Best Practices for Welcoming Refugees: Utilizing Parish Resources and Growing Community Will
What is a Refugee?

• Refugees are forced to leave their countries because of war or persecution due to their nationality, race, religion, political opinion or membership in a group.
Facts

- 51.2 million forcibly displaced people
- 16.7 million refugees from over 60 countries worldwide
- Less than 1% of them have the chance to resettle in a 3rd country like the U.S.
Coming to America

• Flee
• Seek legal refugee status
• Seek resettlement
• Referral to US Program
• Match to US VOLAG
• Pre-arrival process
• Arrival in America
Unique Challenges

- Long life in camps (average 18 years worldwide)
- Limited access to English language classes
- New Culture
- Limited formal education and work history for adults.
- Experiences of trauma and war
- Poor nutrition and healthcare
Resettlement in Kansas City, KS
(2010-2014)

Top 5 Refugee Groups
Chin (of Myanmar) 975
Bhutanese 583
Karen (of Myanmar) 258
Karenni (of Myanmar) 231
Iraqi 122
FY15

- Set ceiling at 200 through community process
- Will resettle 405 by the end
  - Mostly Chin
  - Some Bhutanese and Iraqi
- National Bulge, busy September
- Largely due to all US Tie Cases
- Set ceiling at 250 for FY16
Challenges in Resettlement

Resettlement Site’s Role for New Arrivals

• Services provided
  – Case Management
  – Housing
  – Medical Care
  – Enroll in School and ELL
  – Home Visits
  – Orientations
  – Employment
  – Connect to Local Resources

Goal: For refugees to reach self-sufficiency economically and culturally.
Programs Offered by CCNEK

- Reception and Placement (0-90 days)
- Match Grant (31-180 days)
- Targeted Assistance Grant (90 days-5 years)
- Refugee Social Services (90 days – 5 years)
- Employment Services/Job Day (0-5 years)
- Cultural Orientation
- English Classes
- Citizenship Classes

La Luz
Immigration Clinic

New Roots for Refugees
Cultural Adjustment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Honeymoon phase</th>
<th>Culture shock phase</th>
<th>Adjustment phase</th>
<th>Mastery phase</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feelings of excitement</td>
<td>Feelings of worry, confusion, and anger</td>
<td>Feelings settle down as the newcomer comes out of</td>
<td>A feeling of comfort with the new life and culture,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and happiness, when</td>
<td>as the newcomer tries to function in an</td>
<td>culture shock and starts to feel more comfortable and</td>
<td>although there are still difficult periods</td>
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<tr>
<td>everything is new and</td>
<td>unfamiliar and often strange place.</td>
<td>confident in the new place.</td>
<td>sometimes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>exciting and good. This</td>
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<td>often occurs soon after</td>
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<tr>
<td>arrival in a new place.</td>
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</table>
Helpful Resources

• U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) [www.refugees.org](http://www.refugees.org)

• Bridging Refugee Youth (BRYCS): [www.brycs.org](http://www.brycs.org)

• United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) - [www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org)

• Cultural Orientation Resource Center - [culturalorientation.net](http://culturalorientation.net)
Hope Story