \$60,000. They shared the refugee story with the student body, faculty and staff at nine parishes, four high schools and one university. They donated more than 300 volunteer hours, touching the lives of 470 refugees.

Gabrielle Campo, [gcampo@archindy.org](mailto:gcampo@archindy.org)

### **Bringing a Reluctant Parish on Board (Des Moines, Iowa)**

The Volunteer/Donations Specialist made significant progress in connecting with a target parish that had up to that point been non-involved. After communicating with six parish members, all agreed to become part of the refugee volunteer list serve and half have assisted with apartment set-ups during.

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

### **Volunteer Database Launch Pans Out (Anchorage, Alaska)**

The last several months of outreach have given us a large database of dedicated volunteers, and we are now focusing on perfecting the process to improve the life of the client. We are offering more bus trainings to new clients. We are following up with any negative responses on the resettlement experience survey and resolving whatever caused the negative evaluation. Our family mentors are identifying any remaining winter clothing needs. Our meals team parish volunteers are making sure that no one goes hungry while waiting for their food stamps to kick in. We will also publish our new volunteer brochure this month, which was designed by one of our POWR parish volunteers!

Katherine Anderson, [kanderson@cssalaska.org](mailto:kanderson@cssalaska.org); Karen Ferguson, [kferguson@cssalaska.org](mailto:kferguson@cssalaska.org)

### **Volunteers Enjoy Interaction with Refugees (Cleveland, Ohio)**

We worked with a youth organization this summer called "Help 2 Others." Students helped us set up apartments and clean them. We had several opportunities where refugees living either upstairs, next door or nearby came to observe the students and help prepare the home. They were very interested in learning about the proper cleaning products, especially the vacuum cleaner. The students loved the interaction and actually spoke about their experience.

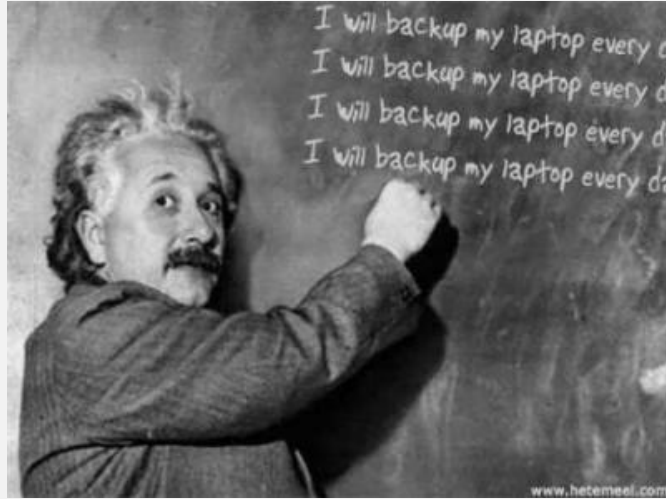
Stacy Dever, [sdever@clevelandcatholiccharities.org](mailto:sdever@clevelandcatholiccharities.org)

### **Getting a Foot in the Door Works (Jacksonville, Florida)**

Three clients who volunteered with us were hired as translators and ESL program assistants in our office. We continue to involve volunteers in teaching sewing. One client's skills have reached such an advanced level that she is starting to assist with teaching sewing.

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

## Lessons Learned



### **Trolling Estate Sales for Donations (Richmond, Virginia)**

Trolling estate sales when they are ready to close often results in valuable donations. A notice will go out to parishes asking their support in referring friends holding yard sales to our program.

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

### **Emphasizing Regularity (Lansing, Michigan)**

Promising management practices that have been effective in matching refugees with volunteers include a regular email announcement each week with the arrival dates and times for the following week. Volunteers then respond if they are free for a pick up and we select appropriate matches based on proximity to the parish and home of the refugee. This regularity helps POWR volunteers plan for upcoming arrivals and at the same time reduces redundancies and the likelihood of overwhelming the volunteers with too many arrivals at once. It is also helpful for the coordinator, as each week's arrivals can be scheduled on one day.

Beth Mugavero, [mugaveb@stvcc.org](mailto:mugaveb@stvcc.org)

### **Volunteers Make Airport Pickups a Family Event (Lansing, Michigan)**

A trend has developed among POWR volunteers that they have begun to include their children in the airport pick-ups, so they might welcome refugees as a family. The clearance process for minors is efficient and simple.

Beth Mugavero, [mugaveb@stvcc.org](mailto:mugaveb@stvcc.org)

### **Speaking from the Pulpit Makes a Difference (San Jose, California)**

We received wonderful support from our priests, particularly the priest at St. Christopher, who spoke from the pulpit about the refugee program and the needs of the refugees. Writing in the bulletin updates and getting more organizations within the parish involved has made this a successful program.

Claire Collins, [ccollins@catholiccharitiesscc.org](mailto:ccollins@catholiccharitiesscc.org)

# Events Planning *Special*

## EVENTS PLANNING GUIDES

**International Rescue Committee – two useful tip sheets on special events planning**

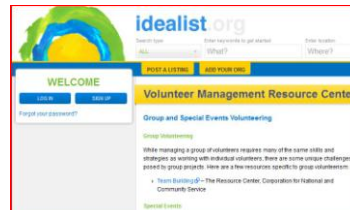
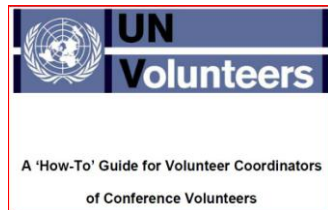
- <http://www.ethniccommunities.org/library/SOARFactsheetSpecialEvents.pdf>
- <http://tinyurl.com/3chdxly>

**United Nations Volunteers – a guide for coordinators of conference volunteers**

- [www.unv.org/fileadmin/docdb/unv/pdf/070302\\_india\\_guide\\_coordinator.pdf](http://www.unv.org/fileadmin/docdb/unv/pdf/070302_india_guide_coordinator.pdf)

**Idealist.org – a website offering useful resources related to special events planning**

- <http://www.idealist.org/info/VolunteerMgmt/Group>



## GENERAL RESOURCES

**Energize, Inc. – a collection of guides and materials for special events planning**

- <http://www.energizeinc.com/art/subi/events.html>

**Google for Nonprofits – this website offers a variety of free planning and outreach tools**

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

**USCCB/MRS Members Only Website – this website offers a variety of in-depth volunteer management resources**

- <http://old.usccb.org/mrs/diows/programadministration.shtml#volunteerism>

**Volunteer Match – this website provides useful information, in addition to connecting volunteers with your agency**

- <http://www.volunteermatch.org/nonprofits/learningcenter>



## LEARNING RESOURCES

**Playing by the Rules: Creating an Effective Volunteer Handbook (Sept. 8, 2011 OR Dec. 1, 2011 – 2-3 p.m. EST)**

- <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/213230240>
- <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/871290889>

**The New Volunteer Manager's Toolkit (Sept. 13, 2011 OR Nov. 3, 2011 – 2-3 p.m. EST)**

- <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/696393337>
- <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/177919961>

**Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugees (POWR) Webinar Series (Audio Recordings)**

- Partnerships
- Volunteer Management
- Social Media
- Special Events

- <http://old.usccb.org/mrs/diows/etrainings.shtml>

**POWR  Post**

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