





January-February 2012 (Vol. 3, Issue 1)

At the beginning of this program cycle, we welcome all new grant recipients! The POWR Post is a bi-monthly enewsletter 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 <u>dsturm@usccb.org</u>.

~Daniel Sturm, MRS Special Projects Manager



<u>Media</u>

Making New Social Media Friends (Amarillo, Texas)

An article on "The Joys and Challenges of Working with Refugees" was featured in two parts on a well-trafficked website, "BibleDude.net." This blog and our agency promoted the feature through Twitter, Facebook, and other social media. We also sent out two issues of our new newsletter. And I worked with a media firm to organize the television interviews our refugee staff has done over the past two years, in order to use them for our new YouTube channel.

Dena Dyer, ddyer@cfsama.com <u>http://bibledude.net/working-with-refugees</u> <u>http://bibledude.net/lessons-from-working-with-refugees</u>

POWR Gets Newspaper Column (Charlotte, North Carolina)

We secured approval for a column in the diocesan newspaper, "Welcoming the Stranger," which will provide on-going informational and feature articles about the refugee experience. The first article will introduce the POWR initiative. POWR has provided us with the opportunity to be more creative in our public relations. We have mapped out a series of articles that will include the POWR program, Catholic teaching as it relates to welcoming refugees, the experience of refugees waiting to resettle, and during the resettlement process with a focus on the need for donations, fostering community awareness, volunteerism, and donations.

Sandy Buck, skbuck@charlottediocese.org

Using New and Old Media to Boost Volunteerism (Mobile, Alabama)

We contacted five parishes who agreed to include announcements in their church bulletin about our volunteer needs, including the need for ESL tutors. An ongoing announcement is published in "The Catholic Week," the bi-weekly diocesan newspaper. We also posted volunteer opportunities for ESL tutors to our Facebook page and volunteermatch.org. As a result of these activities, four volunteers were interviewed and trained and will be matched with refugees as ESL tutors.

Parish Partnership Highlighted in Catholic Press (Louisville, Kentucky)

An article about the parish partnership was published in *The Record*, a weekly paper of Archdiocese of Louisville. We plan to use articles like these to highlight future partnerships between parishes, Catholic schools, and our program.

Darko Mihaylovich, dmihaylovich@archlou.org

 $\underline{http://therecord archlou.word press.com/2012/02/23/refugee-student-now-attends-st-agnes}$

Two POWR Programs in the News (Arlington, Virginia and Salt Lake City, Utah)

www.catholicdigest.com/articles/good_works/love_your_neighbor/2011/12-15/the-rai-family-refugees http://connect2utah.com/news/top-stories/stories/vid_552.shtml

With Support from the United States Department of Health and Human Services/Office of Refugee Resettlement

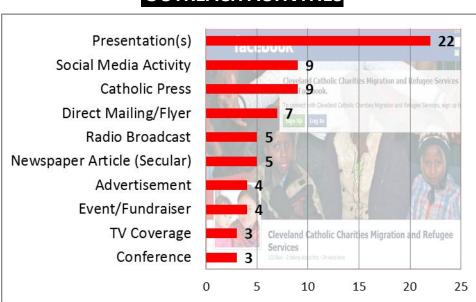
Jana Curran, jcurran2@cssrrp.org

1

Media Triggers Positive Feedback (Cleveland, Ohio)

One of our staff, Abdi Nuno, was recognized as a Community Hero in *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*. Also, an article in *The Lakewood Observer* highlighted some Bhutanese girls who were given soccer equipment. The city has offered space in an elementary school to house a tutoring program for refugees. We met with the Mayor and gave a presentation to community leaders about refugees. The response was really good and we are making progress in the community. Stacy Dever, sdever@clevelandcatholiccharities.org

http://lakewoodobserver.com/read/2012/03/07/geigers-steps-up-o-fill-students-need/photoGallery



OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Reporting Cycle: January-February 2012 (22 programs reporting)

Outreach

Partnering with Urban Renewal Initiative (Dayton, Ohio)

Individuals from the Welcome Dayton initiative, non-Catholic churches and area universities have come forward with interest in supporting refugees as mentors, ESL instructors and assistance with neighborhood renewal projects. The POWR program will help with outreach to these community groups and will deepen the cultural understanding and sensitivity to refugee resettlement issues in the Dayton area.

Dorothy Balser, balserd@cssmv.org http://www.facebook.com/ccmrs

Hosting a Refugee Providers Symposium (Amarillo, Texas)

As part of the Refugee Advisory Committee that we re-started last year, I helped plan the first-ever Refugee Providers Symposium at our local civic center. I sent out press releases, asking media outlets to cover the all-day event. It featured speakers who discussed the needs and challenges that refugees have, as well as local services available to them.

Dena Dyer, ddyer@cfsama.com

Developing Refugee Lesson Plans (Jacksonville, Florida)

To create an awareness of the refugee population in Jacksonville, we developed lesson plans for elementary and high school aged students, as well as for adults. The lessons are designed to make people aware of the plight of refugees while also discussing refugees in the Bible, beginning with the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. This curriculum has been produced through the collaborative efforts of a retired diocesan priest, a Catholic high school religion teacher, a college professor, the Diocesan Director of Faith Formation, and the POWR Coordinator.

Shannon Cutler, scutler@ccbjax.org

POWR Kicks Off from Lectern (West Palm Beach, Florida)

We presented POWR to the Pastors in four parishes, two of which have donated space so that Refugee Resettlement has a presence. The Pastor of Holy Name of Jesus will be announcing the new POWR initiative at all Sunday Masses.

Emma Soler, pa_refugee@catholiccharitiesdpb.org

POWR Outreach in Full Swing (Lansing, Michigan)

Since the POWR grant was renewed activities have shifted toward community outreach to all groups. We started to plan World Day at Hunter Park, which is Lansing's celebration of World Refugee Day. We organized sessions at Michigan State University's College of Nursing to educate future service providers about refugees, and recruit skilled volunteers. We conducted several diversity training workshops for local social service agencies, explaining refugee issues and the resettlement process. And we also presented at a Children's Expo volunteer recruiting event.

Beth Mugavero, mugaveb@stvcc.org

Facebook and Regular Friends Get Active (Cleveland, Ohio)

Through the publicity of our newsletter and Facebook page we have been invited to speak at parishes, schools and universities. We have received household goods and volunteers as a result of our recent visits.

Stacy Dever, sdever@clevelandcatholiccharities.org www.facebook.com/ccmrs



Donations

POWR Is Making All the Difference (Winona, Minnesota)

I can enthusiastically report that our "Call for Change" outreach initiative has raised \$16,911. The majority came after an extensive parish collaboration. Our efforts have been uplifted by the POWR grant and we are grateful beyond words. Requests for presentations have increased significantly because of dedicated efforts to reach out to community members for both the "monetary change" needed to sustain the refugee program, as well as a "change of heart."

Mary Alessio, malessio@ccwinona.org

Car Accident Triggers Outpouring of Calls (Amarillo, Texas)

Following a devastating accident involving a passenger van carrying 15 Somali workers to a beef processing plant (three Somalis died and many more were injured), we received an outpouring of calls from people wanting to help. We began a fund at a local bank to assist the victims' families with hospital bills. None of the people in the accident were our clients, but some of our employees had friends and family members in the accident. I helped publicize the fund in the local media and we raised \$9,000 to help with the injured refugees' medical expenses.

Dena Dyer, ddyer@cfsama.com

Refugee Eye Clinic (Cleveland, Ohio)

Catholic volunteers co-organized a free eye clinic, providing eye exams and glasses to 54 clients in one night! Additionally, a Catholic Nursing University provided a basic first aid course to refugees. The refugees received a certificate and first aid kit. The nurses come weekly to check in on clients and answer basic questions. Subsequently, we have seen a reduction in emergency room visits and calls to caseworkers.

Stacy Dever, sdever@clevelandcatholiccharities.org

Refugee Ambassadors Take on Assignments (Kansas City, Kansas)

We are working with six Refugee Ambassadors, who are Catholic high school students. The ambassadors will organize donation drives to collect items for refugees. They will also work on fundraisers for Matching Grant clients. We anticipate that they will complete their donation drives by May. New ambassadors will be recruited for the new school year.

Betsy Thomas, bthomas@catholiccharitiesks.org

Taking Pictures of Donated Goods (Anchorage, Alaska)

We created donation tags to pin to items donated by parishes, so that refugees can experience a more personal connection. And we take pictures of tagged donation items to give feedback to groups about what happens to items being donated. These pictures are published in the monthly POWR newsletter.

Kristen Borash, Kborash@cssalaska.org

Parish Member Donates 30 Dining Room Sets (West Palm Beach, Florida)

A parish member at Saint Jude's, where we made a presentation to the Pastor, donated 30 dining room/dinette sets. Emma Soler, pa_refugee@catholiccharitiesdpb.org

Employment

Farming Initiative Now Operational (Houston, Texas)

The refugee farming initiative launched by a POWR committee member is now operational. We are working closely with Catholic Charities to set up workshops and begin the participant selection for the urban farmer training program. Peter Stranges, pstranges@catholiccharities.org

Forming Partnerships with Business Schools (Hartford, Connecticut)

We reached out to a VP Webster bank volunteer to help with financial literacy training. We also contacted a student group at the University of Connecticut's School of Business, who will help with employment and other workshops.

Alice Noyes, anoyes@ccaoh.org

POWR Sponsoring Multi-Service Transitional House (Lansing, Michigan)

The POWR program may be allowing us to implement a multi-service volunteer program. One of our long-standing partner parishes, Resurrection Church, and its volunteers would set up and maintain an emerging refugee transitional house. Volunteers would also offer help with social adjustment, employment and English skills. Many tenants would in turn be enrolled in the Match Grant program. As the transitional house develops over the course of the year, this POWR volunteer relationship will grow and adapt to the needs of clients.

Beth Mugavero, mugaveb@stvcc.org

Tapping Parishes for Employment Leads (Louisville, Kentucky)

Several parishes are interested in talking to us about selecting a member from one of their employment committees to serve as the Employment Coordinator for our POWR program.

Darko Mihaylovich, dmihaylovich@archlou.org



Volunteer Management

POWR Funds Interpreters for Orientation Classes (Houston, Texas)

We are currently offering five eight-week cultural orientation workshops for refugees from Iraq, Somalia, Congo, Burma, and Bhutan. Three volunteer teachers are University of Houston students, and one works in hospital administration, but has worked with African refugees in the past. For all workshops we use POWR funding to contract with interpreters certified through the Texas Department of Health. The use of contract interpreters in place of case management staff allows for greater flexibility in scheduling workshops in the evening and on weekends. It also allows case management staff to focus on core service delivery and case file documentation.

Peter Stranges, pstranges@catholiccharities.org

Recruiting Parishes for Meal Committees (Anchorage, Alaska)

We are working closely with parishes in the community to create inter-parish meals committees. The idea is to create a rotating monthly schedule so parishes and community groups can trade off the responsibility throughout the year, and the process will become more self-sustaining.

Kristen Borash, kborash@cssalaksa.org

Volunteer Manual Launched (Charlotte, North Carolina)

We completed an Ambassador Program Handbook, provided training, and recruited two parish ambassadors and one from a local Presbyterian college. We anticipate commitments from two additional parish ambassadors as well as one from a local Catholic college. We recruited three ambassadors who have agreed to be featured in press report and assist with presentations. They include a priest, a mentor who worked in refugee screening, and a long-time ESL volunteer.

Sandy Buck, skbuck@charlottediocese.org

Recruiting Short-Term Volunteers (Charlotte, North Carolina)

Last year we initiated a volunteer program called "Helping Hands" that allows groups of volunteers to participate in oneday projects on Saturday mornings. It has provided us with a great opportunity to gain access to volunteers who may decide to become more active in a group setting for short activities.

New Refugee Ministry Guide (Jacksonville, Florida)

We developed and delivered a Parish Refugee Ministry Guide to four target parishes. This guide details how the entire parish will work together through its staff, students, ministries, and organizations.

Shannon Cutler, scutler@ccbjax.org

Sandy Buck, skbuck@charlottediocese.org

Teens Serving As Financial Literacy Mentors (Winona, Minnesota)

In January, 18 teens – half refugee teens and half teens from various parishes – attended a financial literacy workshop at Pax Christi parish. Many parish teens served as refugee mentors. The six adult refugees who also took part in the workshop had the benefit of working with 23 volunteer mentors from Winona State University. We received the United Way 2012 Financial Stability Excellence Award for the excellence we achieve by empowering refugees in the area of financial literacy and budget wise practices.

Creating Nutrition Guides (Hartford, Connecticut)

One parish trained 60 potential volunteers about Nepalese culture, another parish trained seven volunteers about Karen culture. And we provided training for a new volunteer who will work on a food and nutrition guide for Karen refugees.

Alice Noyes, anoyes@ccaoh.org

Mary Alessio, malessio@ccwinona.org

Fifth-Graders Sew Pillowcases (Winona, Minnesota)

After a POWR presentation to a group of fifth graders, students decided to do a sewing project. They created 20 pillowcases with attached welcome notes for refugee children. I am serving as an instructor for a multi-cultural class at Winona State University. This class of 23 is working on creating individualized welcome baskets for newcomers.

Mary Alessio, malessio@ccwinona.org

New Refugee Guide Book for Orientation (Anchorage, Alaska)

We purchased eight copies of "10 Million to 1: A How-to Guide to Refugee Resettlement," and are loaning them to family mentors during orientation. The volunteers have provided feedback that the book expands their knowledge of the refugee resettlement process and answers many questions not covered in the family mentor orientation.

Kristen Borash, kborash@cssalaksa.org

Improving Legal Services (Indianapolis, Indiana)

We hired and provided legal services training for four POWR-funded law clerks. We partnered with Indyreads, a local nonprofit, to train the students in ESL and Civics. The attorney, who oversees the clerks, is on the Red Mass Board.

Gabrielle Campo, gcampo@archindy.org

New Collaboration with St. Vincent de Paul (Dayton, Ohio)

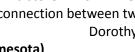
We developed a new and exciting collaborative partnership with St. Vincent de Paul, which will provide significant support to newly arriving refugees beyond Dec. 31, 2012. This includes the purchase of furniture built by St. Vincent de Paul's carpentry apprentices and the sale of donated items in its thrift store. This will result in quality furniture for refugees, cash and in-kind credit for our program and a strengthened connection between two Catholic social agencies.

Approaching United Way, Partnering with Universities (Winona, Minnesota)

We are advocating for the creation of an Advent/Immigration Sunday Project, in collaboration with two parishes in Rochester. This endeavor will bring in funding beyond 2012. We also submitted two proposals to our local United Way, and we are negotiating with Winona State University to train another class of interns who will serve as volunteers.

Mary Alessio, malessio@ccwinona.org

Dorothy Balser, balserd@cssmv.org



5





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

U 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.

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

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.

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

BWebinar 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.

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



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.

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

A new webinar series is planned for the summer 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).

Anchorage, Alaska → <u>http://www.cssalaska.org/files/RAIS/MANUAL.pdf</u>

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

Indianapolis, Indiana \rightarrow <u>http://www.usccb.org/mrs/diows/indianapolisrefugeeambassadorguide.pdf</u>

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

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

- → <u>http://old.usccb.org/mrs/diows/richmondvolunteerhandbookvolume2.doc</u> (Vol. 2 Volunteer Roles and Job Descriptions)
- → <u>http://old.usccb.org/mrs/diows/richmondvolunteerhandbookvolume3.doc</u> (Vol. 3 Volunteer Service Agreement & Record)

🔀 BEST OF 2011 POWR Resource Guide 🖄 This issue presents a "Best-of 2011" collection of special topics resources that were shared during the 2010-11 POWR Program Cycle. If you wish to obtain copies of all POWR Post E-Newsletters, go to: http://old.usccb.org/mrs/diows/powr.shtml **EMPLOYMENT** 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. \rightarrow www.ised.us/blog What to Expect Your First Year in the U.S. - an Upwardly Global/List Project tip sheet for Iraqi (and other refugee) professionals. \rightarrow http://tinyurl.com/64qkcgb Opportunities for Refugee Professionals (RefugeeWorks) – a series of publications offering concrete career advice for refugees trying to reclaim their careers in the U.S., including engineers, teachers, physicians, nurses, pharmacists, dentists and accountants. \rightarrow http://www.refugeeworks.org/downloads/ → More at : http://old.usccb.org/mrs/diows/powr-post-2011-10-31.pdf **EVENT PLANNING** Google for Nonprofits - this website offers a variety of free planning and outreach tools → <u>http://www.google.com/nonprofits/index.html</u> Idealist.org - a website offering useful resources related to special events planning. → <u>http://www.idealist.org/info/VolunteerMgmt/Group</u> → More at: http://old.usccb.org/mrs/diows/powr-post-2011-06-30.pdf FUNDRAISING Foundation Center – offers training courses to help you learn to write grant proposals that are more likely to succeed \rightarrow http://foundationcenter.org/getstarted/learnabout/proposalwriting.html International Rescue Committee/Project SOAR - offers sample grant proposals \rightarrow <u>http://tinyurl.com/69q5tre</u> USCCB/MRS - a directory of resource development materials has been posted on the Members Only Website → <u>http://www.usccb.org/mrs/diows/fundraising.shtml</u> → More at: http://old.usccb.org/mrs/diows/powrpost022811.pdf MEDIA Project SOAR Webinar on Telling Your Story in Tough Economic Times → <u>http://tinyurl.com/6z9x87q</u> (Webinar Recording) \rightarrow http://tinyurl.com/6zvxysm (Power Point Presentation) CLINIC Immigration Management Manual – This curriculum covers marketing, training, accreditation and representation ethics \rightarrow http://tinyurl.com/6fyanpg USCCB/MRS Members Only Website - Check out USCCB/MRS' media relations materials → http://www.usccb.org/mrs/diows/media.shtml Nonprofit Tech 2.0 Blog – A Social Media Guide for Nonprofits → http://nonprofitorgs.wordpress.com → More at: http://old.usccb.org/mrs/diows/powrpost042911.pdf **VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT** Anchorage, Alaska → http://www.cssalaska.org/files/RAIS/MANUAL.pdf → http://www.cssalaska.org/files/RAIS/Warm%20Meals.pdf → <u>http://www.cssalaska.org/files/RAIS/Transportation.pdf</u> Indianapolis, Indiana -> http://www.usccb.org/mrs/diows/indianapolisrefugeeambassadorguide.pdf → http://www.usccb.org/mrs/diows/indianapolisrefugeeambassadorpassport.pdf Richmond, Virginia → <u>http://old.usccb.org/mrs/diows/richmondvolunteerhandbookvolume1.doc</u> (Vol. 1 - Resettlement Services) → <u>http://old.usccb.org/mrs/diows/richmondvolunteerhandbookvolume2.doc</u> (Vol. 2 - Volunteer Roles and Job Descriptions) → http://old.usccb.org/mrs/diows/richmondvolunteerhandbookvolume3.doc (Vol. 3 - Volunteer Service Agreement & Record) Idealist.org – a website offering a myriad of resources related to volunteer management and recruitment. → http://www.idealist.org/info/VolunteerMgmt USCCB/MRS Members Only Website Volunteer Management Resources → <u>http://www.usccb.org/mrs/diows/programadministration.shtml#volunteerism</u> Volunteer Match - this online service matches interested volunteers with organizations that need help in U.S. metro areas → http://www.volunteermatch.org → More at: http://old.usccb.org/mrs/diows/powrpost05312011.pdf

POWR Staffing

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POWR Program	NEW STAFF	EXISTING STAFF	DETAILS	CONTACT
Amarillo, Texas	No	Yes		ddyer@cfsama.com
Anchorage, Alaska	No	Yes		kborash@cssalaska.org;
				Kferguson@cssalaska.org
Arlington, Virginia	No	Yes	Development manager	RRuiz@arlingtonrefugeeservices.com
				s.berhe@arlingtondiocese.org
Charlotte, North	Yes	No	Volunteer coordinators	skbuck@charlottediocese.org
Carolina				ceponce@CharlotteDiocese.org
Cleveland, Ohio	Yes	No	Housing & donations	sdever@clevelandcatholiccharities.org
			coordinator (JVC)	
Dayton, Ohio	No	Yes	Part-time pre-arrival &	balserd@cssmv.org
			volunteer coordinator	
Hartford, Connecticut	No	Yes		anoyes@ccaoh.org; jgough@ccaoh.org
Houston, Texas	No	Yes	Development manager	pstranges@catholiccharities.org;
				ojolic@catholiccharities.org
Indianapolis, Indiana	4 law clerks	No		gcampo@archindy.org
Jacksonville, Florida	No	Yes		mkarolak@ccbjax.org
Kansas City, Kansas	No	Yes		bthomas@catholiccharitiesks.org;
				kallen@catholiccharitiesks.org
Lansing, Michigan	No	Yes	Community outreach	mugaveb@stvcc.org; harrisj@stvcc.org
			coordinator	
Los Angeles, California	Yes	No	Volunteer coordinator	blambert@ccharities.org;
				LNguyen@ccharities.org
Louisville, Kentucky	No	Yes	Social ministry position,	dmihajlovic@archlou.org
			community resource	
			developer & employment	
			manager	
Mobile, Alabama	No	Yes	Funds outreach &	jcurran2@cssrrp.org
			volunteer coordinator	
Phoenix, Arizona	No	Yes	Co-funds volunteer	jemorales@cc-az.org;
			coordinator & parish	DDiCarlo@cc-az.org
D : L L L L L L L L L L			community engagement	
Richmond, Virginia	No	Yes	Covers VISTA stipends	Carol.McElhinney@cccofva.org
Salt Lake City, Utah	No	Yes		ryumul@ccsutah.org;
	N N	N1	Evende in entrat 1.1	abatar@ccsutah.org
San Jose, California	Yes	No	Funds part-time parish	ccollins@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org
Currentee New Yerl	NI -		outreach person	smedina@catholiccharitiesscc.org
Syracuse, New York	No	Yes		cholmes@ccoc.us
West Dalm Beach	Vac	No	Funda nort time norish	castriconef@yahoo.com
West Palm Beach,	Yes	No	Funds part-time parish	pa_refugee@catholiccharitiesdpb.org
Florida			ministry development	
Minere Mineret	Nia	Vaa	coordinator	malassia Qagujinana ara
Winona, Minnesota	No	Yes	POWR co-funds director's	malessio@ccwinona.org
			parish outreach activities	



January-February 2012 (Vol. 3, Issue 1)

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