



POWR Post



September-October 2011 (Vol. 2, Issue 8)

The POWR 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 to share, please contact Daniel Sturm at dsturm@usccb.org.

~Daniel Sturm, MRS Special Projects Manager

Call for Papers

As we near the end of the 2010-11 POWR program cycle, I would like to invite all POWR managers/coordinators, volunteers and clients to contribute stories to a special edited volume dedicated to POWR experiences. This final project report slated for publication in early 2012, whose working title is "Lessons Learned from the Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugees (POWR) Program," is intended to serve as an inspiring collection of ideas for future resource development initiatives.

Submission guidelines:

- Please keep your success stories and reflections under one page (single-spaced). This is a wonderful opportunity to publish some of your thoughts and ideas about volunteerism and resource development.
- Submission deadline is February 15th, 2012
- We welcome the submission of photos and art work, accompanied by credits and release forms (if necessary).

Daniel Sturm, MRS Special Projects Manager

dsturm@usccb.org



Donations

Habitat for Humanity Home in the Works (Jacksonville, Florida)

POWR outreach efforts brought in two Habitat for Humanity representatives to give an overview of the application process for a Habitat home, with the hopes we can help refugees qualify for this program.

Shannon Cutler, scutler@ccbjax.org

Parish Donation Drives Pan Out (Des Moines, Iowa)

Three parishes held altogether four donation drives, including one parish that held a drive for the first time. The first two drives focused on school supplies and hygiene items. The remaining drives focused on kitchen items, pillows, and bedding. In addition, the Des Moines Intentional Eucharistic Community, a nonprofit group not affiliated with the Catholic Church but rooted in Catholic tradition, contributed \$1,100 in Target Gift Cards, to utilize towards we rarely received through donations. Larger furniture items such as dressers, tables and couches were also received in significant numbers. The value of the donations was \$10,700.

Megan Thibodeau, mthibodeau@dmdiocese.org

Medical Lending Closet (Phoenix, Arizona)

The Pastor and Director of Religious Education of St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church in Sun City, Arizona, have expressed a strong interest in developing a "Medical Lending Closet" to provide medically helpful devices and other assistance to medically fragile refugees. The above-mentioned program, Global Solidarity through Engagement with Refugees, has been introduced to the parish to increase awareness.

Joanne Morales, jemorales@cc-az.org

Eye Doctor Donates Time and Services (Amarillo, Texas)

A retired eye doctor offered to do eye exams in our offices for our eye care program for low-income individuals (which refugees qualify for). We usually send people to different doctors around town for that service, so it's a real blessing.

Dena Dyer, ddyer@cfsama.com

Mobile Dental Clinic for Refugees (Amarillo, Texas)

I participated in meetings with Amarillo school district employees to brainstorm about dental needs. We were able to connect a new mobile unit in town to a Baptist church, which sits next door to one of the schools with the most refugee kids. The church offered to organize a free/low-cost mobile dental clinic, focusing on refugee children and families.

Dena Dyer, ddyer@cfsama.com

Men's Warehouse Drive Yields 400 Suits (Albany, New York)

Men's Warehouse partnered with us to do a suit drive. We collected about 400 suits in excellent condition to help men get appropriate clothing for the workplace. The Men's Warehouse will match the suits with new shirts and ties!

Mokaya Bosire, desd@nycap.rr.com

<http://tinyurl.com/3t7b5hr>

Parishes Raise Funds for Congolese Refugees (San Jose, California)

Two parishes continue to sponsor refugee families with two local ones who have agreed to sponsor a family within the next two months. St. Thomas Aquinas raised more than \$5,500 to pay for the costs for a large Congolese family to move into one house, and out of three separate apartments.

Claire Collins, ccollins@catholiccharitiesscc.org



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

Volunteer Guide Books

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

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

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

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

Richmond, Virginia → <http://old.usccb.org/mrs/diows/richmondvolunteerhandbookvolume1.doc> (Vol. 1 - Resettlement Services)

→ <http://old.usccb.org/mrs/diows/richmondvolunteerhandbookvolume2.doc> (Vol. 2 - Volunteer Roles and Job Descriptions)

→ <http://old.usccb.org/mrs/diows/richmondvolunteerhandbookvolume3.doc> (Vol. 3 - Volunteer Service Agreement & Record)

Employment

Farming Initiative Takes Root (Houston, Texas)

A collaboration is in the works between a nonprofit group called "Plant It Forward" and the Bhutanese Community Association of Houston. Members of both organizations participate in the Refugee Resource Collaborative committee and it is through this collaboration that we are developing a refugee farming initiative.

Peter Stranges, pstranges@catholiccharities.org

Job Search Training Curriculum Now Available (Jacksonville, Florida)

We held one Job Search Orientation and Employment Practices class in August for 9 clients, with 3 interpreters assisting. We used a newly developed PowerPoint presentation to maximize the training's results. There are three more JSOEPS scheduled for October-December. Approximately 75 clients who completed the JSOEP workshops have found work.

Shannon Cutler, scutler@ccbjax.org

Events

Refugee Cooking Class Binder Published (Jacksonville, Florida)

In August/September we held three cooking classes at Apron's Cooking School. These classes featured Cuban, Bhutanese, and Iraqi cuisine and catered to clients from these cultures. We invited parishioners from around Jacksonville to participate and enjoy the company of our refugees, with the hopes of making some strong leads in their parishes. These cooking classes not only involved learning delicious recipes but also taught classic knife cuts. Participants were able to share the meal together after working as a group to prepare it. Translators participated as well, so that refugees could experience everything the class offered. A total of 40 people attended the three classes. A recipe book (binder) has been created to include the recipes from each class and in each language.

Shannon Cutler, scutler@ccbjax.org

Speed Language Lessons Offered for Donors (Amarillo, Texas)

I spearheaded our second annual Book Fair at Barnes and Noble with the help of our ESL faculty. They had the idea to do "speed language lessons" for people shopping (or anyone who wanted to learn a few phrases of the many languages our staff speaks), and we had some great radio and television interviews about the event. Barnes and Noble gave us ten percent of the book fair proceeds for our ESL program. Last year the fair made \$800; this year it was \$1,200.

Dena Dyer, ddyer@cfsama.com

Parish Hosts Refugee Welcome Party (Des Moines, Iowa)

A second parish began to actively assist our POWR program. This parish completed a donation drive, assisted with apartment set-ups and will host the winter/spring Refugee Welcome Party. Our Volunteer/Donations Specialist will continue to cultivate this relationship, ensuring that the Welcome Party serves as an opportunity for their first "hands on" work, directly with the refugee families.

Megan Thibodeau, mthibodeau@dmdiocese.org

Ambassador Program Creates Lasting Community (Indianapolis, Indiana)

This event was a huge success. We netted more than \$9,000 to support this year's ambassadors. Again, the community truly embraced the refugee program. Our local paper published another article about the program's future.

Gabrielle Campo, gcampo@archindy.org

<http://www.archindy.org/criterion/local/2011/07-08/sudan.html>

CORRECTION:

POWR Post Vol. 2, Issue #7 mistakenly attributed the following news item to Jacksonville, Fl., when it was reported by our colleagues in Hartford, Conn. My apologies (The Editor).

Getting a Foot in the Door Works (Hartford, Connecticut)

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.

Alice Noyes, anoyes@ccaoh.org

Media & Outreach

POWR Parish Launched Newsletter (San Antonio, Texas)

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church now shares information on its New Neighbor Ministry online.

Tom Hoog, thoog@ccaosa.org

http://www.sfasat.org/images/stories/parish_forms/New_Neighbor_Pamphlet.pdf

Media (Arlington, Virginia)

An *Arlington Catholic Herald* reporter wrote a wonderfully researched and well-received article, which comprehensively covers the initial resettlement of refugee clients from Bhutan. This article led to an inquiry by a *Catholic Digest* reporter who may be writing an article in coming months about our clients/services! Stay tuned!

Rebecca Ruiz, r.ruiz@arlingtondiocese.org

<http://tinyurl.com/3zxsuvuy>

http://www.cdda.net/documents/themission/2011-07_mission.pdf

Bike Partnership in the News (San Jose, Calif.)

The Mercury News featured an article on the front page of the local section about the special bike, Good Karma, which was designed for him. Good publicity for our program.

Claire Collins, ccollins@catholiccharitiesscc.org

Catholic Priest Champions POWR Cause (San Jose, Calif.)

Father Dave from St. Christopher continues to be our champion. He recently spoke to the Bishop and other parishes about our POWR program.

Claire Collins, ccollins@catholiccharitiesscc.org

Volunteer Blog Takes Off (Portland, Oregon)

We have established a bi-weekly blog where current and future volunteers can stay informed about our program, and interact with program staff. We are now offering monthly volunteer workshops to cover issues like ESL, refugee healthcare, as well as trainings explaining the cultural and political backgrounds of the refugees we currently serve.

Jeanne Toal, jtoal@catholiccharitiesoregon.org

University Intern Joins Outreach Team (Phoenix, Arizona)

We are pleased to report that one Arizona State University Service Learning Intern and one volunteer have joined Catholic Charities Parish and Community Engagement staff to develop an educational program, Global Solidarity through Engagement with Refugees, designed to inspire adults and teenagers to become involved with Refugee Resettlement.

Joanne Morales, jemorales@cc-az.org

Volunteer Management

Christian College Students Sign Up for POWR (Portland, Oregon)

We have partnered with a local Christian college where students will volunteer with our program for eight months as part of their service commitment. Some students will offer to help with homework, while others are collecting and storing donations and setting up apartments. Members of a local church have agreed to advocate with potential landlords and employers, and to adopt a refugee family. We have also partnered with the Retired Senior Volunteer Program to recruit volunteers for hard-to-fill jobs like driving refugees to their appointments.

Jeanne Toal, jtoal@catholiccharitiesoregon.org

Mentor Goes Above and Beyond (Houston, Texas)

One of our POWR mentors has done tremendous work with a Congolese family. He has helped them with cultural orientation, job readiness (including applying for job upgrades), financial literacy, and general support and friendship. The mentor is also helping Catholic Charities recruit pro bono attorneys, who can help this family apply for guardianship/custody of an attached refugee minor. In addition, the mentor has referred a newspaper reporter to our agency to do a story on the Congolese family. It is our hope that this will raise additional awareness.

Peter Stranges, pstranges@catholiccharities.org

Refugee Garden PR Increases Profits (Anchorage, Alaska)

We had a picture of our Fresh International Gardens program on the front page of the Anchorage Daily News. After that picture ran in the paper, profits at the farmer's market increased threefold the week following the article. This is also good publicity for our other programs' volunteer opportunities. We have been sending out a monthly POWR newsletter to 120 interested parish and community members and a separate meals and transportation opportunities email to another 60 individuals. The POWR newsletter serves as a great stimulant to inspire community members to volunteer.

Kristen Borash, kborash@cssalaksa.org

Tufts Students on Board (Boston, Massachusetts)

We just completed our fall recruiting season at Tufts University. We have integrated twenty new university volunteers into our Tufts volunteer teams and matched them with refugee households. Additionally, these volunteers have agreed to assist with campus fundraising on behalf of our clients, as well as to plan and lead community education sessions.

Jason Reynolds, Jason_Reynolds@ccab.org

Launch of Parish Support Ministry Manual (Phoenix, Arizona)

As our grant continues, we have taken the time to create a Parish Support Ministry Manual. This manual is designed for parishes committed to supporting refugee programs, and is a practical guide on how to work with refugees and how it ties into Parish Social Teaching and Global Solidarity. Our goal is to provide clear information about what parishes can do, how to do it, and how to boost our donations.

Joanne Morales, jemorales@cc-az.org

Volunteers Sign Up to Help Refugees with Disabilities (Syracuse, New York)

We have a lot of volunteers who are able to go into homes and help refugees with disabilities learn English.

Kate Holmes, cholmes@ccoc.us

Recruiting Volunteers for Refugee Wellness Program (Portland, Oregon)

We are actively recruiting volunteers skilled in public health and nursing, and are beginning to develop a wellness program for our refugee clients.

Jeanne Toal, jtoal@catholiccharitiesoregon.org

Noteworthy

Parishes Join the POWR Bandwagon (Des Moines, Iowa)

Throughout the last four months, parishes who had initially been less supportive of the POWR program have gradually become more participatory. The Volunteer/Donations Specialist has helpfully noted that approaching various staff or committees within a parish may lead to better results.

Megan Thibodeau, mthibodeau@dmdiocese.org

Thinking About Refugee Craft Sales (Richmond, Virginia)

We proposed a craft sale to provide refugee women with some income. Refugee women are talented in many trades that produce small items that can be sold. These items can be taken to farmer's markets, parishes, and community events to generate income for refugees, give them work experience, and raise community awareness.

Marilyn Breslow, marilyn.breslow@cccova.org



Refugee Career Guide *Special*



AGRICULTURAL JOBS

Cooperative Extension System Offices (U.S. Department of Agriculture). The cooperative extension system is a nationwide educational network. Each state has an extension office at its land-grant university and a network of local offices. This website will help you find the office nearest you.

→ www.csrees.usda.gov/Extension/

Farm Business Curriculum (International Rescue Committee of Phoenix, AZ). This training curriculum includes materials on accounting and farm record-keeping.

→ <http://tinyurl.com/y8n8mge>

Green Jobs Guidebook (Environmental Defense Fund). This manual highlights 45 job types, many paying more than \$25 per hour, for high-school grads, as well as information on job training and apprenticeship programs.

→ <http://tinyurl.com/6l6cwz>

Refugee Agricultural Jobs (RefugeeWorks). A special refugee employment theme issue that explores agricultural and green job opportunities.

→ http://www.refugeeworks.org/downloads/rwnews_32.pdf

Refugee Agriculture Partnership Program Listserv (Institute for Social and Economic Development). RAPP provides funding to refugee farming and food security projects and shares advice with refugee families. It also disseminates a highly informative listserv.

→ www.ised.us/blog

Small Farmer Legal Compliance Manual (University of California Cooperative Extension). This manual summarizes and clarifies the laws and regulations relevant to small-farm owners.

→ <http://tinyurl.com/yd379y3>

Small Farmer Resource Directories (University of California Cooperative Extension). This website shares in-depth resources for small farmers in Hmong, Spanish and English. The cooperative extension agent serves 850 Hmong farmers in Fresno County, CA.

→ <http://ucce.ucdavis.edu/files/filelibrary/742/35589.pdf>

Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Program (U.S. Department of Agriculture). This program provides funding to organizations serving refugee clients, such as the International Rescue Committee in Phoenix, the Minnesota Food Association, the Farmers' Legal Action Group and the North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University.

→ <http://tinyurl.com/y8ghyri>

FOOD INDUSTRY PICTURE GUIDES

→ <http://tinyurl.com/66panav> (Arabic - Caritas of Austin)

→ <http://tinyurl.com/6a8sum7> (Burmese - Caritas of Austin)

→ <http://tinyurl.com/3drkzty> (Nepali 1 - Caritas of Austin)

→ <http://tinyurl.com/3gm7qpc> (Nepali 2 - Caritas of Austin)

→ <http://tinyurl.com/3qx53km> (Nepali 3 - Caritas of Austin)

→ <http://tinyurl.com/3gutlwc> (Spanish - Caritas of Austin)

GENERAL CAREER GUIDES

Engineering and Science Career Network. This site links job boards, bringing candidates and recruiters together in an employment network.

→ <http://engineeringandsciencecareernetwork.com>

How to Succeed in the Workplace: A Career Guide for the Immigrant Professional (The Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians)

→ http://welcomingcenter.org/sites/default/files/imagefield_thumbs/howtosucceed.pdf

International Healthcare Workers Assistance (Welcome Back Initiative). The Welcome Back Initiative serves as an information and resource center for people who have received their formal education and training in a health field outside of the U.S.

→ <http://welcomebackinitiative.org>

Recertification Fact Sheets (U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement). Three fact sheets on the recertification of refugee professionals.

→ <http://tinyurl.com/lyfyhk>

Small Businesses Making a Big Impact (RefugeeWorks Presentation)

→ http://www.refugeeworks.org/about/documents/SmallBusinessesMakingaBigImpact_final.pdf

JOB SEARCH

CareerOneStop's Acinet – a U.S. Department of Labor website that offers career resources.

→ <http://www.acinet.org>

Gateway Jobs in our Economy – a Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians guide on helping newcomers find work.

→ <http://tinyurl.com/6g48l5x>

Indeed.com – a search engine for jobs, allowing job seekers to find jobs posted on thousands of company career sites and job boards.

→ <http://www.indeed.com>

MyNext Move – a U.S. Department of Labor toolkit for first-time workers and those returning to the workforce.

→ <http://mynextmove.dol.gov>

Quintessential Careers – this website provides links to hundreds of the best industry-specific job sites.

→ <http://www.job-hunt.org>

What to Expect Your First Year in the U.S. – an Upwardly Global/List Project tip sheet for Iraqi (and other refugee) professionals.

→ <http://tinyurl.com/64qkcg>

LICENSING PROCESS

Credential Evaluation (American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers). AACRAO, the national professional organization for admissions and credential evaluation, provides detailed information on the entire process and offers its own credential evaluation service.

→ <http://ies.aacrao.org/>

Licensing Guides for Immigrant Professionals (Upwardly Global). The Careers for New Americans Guide is a resource to show foreign-educated professionals the steps they need to follow to qualify for a professional license or credentials in different states.

→ <http://www.careersfornewamericans.org>

Occupational Licensure Requirements (U.S. Department of Labor). The Employment and Training Administration's Licensed Occupations website provides detailed information for various professional licenses, state by state.

→ <http://tinyurl.com/3dlwfd>

Recertification Networking Site (RefugeeWorks). Participants from the 2009 Refugee Recertification Conference established this networking site, where the recertification discussion continues.

→ <http://recertification.ning.com>

PROFESSIONAL CAREER GUIDES

Opportunities for Refugee Engineers (RefugeeWorks Guide No. 1)

→ http://www.refugeeworks.org/downloads/rwguide_01.pdf

Opportunities for Refugee Teachers (RefugeeWorks Guide No. 2)

→ http://www.refugeeworks.org/downloads/rwguide_02.pdf

Opportunities for Refugee Physicians and Nurses (RefugeeWorks Guide No. 3)

→ http://www.refugeeworks.org/downloads/rwguide_03.pdf

Opportunities for Refugee Pharmacists (RefugeeWorks Guide No. 4)

→ http://www.refugeeworks.org/downloads/rwguide_04.pdf

Opportunities for Refugee Dentists (RefugeeWorks Guide No. 5)

→ http://www.refugeeworks.org/downloads/rwguide_05.pdf

Opportunities for Refugee Accountants (RefugeeWorks Guide No. 6)

→ http://www.refugeeworks.org/downloads/rwguide_06.pdf

SMALL BUSINESS CAREER GUIDES

Getting Started in the Business of Family Child Care (Bridging Refugee Youth and Children Clearinghouse)

→ <http://www.brycs.org/clearinghouse/clearinghouse-resource.cfm?docnum=1069>

How to Start a Grocery or Deli (The Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians)

→ http://www.welcomingcenter.org/sites/default/files/imagefield_thumbs/deliweb.pdf

How to start a Coffee Shop (The Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians)

→ http://www.welcomingcenter.org/sites/default/files/imagefield_thumbs/coffeeshopweb_0.pdf

How to Start a Flower Shop (The Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians)

→ http://www.welcomingcenter.org/sites/default/files/imagefield_thumbs/flowershopweb.pdf

Individual Development Accounts (Center for Higher Education Policy Analysis). A website for IDA practitioners, researchers and policy analysts.

→ <http://www.usc.edu/dept/chepa/accounts/index.shtml>

Merchant Safety Guide: What You Can Do to Protect Yourself (The Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians)

→ http://www.welcomingcenter.org/sites/default/files/imagefield_thumbs/merchantsafety.pdf

Refugee Individual Development Accounts (Institute for Social and Economic Development). This is an IDA technical assistance project that provides financial literacy training and coaches clients as they save money for homes, cars and new businesses.

→ <http://www.ised.us/projects/refugee-ida>

Refugee Individual Development Accounts Practitioner's Guide (Institute for Social and Economic Development)

→ <http://www.isedsolutions.org/sites/default/files/PRACTITIONER%27S%20GUIDE%20%282%29.pdf>

Refugee Microenterprise Development: Achievements and Lessons Learned (Institute for Social and Economic Development)

→ http://www.isedsolutions.org/sites/default/files/ORR_Micro_Lessons_Learned_2nd_Edition.pdf

Resources for Childcaring (Redleaf National Institute - The National Center for the Business of Family Child Care)

→ <http://www.resourcesforchildcaring.org>

Starting a Family Child Care Program (National Child Care Information Center)

→ http://ecs4kids.org/Pdf%20Files/200908/NCCIC_starting_child_care_center.pdf

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