

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT 101



Refugee Resettlement

- Who are refugees?
- How do refugees get to Houston?
- How does Catholic Charities assist refugees?

Refugee Resettlement

- United Nations General Assembly Resolution 428 established the High Commissioner's Office for Refugees (UNHCR) in December 1950.



Refugee Resettlement

- The purpose of UNHCR is to offer advice to governments on determining refugee status as part of its mandate to promote refugee rights and protection.
- UNHCR encourages governments to adopt rapid, flexible and liberal admissions processes, recognizing how difficult it often is to document a refugee's claim of persecution.

Refugee Resettlement

- The 1951 UNHCR Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees is the key legal document in defining who is a refugee, their rights, and the legal obligations of States.



Refugee Resettlement

- Article 1 of the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees defines a refugee as a person who:

“...owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country...”

Refugee Resettlement

- The United States is party to the 1951 UNHCR Convention and has its own refugee status determination procedures.
- The Department of Homeland Security determines a person's refugee status in accordance with the domestic legal system.

Refugee Resettlement

- Overseas, refugees are referred by UNHCR to representatives of U.S. Refugee Program.
- The U.S. Department of State sets up eligibility interviews with refugees.
- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is brought by in the State Dept. to interview refugees to determine if their claim of persecution is credible.
- If Homeland Security approves a refugee's claim, he/she is admitted to the U.S. as a refugee.

Refugee Resettlement

- Catholic Charities has a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of State through our affiliation with USCCB-MRS to provide “core services” to refugees.
- The “core services” that we—and all refugee resettlement agencies in the U.S.--provide are designed to lead refugees to self-sufficiency within six months of arrival in the U.S.

Refugee Resettlement

- The Department of State prepares approved refugee cases for life in America through pre-departure orientation, ESL classes, and health screenings.



Refugee Resettlement

- Refugees are authorized to work from the moment they arrive on American soil.
- They are eligible for their Green Card after one year in the U.S.
- They are eligible for citizenship after 5 years.

Refugee Resettlement

- Refugees even have to pay the government back for their airfare to the U.S.

Refugee Resettlement

- The President determines refugee admissions ceilings each year. The U.S. government admits approximately 50,000-60,000 refugees each fiscal year (FY).
- In FY 2015-2016, the U.S. admitted 70,000 refugees.
- On September 30, the Presidential Determination, allowing for an admissions ceiling of 110,000 refugee arrivals in FY 2016-2017. was cut down to 50,000 but only 45,000 arrived
- 2018-2019 was cut down to 30,000 but less than 15,000 arrived
- 2019-2020 was even cut down more to 18, 000
- 2020-2021 has been increased to about 60,000

Refugee Resettlement

- The Department of State allocates refugees to a national network of non-profit voluntary refugee resettlement organizations, known as VOLAGs.
- VOLAGs, in turn, allocate refugees to their local affiliates throughout the U.S.
- Catholic Charities-Houston's VOLAG is the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Migration and Refugee Services (MRS).

Refugee Resettlement

- In FY 19-20, most of Catholic Charities' refugees and Asylees came from:

- Iraq
- Afghan
- Cuba
- Iran
- Africa (Congo, Somalia, Sudan)
- Burma
- Bhutan



Refugee Resettlement

“Core services” include:

- Cash Assistance
- Housing
- Airport Reception
- Orientation
- Education Services
- Case Management
- Employment Services



Refugee Resettlement

We foster self-sufficiency and wellness in refugees through these programs:

- Reception & Placement (core services)
- Matching Grant
- Cuban/Haitian
- Refugee Cash Assistance
- Employment
- Case Management
- Older Refugees
- Strengthening Refugee Marriages/Families
- Vocational Training
- Trauma/Literacy
- Cultural Orientation
- After-School

Refugee Resettlement

- Catholic Charities follows the Department of State's definition of refugee self-sufficiency:
 - Healthy adult refugees must be employed and not accessing public cash assistance (except for Food Stamps) no later than their 180th day in the U.S.

Refugee Resettlement

- Refugees are eligible for our cash assistance programs (cash and rental) for very short time in the U.S. only.
- They are eligible for other “support services,” such as employment, case management, vocational training, and literacy classes, for 5 years from their arrival date.
- Services end at 5 years because refugees are eligible for citizenship at that point.

Refugee Resettlement

- All programs are free to refugees.
- Programs are funded by the Department of State, Health and Human Service Office of Refugee Resettlement, Homeland Security, and Texas Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs.
- Our After-School program is the only service funded by private foundations.



PREFERRED COMMUNITIES: INTENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT (ICM)



WHAT IS IT?

- Preferred Communities (PC) provides intensive case management (ICM) to ORR-eligible clients.
- CCGH's PC site is used to provide ICM to medically-vulnerable clients
- The goal of the program is to assist clients to become self-sufficient and able to navigate the health system on their own.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Refugees
- Asylees
- Cuban Parolees
- Amerasians
- Special Immigration Visa (SIV) holders
- Victims of Trafficking

➤ In addition to having one of these statuses, they have to be living in the United States for less than 5 years to be eligible for services. If they have been living in the United States for longer than 5 years, a waiver needs to be submitted to USCCB and approved by ORR.

LENGTH OF THE PROGRAM

- one year of intensive case management to address all of the clients needs in order to reach self-sufficiency.
- can be extended by one more year
- maximum of two enrollments (two years) and a waiver needs to be submitted to USCCB and approved by ORR.

CASE STUDY 1



Not client; but an example of keloids

A Sudanese refugee is referred to PC by his R&P case manager. The client is suffering from serious burns caused by a bomb back in Sudan. He is now blind, has scar tissue on his face, neck, and chest, keloids on his chest and neck, and he is unable to move his head. He is married and has four kids but just arrived to the United States by himself. He does not speak English. He is tearful and continues to state that he is in serious pain.

What do you do first, and what services do you offer him?

SERVICES PROVIDED

- Emergency intervention
- Plastic Surgeon
- Ophthalmologist
- SSI
- Nursing Home
- Skilled Nurse
- Adult Protective Services
- Provider
- Group Home
- Connect to community
- Apply for Family Reunification



CASE STUDY 2

A single female, refugee from Burma walks in to the office. She states she is homeless, seriously in debt, and has been living in the United States for longer than 5 years. She has lived in 6 different states during her time in the US. She says she just had brain surgery and has been diagnosed with epilepsy as well as schizophrenia.

What do you do first, and what services do you offer her?

SERVICES PROVIDED

- Waiver submitted to USCCB and approved by ORR
- Shelter and Basic Needs
- Follow up with a Neurologist
- Group Home
- Adult Protective Services
- Hospital
- MHMRA plus ACT Program
- Apply for Citizenship
- Bankruptcy
- Financial Literacy





QUESTIONS?

Thank you!





**ST. LAURENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH
REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT
PROGRAM**

Social Concerns Annual Drives

- Giving Tree Drive - household items for 6 families
- Shoe Drive – 50 pairs of new shoes for back to school
- Share God's Bounty Thanksgiving – 50 Complete Thanksgiving meals
- Wish Upon A Star Christmas Drive – Christmas presents -75 children

The Giving Tree

Helping Those
in Need



Your generous donations of NEW, UNUSED household items will help restock the Social Concerns Ministry's shelves with the basic everyday necessities for our Village Program, local families in crisis, local agencies, and The Refugee Resettlement Program.

If you have any questions, please contact Pennie DeGroot
pdegroot@stlaurence.org

Please drop donations in the rolling bins in the church narthex,
the Social Concerns Office or the Parish Office by

MARCH 14, 2021

Our Catholic Social Teachings state: *We are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they may be. Loving our neighbor has global dimensions and requires us to eradicate racism and address the extreme poverty and disease plaguing so much of the world. Solidarity also includes the Scriptural call to welcome the stranger among us—including immigrants seeking work, a safe home, education for their children, and a decent life for their families. As Pope Paul VI taught: "If you want peace, work for justice."*

**DISINFECTANT MULTI-SURFACE
CLEANER - SPRAY BOTTLE (2)**

Please securely attach this sheet to your donation.

Loving Creations Ministry



VBS DONATIONS



Refugee Resettlement / SLCS 4th Grade Service Project 2019





Refugee Resettlement Facts

- There are 33 million people worldwide who are forced to leave their home city or country every year. *This is almost the number of people who live in Texas and Louisiana combined.*
- Of these, about 1/3 or 11 million of these people are refugees - people who have fled to another country in search of safety from conflict.
- An additional 2/3 or 22 million people are forced to move within their own country due to conflict.



A family flees violence in Kamonia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo



Boat migrants risk everything
for a new life in Europe

Refugee Resettlement Facts

- Refugees are authorized to work from the moment they arrive in America.
- Why do you think this is important?
- Refugees are expected to be “Self-Sufficient” very quickly. What does that mean?



Refugee Resettlement Facts

- Refugees receive very limited cash and rental assistance once they arrive.
- Social Concerns adopts 2 families every year for 6 months and helps them with rent.
- This action is one of the 7 Corporal Works of Mercy. **Which one?**

Refugee Resettlement Facts

- The President determines the maximum number of refugees who will be allowed to move the U.S. each year. President Trump announced recently that it will lower the number of refugees allowed into the U.S. in fiscal 2019 to 30,000. That's the lowest "cap" a president has set since the refugee program began in 1980.
- Under past presidents, the U.S. admitted an average of 75,000 refugees per year.

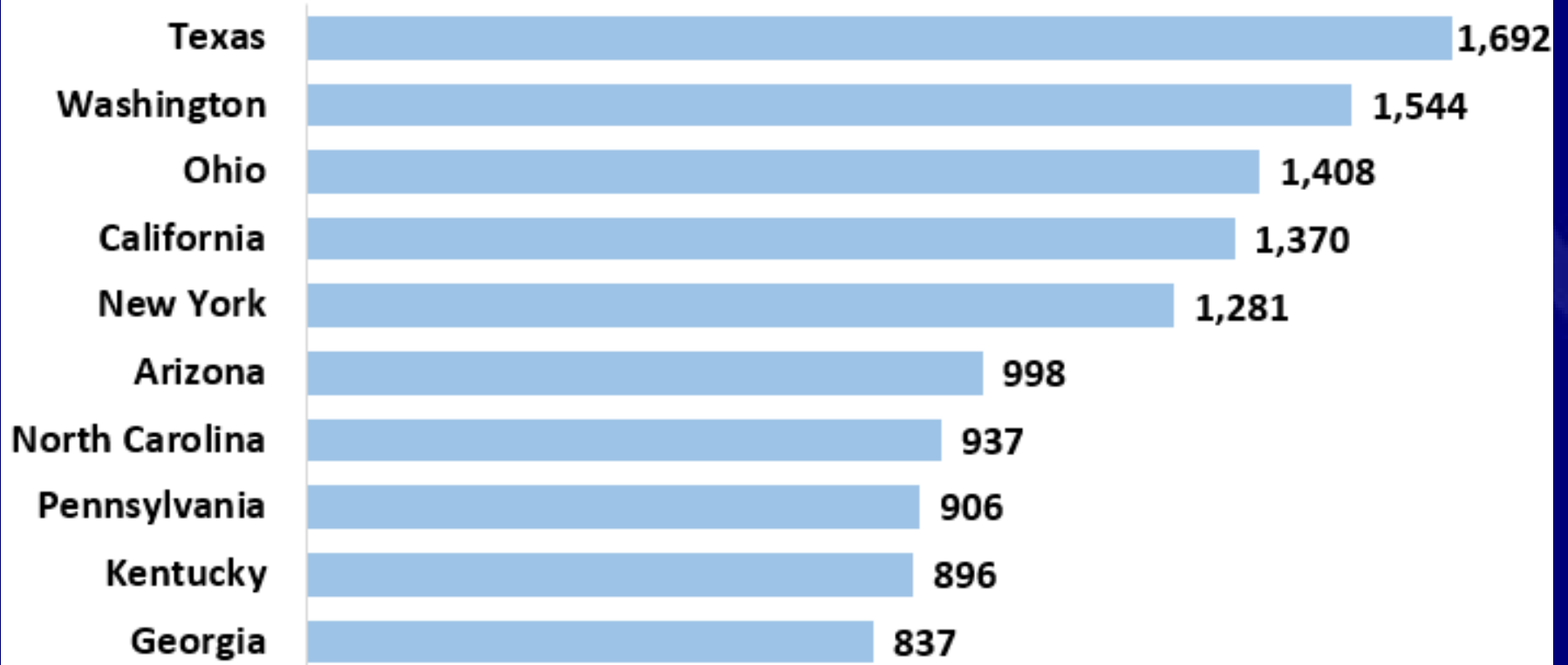
Refugee Resettlement Facts

- In the past 7 years, most of Catholic Charities' refugees came from:
 - Bhutan
 - Burma
 - Cuba
 - Iraq
 - Africa (Congo, Somalia, Sudan)



Where do Refugee Live

Top 10 U.S. states resettling refugees in FY2018



Your Families

The Huynh Family

The Adults:

- Mr. and Mrs. Huynh, along with their 3 children, arrived in the U.S. on September 6, 2018.

The children:

- One daughter is in beauty school learning to become a manicurist
- The other two children are in school and you will meet them in two weeks

Your Families

The Huynh Family

- From Vietnam (9,018 miles away)



Your Families

The Huynh Family



Your Responsibilities

- Find out what “Feeds the Spirit” of these families.
- What are their hopes and dreams?
- What do they **wish** they had in the US?
- What do they love to do in their free time?
- What do they miss most about their home country?

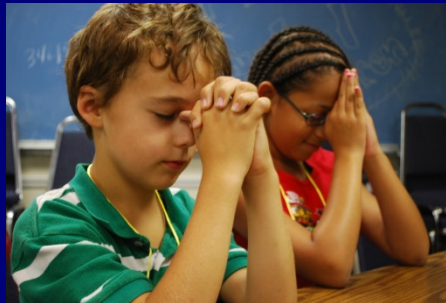


Your Responsibilities

- **DO THE CHORES!**



- ***Pray for the family members as you work.***



- Be sure to turn in your money by the due date!





PLAYGROUND FUN!



