

The POWR Program

USCCB/MRS All Staff Meeting

February 20, 2018



Daniel Sturm, Research and Evaluation Manager
USCCB/Migration and Refugee Services



Engaging Parishes

Mentoring Newcomers



Raising Awareness

Increasing Resources

POWR in a Nutshell

In the midst of the economic downturn, in 2010 the USCCB/MRS relaunched the ***Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugees*** (POWR) Program, offering small grant support to 60 dioceses. This grant money is now being used to augment services in the following areas:

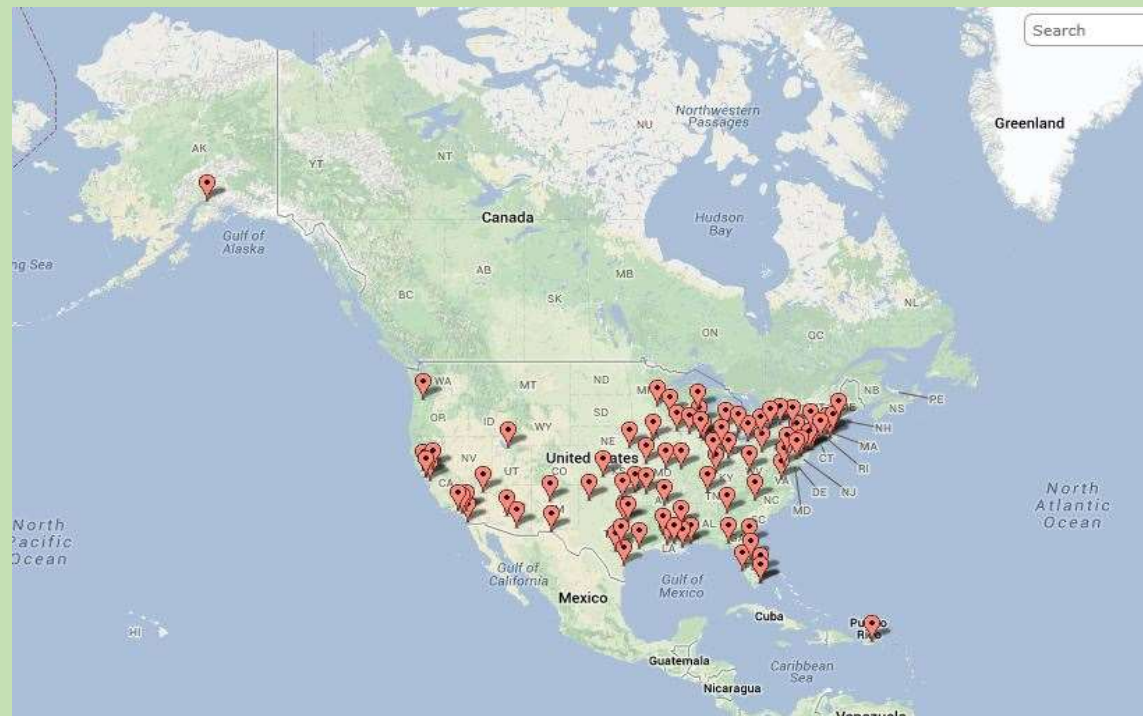
1. Strengthening parish and community support for refugees
2. Increasing donations to fund additional refugee services
3. Volunteers help with jobs, ESL, transportation & housing
4. Organizing special refugee events and outreach activities



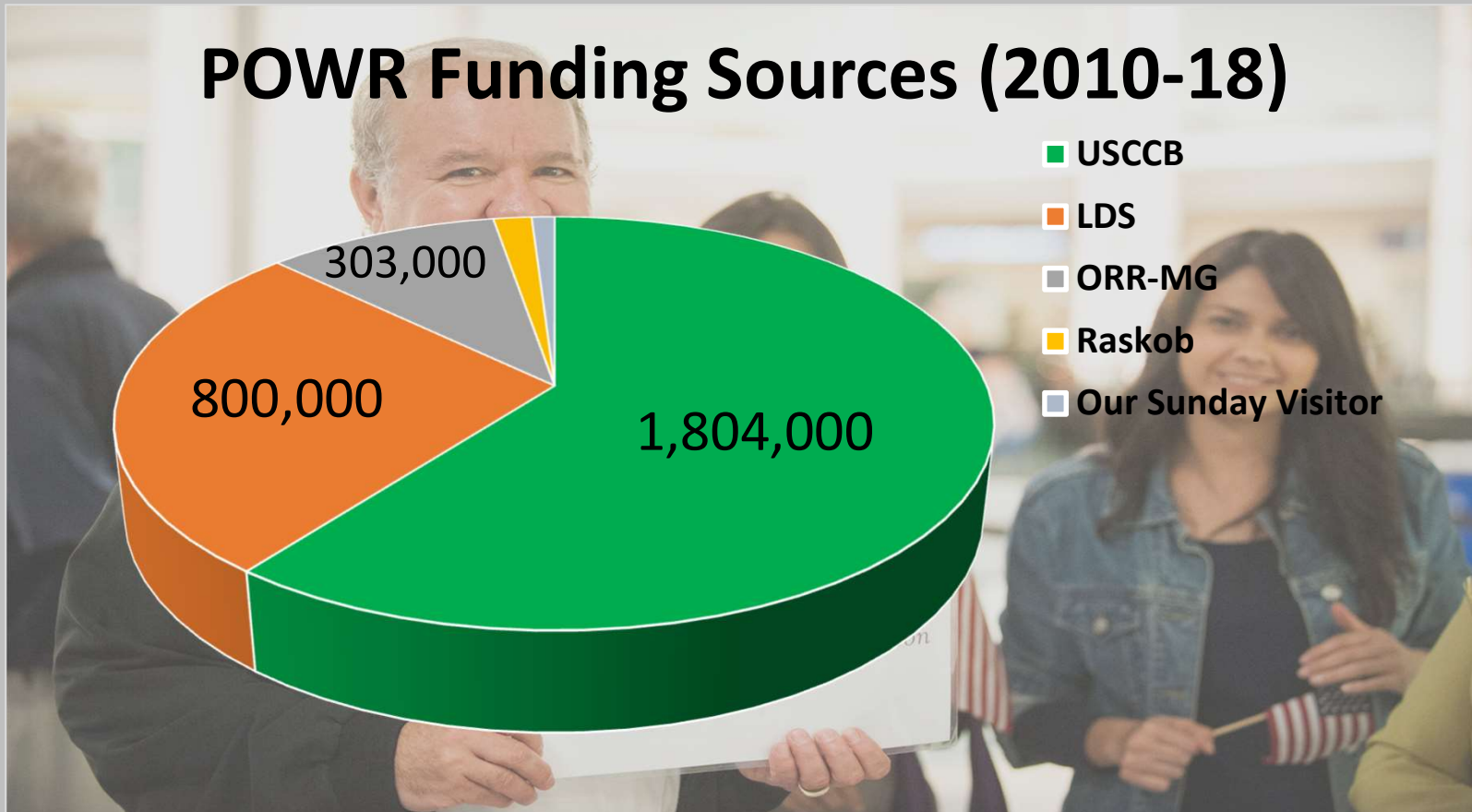
Photo credits: POWR Program in [Portland](#), Oregon (July, 2017):

POWR's Positive Impact

- Recruited **16,000** new volunteers.
- Formed **> 1,300** new parish/community partnerships.
- Created **new service and mentorship programs** tackling transportation, housing, jobs, food, language, legal and health care issues.



POWR Funding Sources (2010-18)



Donor	Contribution (\$)
USCCB	1,804,000
LDS	800,000
ORR-MG	303,000
Raskob	50,000
Our Sunday Visitor	30,000
Total	2,987,000

Cash and In-Kind (2010-17)

Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugees

Cash & In-Kind (million \$)

10.43

USCCB Expense

2.98



Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugees (POWR) Program - 2018 Cycle

City	POWR Program / USCCB Affiliate	Resettlement Director	RD EMAIL
Arlington	Catholic Charities - Diocese of Arlington	Belayneh Loppisso	bloppisso@ccda.net
Atlanta	Catholic Charities Atlanta	Frances Mcbrayer	fmcbayer@catholiccharitiesatlanta.org
Boston	Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Boston	Marjean Perhot	marjean_perhot@ccab.org
Buffalo	Catholic Charities Buffalo	William Sukaly	william.sukaly@ccwny.org
Camden	Catholic Charities Diocese of Camden	Patrick Barry	patrick.barry@camdendiocese.org
Charlotte	Catholic Charities Diocese of Charlotte	Sandy Buck	skbuck@charlottediocese.org
Chester	Catholic Social Services, Philadelphia	James Amato	jamato@chs-adphila.org
Chicago	Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago	Elma Kulovic	ekulovic@catholiccharities.net
Cincinnati	Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio	Annie Scheid	ascheid@ccswoh.org
Cleveland	Catholic Charities Cleveland	Thomas Mrosko	txmrosko@ccdole.org
Dayton	Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley	Michael Murphy	murphym@cssmv.org
Glendale (LA)	Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc.	Evenson Lee	slee@ccharities.org
Houston	CC Houston-Galveston	Ardiane Ademi	aademi@catholiccharities.org
Jacksonville	Catholic Charities Bureau, Inc. (Jacksonville)	Michelle Karolak	mkarolak@ccebjax.org
Kansas	Catholic Charities Foundation of Northeast Kansas	Kristina Marsh	kmarsh@catholiccharitiesks.org
Lansing	St. Vincent Catholic Charities Lansing	Judi Harris	harrisj@stvcc.org
Louisville	Catholic Charities of Louisville	Colin Triplett	ctriplett@archlou.org
Nashville	Catholic Charities of Tennessee	Kellye Branson	kbranson@cctenn.org
New York-Yonkers	Catholic Charities Community Services	Kelly Agnew-Barajas	Kelly.Agnew-Barajas@archny.org
Oakland	Catholic Charities of the East Bay	Sr. Elisabeth Lang	elang@cceb.org
Orlando	Catholic Charities of Central Florida, Inc.	Carolina Toro	carolina.toro@cflcc.org
Phoenix	Catholic Charities, Phoenix	Joanne Morales	jemorales@cc-az.org
Rockford	Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rockford	Janet Biljeskovic	jbiljeskovic@rockforddiocese.org
San Diego	Catholic Charities, Diocese of San Diego	Nadine Toppozada	ntoppozada@ccdsd.org
Scranton	Diocese of Scranton	Sonya Sarnar	ssarnar@cssscranton.org
Springfield	Catholic Charities, Diocese of Springfield, MA	Kathryn Buckley-Brawner	k.brawner@diospringfield.org
Tucson	Catholic Community Services-Tucson	Margaret Palmer	margaretp@ccs-soaz.org
Tulsa	Catholic Charities of Eastern Oklahoma	Julie Dulek	jdulek@cctulsa.org
Winona	Catholic Charities of Southern Minnesota	Kristina Hammell	khammell@ccsommn.org

POWR Tactics

Model #1: Parish Sponsorships

Model implemented @ Catholic Charities in Chicago

In less than seven months, the local POWR program in Chicago established nine parish partnerships and obtained \$52,285 in monetary contributions (averaging \$5,809 per parish). Over the same period, we recruited 124 volunteers, who contributed a total of 5,675 volunteer hours. This amounts to an additional \$143,804 in leveraged support (averaging \$15,978 per parish).

Parish sponsor example @ <http://www.icsjparish.org/refugee-effort/>



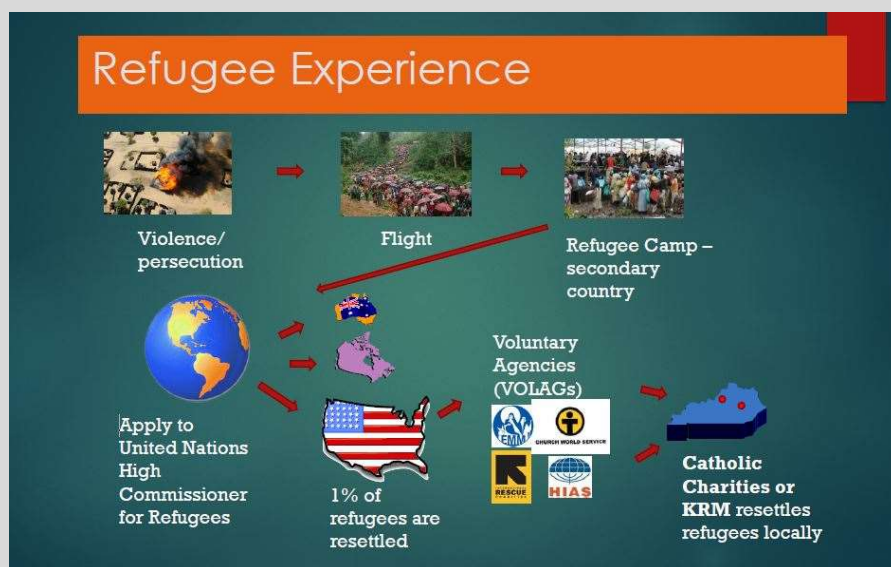
POWR Tactics

Model #2: ESL Tutoring

Model implemented @ Catholic Charities in Louisville

You commit to a weekly two-hour visit with the family. You focus on English practice or cultural competency lessons. You meet with the caseworker first to talk about the family's needs. You meet with the family and interpreter to introduce yourselves. You submit monthly hours to the POWR volunteer manager. You refer any problems to the caseworker.

Online @ <http://tinyurl.com/ybhj3fd>



POWR Tactics

Model #3: Mentoring

Implemented @ Catholic Community Services in Anchorage

This POWR program developed a three-part volunteer manual. Volunteers learn about resettlement to become **Family Mentors**. The second volume describes the duties of the **Warm Meals Committees**, which are in charge of providing warm meals or groceries for newly arrived refugees. The third volume covers the tasks of the **Transportation Committees**, which provide transportation to and from special events and doctor's appointments.

Online @ <http://tinyurl.com/ycxjrzns>



POWR Tactics

Model #4: Refugee Ambassadors

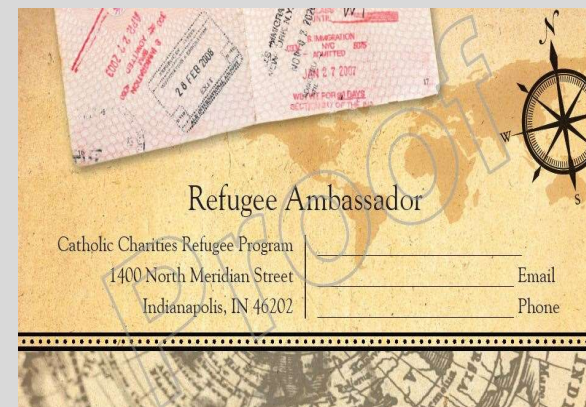
Implemented at Catholic Charities in Indianapolis, Indiana

In Indianapolis, Indiana, a partnership between POWR and Catholic High Schools is another example of POWR's energizing effects. Students serve as Refugee Ambassadors and receive service learning credits.

Program Goals:

- The "Refugee Ambassador Program" provides students with information on refugee resettlement and the rich traditions of each culture. In turn, the students act as liaisons for their high schools and home parishes.
- All generated donations are used to improve integration programs, i.e. language and job readiness training programs.

Online @ <http://tinyurl.com/y9hlu5p4>



POWR Tactics

Model #5: Raising Awareness

Implemented at Catholic Charities in Jacksonville, Florida

The local POWR developed a set of one-hour lesson plans for grades K-12 to promote students' awareness of violence and human rights abuses. Students are given time to reflect on their own lives as well as the holy family, and the plight of refugees. The goal is that students will learn to appreciate their own blessings, nourish their family lives and share their gifts with our brothers and sisters in need.

This [curriculum](#) is available on USCCB/My Membership @ <http://tinyurl.com/y85xu4u2>



Focus on Learning

Documentation, Training Materials, Resource Library



- USCCB/Migration and Refugee Services launched an **electronic discussion list and monthly e-newsletter, *The POWR Post***, to document the successes of the program. This publication helps program participants learn from one another, and thereby leverage new funding sources and improve upon their own programs.
- **Presentations, webinar recordings** and other materials are available on the USCCB's online resource library.
- The electronic publication is accompanied by a **series of workshops ("POWR panels")** related to the sharing of promising practices.

POWR Program Resources

[The Parish Refugee Resettlement Ministry: A Vision for Welcoming Newcomers](#)

This manual is intended to serve as a reference guide for diocesan resettlement office efforts to recruit, train, and manage parish involvement in the resettlement of refugees. It also includes resources and information that the diocesan staff can *share* with leaders at the parish level as the parish leaders seek to establish their programs, recruit and train additional parish volunteers, and help the resettlement ministry become an integral part of parish life.

Online at <http://tinyurl.com/y75k438w>

[POWR from A to Z](#)


This resource guide covers promising practices, activities and learning materials developed with POWR program support. The USCCB/MRS launched the Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugees program to intensify volunteer involvement in resettlement, at the parish level.

Online at <http://tinyurl.com/ydypucux>

Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugees (POWR)

A Parish Volunteer Kit

April 1, 2015



Presenter:
Daniel Sturm, Special Projects Manager, Migration and Refugee Services, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

A Parish Volunteer Kit

This presentation explains step-by-step how your agency can strengthen its parish connections to boost volunteerism. It includes many practical tips related to setting up successful volunteer programs, and it shares specific guidance on managing volunteers, measuring impact and more. The Parish Volunteer Kit is available for [download](#) on the USCCB/MRS My Membership website. [Login: Your email; Password: migration1234]

Further Reading

Chmura Economics & Analytics: [*The Economic Impact of Refugees in the Cleveland Area*](#), 2017.

Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs, [*Refugee Resettlement in the United States: An Examination of Challenges and Proposed Solutions*](#), 2010.

Katrina Connolly: [*The Importance of Place for Refugee Employment in the U.S.: A Comparative Case Study*](#), 2013.

Peggy Halpern: [*Refugee Economic Self-Sufficiency: An Exploratory Study of Approaches Used in Office of Refugee Resettlement Programs*](#), 2008.

Kristin Keller: [*Refugee Resettlement in Oakland: Improving the Volunteer-Client Encounter*](#), 2013.

Richard Mollica: *Healing Invisible Wounds* (Harcourt, 2006).

Rita Thomson, [*Experiences of Volunteers in Refugee Resettlement*](#), 2014.

The POWR Post Newsletter (Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugees Program e-Newsletter). MRS, 2010-17.

Daniel Sturm, [*Work: A Cure for Trauma*](#). RefugeeWorks Quarterly #31, 2009.

The New Economy: [*From Struggle to Resilience: The Economic Impact of Refugees in America*](#), 2017

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: [*Welcoming the Stranger Among Us: Unity in Diversity*](#), 2000.

POWR Learning Resources

My Membership: <http://community.usccb.org>

SharePoint: <https://tinyurl.com/y9fc5lur>

USCCB/MRS Website: <https://tinyurl.com/z28bubr>

Monitoring and Evaluation: RS Library [Qualtrics.com](https://www.qualtrics.com)

Daniel Sturm, M.A.

USCCB/MRS Research and Evaluation Manager

Fourth Street NE

Washington, DC 20017

Phone 202-541-3226

Email: dsturm@usccb.org

