

This *POWR Post* marks the final issue of the 2017 Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugees (POWR) cycle. *The POWR Post* disseminates promising practices to POWR program participants, and other USCCB/MRS diocesan resettlement sites. Daniel Sturm, MRS Research and Evaluation Manager

## POWR Program 2018

It is my pleasure to announce the 29 participants of the **2018 Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugee (POWR) Program**. You can find a summary of all POWR projects on pages #2-3 of this newsletter, in addition to contact information for the program participants' diocesan resettlement directors. Congratulations!

In 2010, USCCB Migration and Refugee Services launched the Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugees (POWR) Program, to strengthen and deepen its support of church and community involvement on behalf of newly arriving refugees. You can follow this program by accessing POWR resources on My Membership, at: <http://community.usccb.org> [Groups – MRS: Resettlement Services – POWR]

## Farewell, My Friends!

After enjoying 8 years at the USCCB/MRS, I have accepted a position with the International Orthodox Christian Charities, a global humanitarian agency headquartered in Baltimore. Though I will thoroughly miss working with you, I will continue to help improving the lives of refugees and IDPs through work, mostly in countries of second asylum. [IOCC](#) has hired me to lead the agency's MEAL activities (Monitoring, Evaluating, Accountability and Learning), through strengthening its data collecting, education and storytelling capabilities.

Reflecting on my journey with MRS, I pull out an old essay from one of my favorite authors, [Hannah Arendt](#) (1906-75). In "[We Refugees](#)," the political theorist tears down the limited political definition of refugees. "A refugee used to be a person driven to seek refuge because of some act committed or some political opinion held," writes Arendt. "Now 'refugees' are those of us who have been so unfortunate as to arrive in a new country without means and have to be helped by Refugee Committees" (Arendt, 1943). How timely and relevant! Just think of the recent discussions surrounding refugee "integration potential" and "merit." Arendt's essay forcefully supports MRS's broad mandate of welcoming every person "as if he or she were Christ Himself." I find it uplifting to remember our important mission. Please keep up the good work, and keep in touch!

Yours,  
Daniel



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City	POWR Project Summary (2018)	Contact
Arlington	Parishes to host <i>Love2Sew</i> fairs for refugees, offering tutoring assistance, ESL and transportation assistance, plus pre-employment training workshops. Coordinator will work with deaneries to get the word out. Parishes will help raise in-kind donations. Finally, a component that covers advocacy and outreach, involving the development of new refugee 101 training materials for parishes and the community at large.	<a href="mailto:bloppisso@ccda.net">bloppisso@ccda.net</a>
Atlanta	Agency intends to use Pope Francis call to “Share the Journey” as an opportunity to highlight refugee stories and connect parishes to the cause. Further expand and refine <i>Family Friend</i> program to match refugees with volunteers.	<a href="mailto:fmcbrayer@catholiccharitiesatlanta.org">fmcbrayer@catholiccharitiesatlanta.org</a>
Boston	Focus on recruiting parish sponsors to help refugees with rental assistance (5K per family). POWR staff is tackling education and outreach, including refugee advocacy activities. Match refugees with parish volunteers for companion support and mentoring relationships.	<a href="mailto:marjean_perhot@ccab.org">marjean_perhot@ccab.org</a>
Buffalo	Expanding the network of landlords willing to house refugees without proper documentation, involving POWR coordinator and 10 new parishes plus an advisory board in support. Parishes to raise in-kind donations/furniture for refugees and develop an emergency inventory. Finally, parish volunteers are to provide ESL, financial literacy and pre-employment education to refugees (minimum of 30 volunteers).	<a href="mailto:william.sukaly@ccwny.org">william.sukaly@ccwny.org</a>
Camden	Pairing high school aged refugees and adults (20) with parishioners and community mentors (20) to alleviate socio-cultural adjustment challenges and welcome newcomers. Mentors to provide ESL in personalized settings to accommodate refugees with transp. Obstacles. Goal is to recruit new volunteers from four parishes to fully staff a Conversational English Language Partner program. Thirdly, the agency will organize community/parish events to engage refugees and establish mentoring connections.	<a href="mailto:patrick.barry@camdendiocese.org">patrick.barry@camdendiocese.org</a>
Charlotte	Expanding refugee ministry model created in 2017. Parish groups commit to one-year mentoring assignments, bridging the gap to help refugees post 90 days.	<a href="mailto:skbuck@charlottediocese.org">skbuck@charlottediocese.org</a>
Chester	Focuses on recruiting 20 parish volunteers, in addition to college volunteers. Professionalize volunteer program, involving documentation and tracking of service hours, description of volunteer roles. Volunteers to take refugees out to social events, parks to combat loneliness.	<a href="mailto:jamato@chs-adphila.org">jamato@chs-adphila.org</a>
Chicago	Establish at least three new parish collaborations that formalize their sponsorship commitment through setting up a committee of 12 parish members, and raising \$8,000 for three months of rent plus furniture and security deposits. Serve a minimum of 75% of clients with volunteer-led programs, prioritizing job mentorship services and apartment set-up. Increasing social capital, helping refugees navigate U.S. environs and setting them up with family mentors (project Loom as an additional opportunity for confidence-building)	<a href="mailto:ekulovic@catholiccharities.net">ekulovic@catholiccharities.net</a>
Cincinnati	Improve functioning of donation center; involve youth groups for cross-cultural awareness; Seeking donations from parishes.	<a href="mailto:ascheid@ccswoh.org">ascheid@ccswoh.org</a>
Cleveland	Refugee advocacy campaign pitches use of specific films ( <i>Out of the Garden</i> ) and presentations ( <i>Refugee 101</i> ). Specific goal of recruit 6 Catholic volunteers per month, plus establish mechanisms for volunteer recognition. The concept of quarterly volunteer gatherings is innovative, as it is meant to support learning and gain momentum.	<a href="mailto:txmrosko@ccdocle.org">txmrosko@ccdocle.org</a>
Dayton	Engaging the Dayton Community in Providing Education and Acculturation Services with a Two-Generation Service Model. Focus on Secondary Migrants.	<a href="mailto:murphym@cssmv.org">murphym@cssmv.org</a>
Glendale (LA)	Expand Welcome Team program, establish a Housing Assistance Fund and Annual Fundraiser and expand Employment Mentorship Program.	<a href="mailto:slee@ccharities.org">slee@ccharities.org</a>
Houston	Refugees to participate in storytelling and advocacy. Parishes to host refugee summer camps. Focus is to assist refugees overcome adjustment stresses and access higher-paying jobs.	<a href="mailto:aademi@catholiccharities.org">aademi@catholiccharities.org</a>
Jacksonville	Create a POWR Development Taskforce to raise 50K in in-kind contributions. Work with Returned Peace Corp Volunteers to host refugee families in their homes, creating new social connections and mentor relationships. Educating 10,000 parish/community members about refugees, encouraging them to <i>Share the Journey</i> and raising funds for refugees.	<a href="mailto:mkarolak@cjbjax.org">mkarolak@cjbjax.org</a>
Kansas	Agency intends to use New Roots for Refugees program as a strategy to involve parishes, selling CSA-products to 108 parishes; Refugee supper club events raise funds to assist refugee families in needs, connecting the community at large with refugees and creating interest in refugee culture/cuisine; Developing a Welcoming Refugees School Curriculum to raise awareness and generate school supplies through student-led donation drives.	<a href="mailto:kmarsh@catholiccharitiesks.org">kmarsh@catholiccharitiesks.org</a>

Lansing	Establishing a new All Faith Alliance for Refugees, to expand regional support for refugees. Volunteers are job shadowing line staff to become “experts,” reducing the costs to federal grants. The third goal is to increase cash donations to an annual 10K to benefit MG clients.	<a href="mailto:harrisi@stvcc.org">harrisi@stvcc.org</a>
Louisville	Formalize sponsorship relationship with community/parish groups. Increase volunteer retention through development of special volunteer recognition events. Work with Catholic schools and parishes to establish formalized scholarships for newly-arrived refugee children.	<a href="mailto:ctriplett@archlou.org">ctriplett@archlou.org</a>
Nashville	Match at least 12 refugee families with mentors to focus on skill-building in ESL, financial literacy, cultural competency and health, creating mentor teams that commit to a 6-month service period (with designated roles and job descriptions); develop a complete orientation guide to train mentor teams; conduct monthly events designed to raise awareness and education levels, translating into increased community interest and in-kind donations. Dinner panels (Share the Journey) can be hosted by parishes, in conjunction with agency.	<a href="mailto:kbranson@cctenn.org">kbranson@cctenn.org</a>
New York – Yonkers	Agency to give 12 presentations to raise awareness of refugee issues. More than 50% of attendees will become involved in donations, drives, cultural events or training programs to support refugees. Six parish groups will support refugee by facilitating a donation or drive, a cultural event, or a training program. Three parishes will become community co-sponsors.	<a href="mailto:Kelly.Agnew-Barajas@archny.org">Kelly.Agnew-Barajas@archny.org</a>
Oakland	Engage 10 co-sponsor teams. Drafting policies on co-sponsorship model and striving for equity in terms of refugees who aren’t matched with co-sponsors. Orientation program to cover mentorship training, parish involvement, cultural outings, one-on-one tutoring.	<a href="mailto:elang@cceb.org">elang@cceb.org</a>
Orlando	Expanding partnerships with parishes, community and school groups. Activities include mentoring and orientation, welcoming activities such as airport reception and apartment set-ups, supply drives and special/seasonal events coordinating.	<a href="mailto:carolina.toro@cflcc.org">carolina.toro@cflcc.org</a>
Phoenix	Parish Ministry to result in recruitment of four new parishes with focus on employment mentoring, ELS and social experiences. Parishes are expected to raise \$10K each; Parishes to host refugee immersion events resulting in increased awareness and an additional 50K in donations. Third goal focuses on raising in-kind donations with a target of 100K.	<a href="mailto:jemorales@cc-az.org">jemorales@cc-az.org</a>
Rockford	Broaden the volunteer base; Three parishes organize special events; and parish youth-ministry provides child care to free up time for adult education classes; Finally, donation drives for housing and apartment set-ups through a parish-based volunteer force	<a href="mailto:ibiljeskovic@rockforddiocese.org">ibiljeskovic@rockforddiocese.org</a>
San Diego	Awareness campaign, involving in-house tours of agency offices and presentations; Donations drives in San Diego schools; Goal to establish five full sponsorships for refugee families; Second goal is to establish connections with parishes and community groups to support five refugee families through partial sponsorships, that involve housing set-up and employment orientation. Third goal focused on providing “specific sponsorships,” i.e. six learning institutions organizing donations drive to benefit 50% of clients.	<a href="mailto:ntoppozada@ccdsd.org">ntoppozada@ccdsd.org</a>
Scranton	Form 10-15 “navigator” team to adopt refugee families, providing ESL, Life Skill Assistance and Cultural Development, in addition to providing basic needs for one full year; Teams organize special events to help refugees with social networking; Teams organize “Global Tastes of Scranton” fundraising event to raise a minimum of 2K.	<a href="mailto:ssarner@cssscranton.org">ssarner@cssscranton.org</a>
Springfield	Establishing and training an additional 12-15 Circles of Care; Outreach campaign with new materials, including video presentation, witness speakers and refugee simulation; Train teams in refugee advocacy; Feasible plan to leverage new resources past project cycle.	<a href="mailto:k.brawner@diospringfield.org">k.brawner@diospringfield.org</a>
Tucson	15 new volunteers to become involved in apartment set-up and initial reception activities, including donations, friendships and more; Same group of volunteers offers pre-employment assistance and job development;	<a href="mailto:margaretp@ccs-soaz.org">margaretp@ccs-soaz.org</a>
Tulsa	Developing a parish-based ESL partnership to overcome major language learning obstacles. Finally, organize training for volunteers and volunteer recognition events.	<a href="mailto:jdulek@cctulsa.org">jdulek@cctulsa.org</a>
Winona	Publishing a coffee table book that describes the agency’s refugee program, the proceeds of which will be used to improve services for clients; Grocery groups to be formed to deliver groceries to refugee families; Thirdly, family mentor groups to be formed to offer services in ESL, tutoring, transportation and community/social connections.	<a href="mailto:khammell@ccsomn.org">khammell@ccsomn.org</a>

## Outreach

### **Powerful Film (Cleveland, Ohio)**

Our biggest event in December was the release of *Out of the Garden*, a film created and directed by students from St. Edward's High School in Lakewood, Ohio in conjunction with our agency. It details the resettlement of Syrian refugees in the Cleveland area. The powerful event included a mass focusing on social justice, the film and a speaker from our agency. We reached 960 students and staff! We also held a *Share the Journey* photo contest for staff and mentors. We selected 12 photos that were enlarged and framed, which will be on display. The photos capture staff and volunteers "Sharing the Journey" with refugees as they integrate into their new homes, neighborhoods and schools.

Stacy Dever, [sdever@ccdoble.org](mailto:sdever@ccdoble.org)

<https://vimeo.com/217255896> (Out of the Garden)

### **Training the Trainers (Chester, Pennsylvania)**

We conducted a major volunteer training workshop at St. Thomas of Villanova in Rosemont, providing training to 23 members of the Parish Ambassadors. The retreat followed a *Train the Trainers* approach, expecting ambassadors to return to their parishes to implement the volunteer recruitment process. I visited four parishes and placed parish volunteers according to their interest and potential into sub-committees for transportation, mentoring, welcoming, warm meals, ESL, and donations. All volunteers received manuals on volunteer guidelines, roles and responsibilities.

Samuel Abu, [sabu@chs-adphila.org](mailto:sabu@chs-adphila.org)

### **POWR Accomplishments – Jobs (Kansas City, Kansas)**

We hope the USCCB/MRS is as proud as we are of what we've accomplished thanks almost entirely to the POWR grant. Our first outcome was that refugees be given the flexible, living-wage jobs with benefits. We projected that by engaging parishes in the search for new contracts for our refugee-run *Aspire Cleaning Service* program we could add eight new positions for refugees. POWR was instrumental in helping us add seven contracts and 11 living-wage jobs for refugees in 2017. Refugees took home \$226,463 in compensation through the Aspire program and parish connections.

Thom Fox, [tfox@catholiccharitiesks.org](mailto:tfox@catholiccharitiesks.org)

### **New York in the News (New York, NY)**

The International School of Brooklyn organized an initiative to collect items and put together toiletry kits and backpacks for our agency's refugee clients. As an end to the initiative, Kelly went to a present at a school assembly on December 21st to thank them and speak about our work with refugees. <https://isbrooklyn.org/>. Girls on the Run reached out to Refugee Resettlement to offer a donation of gift bags for pre-teen girls. The girls from the empowerment-focused girls' running club decided that they wanted to do a service project specifically for refugees. The dolls, books, pretty hats and candies were very popular among the girls who were so grateful to receive them! <https://www.girlsontherun.org/>



<https://catholiccharitiesny.org/blog/meet-tworefugees-served-catholic-charities>

### **Honoring Chef, Refugees (Jacksonville, Florida)**

Out Thanksgiving event was hosted by the Refugee Ministry of Holy Family Catholic Church. More than 200 clients, volunteers and staff shared a meal to celebrate this holiday. Angela Martin donated \$800 for the meal to honor her late husband Robert, former Winn-Dixie Chef, who planned last year's Thanksgiving meal and passed away in March of 2017.

Sarah Maley, [smale@ccbjax.org](mailto:smale@ccbjax.org)

#### **CLEVELAND MEDIA**



### **Committees Up and Running (Chester, Pennsylvania)**

Highlights of parish outreach events this period included the following: 20 youth at St. Thomas Syro-Malabar shared lunch with refugees in Delaware County, joining a meal, playing games and making friends. The refugee working group at St. Joseph University asked us to present about POWR, resulting in the group offering in-kind donations (including four laptops). The university faculty also offered that students would begin to teach ESL classes.

Samuel Abu, [sabu@chs-adphila.org](mailto:sabu@chs-adphila.org)

### **Peer Exchanges (Oakland, California)**

We continue to hold monthly POWR Task Force Meetings, which are open to all teams. We shared experiences, brainstormed solutions to challenges and provided an opportunity for new teams to hear real-time experiences from the working teams and ask direct questions. To give an example of this productive peer exchange: One local team recently shared a detailed manual with us, which we then shared with other teams. This manual will be adapted for our program at large. It can also be adapted by each team. This year, our agency will produce an official POWR manual.

Jude Stephens, [jstephens@cceb.org](mailto:jstephens@cceb.org)

### **Citizenship Classes (Jacksonville, Florida)**

We invited 30 refugees to enroll in a U.S. citizenship pilot program delivered in partnership with the Returned Peace Corp Group of Northeast Florida. POWR staff prepared the outreach materials for the citizenship class. In conjunction with the ESL specialist, we held three classes with altogether seven sessions, drawing 38 refugee clients.

Sarah Maley, [smale@ccbjax.org](mailto:smale@ccbjax.org)

## **Volunteering**

### **New Partnerships (Portland, Oregon)**

St. Clare Parish offered its parish house for refugee temp-housing. We met with their pastor and steering committee after they went through a discernment process about the ministry. Plans are underway for a kick-off event during Lent. The Madeline Parish is also interested in forming a refugee ministry, with a focus on the Cultural Navigator team model.

Hannah McFarlane, [hmacfarlane@ccoregon.org](mailto:hmacfarlane@ccoregon.org)

### **Students Stepping Up (Georgia, Atlanta)**

After holding a Refugee Camp Immersion Project with Marist School during the last reporting period, which resulted in a \$500 donation. The students assembled "The Refugee Response Team," which will hold regular meetings to discuss refugee issues and ways they can create welcoming environments for refugees. We are very excited about this project.

Kimberly Longshore, [klongshore1@gmail.com](mailto:klongshore1@gmail.com)

### **POWR Sites in Full Swing (Boston, Mass.)**

The four POWR sites that are actively resettling families contributed more than 1,067 hours working with our clients this reporting period. The value of volunteer time in Massachusetts is \$29.88/hour, which translates to \$31,000 in volunteer hours from POWR. Volunteers served in several different ways, from connecting clients with healthcare services to helping them navigate public transportation to setting up job interviews. Volunteers also organized donation drives in anticipation of new family members. Altogether this period, POWR sites have raised \$20,000 in rental subsidies.

Grace Gaskill, [grace\\_gaskill@ccab.org](mailto:grace_gaskill@ccab.org)

### **Medical Advisory Board Ready (Springfield, Mass.)**

We now have a functioning Medical Advisory Board that serves both our Circles, staff, and other providers in the area. Practitioners from both Cooley Dickinson and Bay State Medical have been provided trainings, workshops, and topic-specific symposiums on care for refugee families. We placed an emphasis on the psycho-social aspects.

Kathryn Buckley-Brawner, [k.brawner@diospringfield.org](mailto:k.brawner@diospringfield.org)

### **Three New Parish Sponsors (Oakland, California)**

During this last reporting period, we successfully engaged three seasoned parishes to co-sponsor new families. Others are contemplating, reviewing their structure and capacity, recruiting new volunteers, etc. New teams continue to evolve, requiring presentations and nurturing as they contemplate, review their capacity, and align with their ministries. In addition, we have engaged an interfaith group that includes two parishes, to co-sponsor a large, challenging family from the Congo. They have six small children, no English skills, and the parents are illiterate in their own language. This group, which includes two parishes, an LDS Stake and a United Methodist Church, is dedicated to the successful transition of this family. We are working closely with them to ensure the challenges are not insurmountable.

Jude Stephens, [jstephens@cceb.org](mailto:jstephens@cceb.org)

### **Student Purchasing Gifts (Jacksonville, Florida)**

Students at Bishop Kenny High School purchased Christmas gifts for refugee kids and multi-cultural ministry. The 150 students, who are members of the school's Interact Club, lovingly wrapped, labeled and delivered the presents just in time for the holiday. Forty teachers from San Jose Catholic School have offered to complete "a day of service" with us. The volunteers will organize the warehouse, storage closet and drive a CCB box truck to collect donations.

Sarah Maley, [smale@ccbjax.org](mailto:smale@ccbjax.org)

### **One Way to Organize Volunteers (Springfield, Mass.)**

Under the direction of the POWR Volunteer Coordinator and the ESOL/Employment Coordinator we have trained two volunteer leaders, who are each tackling two tasks: Materials/KITS donations; ESOL/Tutoring and Apprenticeships. Each of the Circles of Care has identified its own Transportation coordinator and a Child Care Coordinator. We found that these two aspects of volunteer needs are best coordinated at the Circle/family level for a more efficient response to emerging needs. The interpreter bank is coordinated by R&P staff in tandem with the Volunteer Coordinator.

Kathryn Buckley-Brawner, [k.brawner@diospringfield.org](mailto:k.brawner@diospringfield.org)

### **"Share the Journey" Center Stage (Baton Rouge, Louisiana)**

The last two months have been focused on the *Share the Journey* Campaign. Outreach efforts garnered the support of a new parish, St. Paul the Apostle. The mass occurred on January 7 but the planning was done in December. St. Paul's has also approached me about other events like pray and potluck dinner with refugees and their community.

Jean Dresley, [jdresley@ccdior.org](mailto:jdresley@ccdior.org)

<http://thecatholiccommentator.org/pages/?p=42207#more-42207>

### **Parish Sponsor Paying Rent (Chicago, Illinois)**

For the first time, St. Mary's in Lake Forest sponsored a refugee family from Congo, consisting of a mother and father and two daughters, ages 4 and 9 months. The parish's sponsorship consists of the first three months of rent plus security deposit and furniture. The parish also generously provided many Christmas gifts, gift cards, and even a Christmas tree for the family. About ten parishioners are preparing to mentor the family.

Joseph Schenk, [jschenk@catholiccharities.net](mailto:jschenk@catholiccharities.net)

### **Long-Term POWR Support (Boston, Mass.)**

In addition to supporting newer POWR sites as they navigate the first few months of resettlement, we are also exploring ways to support older POWR sites who resettled families 6+ months ago as they continue to serve our clients. We have conducted three follow up "stakeholder" meetings with POWR sites as they help families transition into independence.

Grace Gaskill, [grace\\_gaskill@ccab.org](mailto:grace_gaskill@ccab.org)

### **Social and Financial Capital (Chicago, Illinois)**

Together with St. Joseph's Parish in Libertyville (a northern suburb of Chicago), we've partnered with a local landlord to secure a 2-bedroom apartment in Libertyville (well below market price), for a single mother from Bhutan and her three school age daughters. The mother has experienced serious medical challenges since arriving several years ago, and has been unable to work for an extended period. This new apartment provides the family a safe and affordable living situation, as well as very high-quality schools. In addition, volunteers from the parishes have been most generous in assisting the mother with transportation to and from appointments, getting the girls registered, helping with grocery shopping and, in general, providing a supportive network for the family as they adjust to their new home.

Joseph Schenk, jschenk@catholiccharities.net

### **"Train the Trainer" Update (Portland, Maine)**

We are working with a volunteer business development advisor at the University of Southern Maine to develop a sustainable business model for the *In Their Shoes* training sessions. In November, we organized a 3-hour *train the trainer* session for six members of our advisory committee, with the goal of training them to become fully capable trainers in Maine. Eventually, these advisory committee members will be paired with four parishioners (who already received training) to join the agency outreach team so they can provide education regarding community integration.

Hannah DeAngelis, hdeangelis@cmaine.org



### **New Inter-Faith Partner (New York, NY)**

In this reporting period, we engaged with the Greater Newburgh Interfaith Council, which represents about a dozen faith communities in Orange County; the Council is a partner of the Mid-Hudson Refugee Solidarity Alliance, which donated \$2,200 in December to asylees in Poughkeepsie.

Kelly Agnew-Barajas, kelly.agnew-barajas@archny.org

### **College Readiness Program (Charlotte, North Carolina)**

The College Prep program continues to make great progress. The Mentors have each developed a calendar of deliverables for the students that will provide timelines for their preparation and college application. One of the students has already been accepted to several colleges and is now working on financial aid. Based on the lessons learned from these two pilot mentorships, a College Readiness program will be developed and we will actively recruit mentors.

Tammy Greyshock, tsGREYSHOCK@charlottediocese.org

### **Sponsorship in Full Flux (New York, NY)**

We are continuing to work with four active community co-sponsorship groups, which have already welcomed and resettled three refugee cases. Some highlights this winter include the following: PART One, a group which was recruited last September, welcomed an SIV couple from Afghanistan, raising more than \$13,000 in direct material support. We continue to vet, orient and train additional potential community co-sponsors. The Northern Westchester Interfaith Coalition for Refugee Resettlement is working with Family-to-Family, which will match refugees in need with donors from across the country. Family-to-Family has committed to support five families.

Kelly Agnew-Barajas, kelly.agnew-barajas@archny.org

<https://www.family-to-family.org>

### **Volunteer Pays Off Travel Loan (Orlando, Florida)**

This month's highlight was a donation in support of one refugee family, as a direct result of POWR. One Burmese family received an extra special Christmas present when their family mentor paid the entire remaining balance on their travel loan of \$2,500! Additionally, we received a donation of over \$4,000 in household goods from one local parish's Christmas donation drive. We also received a generous donation of \$1,500 from the local Knights of Columbus chapter.

Nicole DeCarufel, nicole.decarufel@cflcc.org

# Parish Refugee Resettlement Ministry Institute

POWR Coordinators attended the **CCUSA Annual Gathering in Houston** to participate in a day-long institute on Sept. 30, 2017. Prior to the actual institute, program coordinators participated in a nuts and bolts workshop, provided an additional and more informal opportunity to discuss specific program challenges and to exchange best practices. Expenses related to this institute were covered by a grant from **Our Sunday Visitor**. The workshop presented an opportunity to share two brand-new POWR program resources, including [The Parish Refugee Resettlement Ministry Manual](#), as well as [The Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugees \(POWR\) Program from A to Z](#). The 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. The second resource covers promising practices, activities and learning materials developed with POWR program support. All program resources were posted to the conference website, at <https://event.crowdcompass.com/2017ag> (the event password is *ccusa2017*).



**OurSundayVisitor**

## Donations

### **Increasing Refugee Scholarships (Louisville, Kentucky)**

The youth services coordinator and I have started to collect information on the Catholic Education fund and other funding plans to increase the enrollment of refugee kids in Catholic schools. We have reached out to St. Francis of Assisi to see if they might be interested, and we will meet soon to discuss tuition, transportation, and other fees. We also met with the Community Catholic Center, an organization that provides scholarships to low-income families wishing to place children in Catholic schools, and they provided some tips and pointers for when we should apply.

Tatum Tedtman, [ttedtman@archlou.org](mailto:ttedtman@archlou.org)

### **Pre-K Kids Make a Difference! (Georgia, Atlanta)**

Holy Redeemer Catholic School Pre-K classes made stockings filled with winter weather accessories, school supplies, and games for students in our afterschool program. There were 48 stockings valued at \$50 each for a total of \$2,448.

Kimberly Longshore, [klongshore1@gmail.com](mailto:klongshore1@gmail.com)

### **Parishes Hosting 'Angel Trees' (Charlotte, North Carolina)**

Four parishes hosted 'angel trees' during the holiday season. Three of the parishes supported 120 families who were recent arrivals to the agency. Clothing and household goods were purchased for family members by parishioners. The fourth parish held a donation drive and collected new blankets for the agency. Mentors from the parish-level refugee resettlement ministries were engaged to assist staff members in the delivery of gifts to the 120 families.

Tammy Greyshock, [tsgreyshock@charlottediocese.org](mailto:tsgreyshock@charlottediocese.org)

### **20,000 Household Goods (Portland, Oregon)**

We received a generous outpouring of support over the holidays as donors sponsored refugee family wish-lists. We coordinate annual family giving that matched donors with 33 client families. In November, we were also honored to be the beneficiary of a massive donation at the LDS, Portland Time Out for Women event. The participants at the conference donated 119 boxes of donated household goods (around 20,000 items!).

Hannah McFarlane, [hmacfarlane@ccoregon.org](mailto:hmacfarlane@ccoregon.org)

### **Myriad of Donations (Louisville, Kentucky)**

We have had several organizations do in-kind drives for us during the last couple of months. Holy Trinity school did a hygiene drive last month consisting of donating shampoo, soap, deodorant, and laundry detergents. A local grocery store collected coats and winter accessories for us. We also matched 45 families with our Christmas "adopt a family" program. Every refugee family was matched with an organization, church, or family for Christmas presents. Families were given gifts like bikes, TVs, clothes, shoes, computers, and household items. On average every family received about \$500 worth of items. Ott's tavern donated over \$1,000 worth of toys for our Family Learning Center Christmas Party. Every child received at least two presents, and they had things ranging from dolls and Legos to bikes and tricycles. Food was donated from several parishes and organizations for our Thanksgiving lunch celebration we did with the ESL classes.

Tatum Tedtman, [ttedtman@archlou.org](mailto:ttedtman@archlou.org)

### **Lots of Donations (New York, NY)**

All Angels Church donated \$4,000 in December for refugee resettlement support. The Congolese Beth El Refugee Task Force donated \$1,000 in-kind, and B'nai Jeshurun Refugee Immigration Committee donated \$3,130 in kind.

Kelly Agnew-Barajas, [kelly.agnew-barajas@archny.org](mailto:kelly.agnew-barajas@archny.org)

### **Students Stepping Up (Georgia, Atlanta)**

Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School students participated in a donation drive for household items for refugees, resulting in an extremely large donation of items that required two box trucks to pick up. The estimated value of this donation is approximately \$7,000. Christ the King Catholic Church, St. Jude the Apostle, and Holy Spirit Catholic Church all participated in our agency's Christmas Connections Program, which provides refugee clients served in many programs with holiday gifts and new household items and supplies. Refugees received \$6,851.42 worth of items that will help them in their new life here in the U.S. Combining all volunteer days, they donated 228 hours, valued at \$5,503.92!

Kimberly Longshore, klongshore1@gmail.com

### **Leveraging of Resources (New York, NY)**

One of our partners in Westchester – Hearts and Homes for Refugees – was awarded a \$100,000 grant from the Pineapple Fund to support their work in Westchester with refugees. They would like to involve us in their implementation plan. We have submitted a proposal for \$20,000 to fund 20% of the Resettlement Supervisor and some operating costs. They may also hire their own part-time staff person who would work with us on additional outreach and volunteer engagement (matching groups with asylees, VOTs, others in need.)

Kelly Agnew-Barajas, kelly.agnew-barajas@archny.org  
<https://pineapplefund.org/>

### **Warehouse Overstocked (Kansas City, Kansas)**

Thanks to this grant and the amazing work of the parishes and our parish outreach staff, the refugee warehouse is overflowing and overstocked. As the flow of refugees into our program is slow and we had already exceeded our outcomes, we felt that in November and December we would work on new coats and Christmas presents for refugee families and other people we serve. All refugees who wanted Christmas presents for their children were provided for including bicycles, dolls and even musical instruments. Every child in our refugee program now has a good coat to wear.

Thom Fox, tfox@catholiccharitiesks.org

### **Great Gifts (Portland, Maine)**

In December 2017, several Maine churches including Sacred Heart Giving Tree in Yarmouth and SAI Group have adopted refugee families for holiday gifts. More than 100 Mainers from these three groups of donors have gathered more than 200 nicely wrapped packages for 50 refugees. These new holiday gifts included movie tickets, gift cards, winter clothing, boots, toys, school supplies, pillows, blankets, bedding sheets and household items for a value of \$7,000.00.

Hannah DeAngelis, hdeangelis@ccmaine.org

### **Impact of the LDS Donation (Portland, Oregon)**

Calculations for 2017 show that in the calendar year, only 1.5% of Direct Assistance dollars were spent on the DOS Reception and Placement Supply Checklist items. This is in large part due to the generous donations of our brothers and sisters of the LDS Church. Large donation drives, and the generous grant from Salt Lake City through Deseret Manufacturing have allowed us to spend more of our clients' DA money on housing needs, stretching their ability to pay rent. We are excited about plans for even more streamlined approaches to in-kind goods in 2018.

Hannah McFarlane, hmacfarlane@ccoregon.org

### **Coats, Gloves and Hats (Cincinnati, Ohio)**

We have presented to five churches and talked to 330 people during this reporting period, and we've received household items from 10 parishes. Collection drives have not only been household items, but several churches did collections of hats and gloves and coats for our clients. Many refugees are not accustomed to the cooler Midwest temperatures, and with the temperatures dropping below freezing on several days, our clients got to experience some very cold weather, and some experienced seeing snow for the first time. One parish has signed up to organize an ongoing, regular coat drive for refugees, starting this January. We anticipate getting over 100 coats from that one parish.

Anne Scheid, ascheid@ccswoh.org

### **Organizing Giving Trees (Cleveland, Ohio)**

We placed a big emphasis on increased coordination with local parishes to organize giving trees. We worked off the supply list of required items for arrivals, 40 new coats, 40 pair of boots, warm socks and additional household items and cleaning supplies. 42 families received gifts ranging from toys and clothing to soccer balls! Gifts were delivered the week before Christmas by Catholic volunteers. Eighty clients received clothing through our partnership with Joseph's House. Every Wednesday, our Humility of Mary full time volunteer takes new families to Joseph's House to pick out clothing. They reserve the shop for refugees and allow clients to pick out as much clothing as they need.

Stacy Dever, sdever@ccdocle.org

## [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. As such, programs can very much use a “train-the-trainer” approach with the resources in this manual. *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2017.*

The Parish Refugee Resettlement Ministry Manual is available online, at <http://tinyurl.com/y75k438w>

## [The Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugees \(POWR\) Program 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. Thousands of volunteers have helped refugees with legal work, medical services and language, offered friendship, warm meals, jobs, and welcomed the newcomers in their parishes and communities. USCCB/MRS continues to publish and disseminate promising practices via a bi-monthly newsletter, The POWR Post. This publication helps program participants (and other sites) learn from one another, and thereby leverage new funding sources and improve upon their own programs. POWR has generated a wealth of information. The POWR archive now features a collection of 44 newsletter issues, dozens of outreach materials, volunteer management guides, tip sheets refugee employment, housing, special events planning and donation drives.

“POWR from A to Z,” is available online, at <http://tinyurl.com/ydypucux>

## A Parish Volunteer Kit

### 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

In 2010, USCCB Migration and Refugee Services launched the Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugees (POWR) Program, to strengthen and deepen its support of church and community involvement on behalf of newly arriving refugees. 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]

# The POWR Post Newsletter Directory

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*POWR Promotion & Outreach Materials*

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*Share the Journey Resources*

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## 2012 POWR Funding Cycle

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### POWR on My Membership:

<http://community.usccb.org>

### POWR ON THE WEB:

<http://www.usccb.org/about/resettlement-services/parishes-organized-to-welcome-refugees.cfm>

## 2010-11 POWR Funding Cycle

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*Writing Grant Proposals*

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*Volunteer Guide Books*

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*Events Planning*

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*Refugee Career Guide*

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*Best of 2011 Resource Guide*

# **BEST OF 2017** POWR Resource Guide

This issue presents a “Best-of 2018” collection of special topics resources that were shared during last year’s POWR program cycle. If you wish to obtain copies of all POWR Post E-Newsletters, go to: <http://community.usccb.org>

[Login: Your email; Password: migration1234]

## **Supporting Newcomers**

**Employment** –The U.S. Employers’ Guide to Hiring Refugees is a manual to assist businesses that are interested in hiring refugees and have questions about the logistics and practicality of hiring refugees in the United States

Online @ [https://www.tent.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Tent\\_Guidebook\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.tent.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Tent_Guidebook_FINAL.pdf)

**Sponsorship Model #1 – Parish Partnerships.** 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)

Online @ <http://www.icsiparish.org/refugee-effort/>

**Sponsorship Model #2 – Student Ambassadors.** The local POWR program offered students a *Refugee Ambassador Program* service learning opportunity. In turn, the students act as liaisons for their high schools and home parishes.

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

**Vocational English Guides** – Caritas of Austin produced useful picture vocabulary guides for hotel housekeeping and entry level food services. Hotel Housekeeping Guides: [Arabic](#); [Burmese](#); [Nepali](#); [Swahili](#); [Spanish](#); Food Service Guides: [Arabic](#), [Burmese](#), [Spanish](#)

## **Engaging Students and Parishes**

**Engaging Deacons** – A USCCB study finds that there are more than 15,000 Active Permanent Deacons in U.S. Church.

Online @ <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/diaconate/diaconate-diocesan-offices.cfm>

**K-12 Refugee Awareness Curriculum** – POWR Jacksonville developed lesson plans to promote awareness of human rights abuses.

Online @ <http://tinyurl.com/y85xu4u2>

**Refugees Welcome to Dinner** – *Refugees Welcome to Dinner* brings folks from refugee and non-refugee backgrounds around a table to break bread and break barriers. Several USCCB affiliates have adapted versions of this innovative curriculum.

Online @ <http://refugeeswelcometodinner.com>

**Welcoming the Stranger Among Us: Unity in Diversity** -- Designed for both ordained and lay ministers at the diocesan and parish levels, this document challenges us to prepare to receive newcomers with a genuine spirit of welcome.

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

## **Raising Awareness**

### **Refugee Camp Simulation Guides**

<http://www.cclou.org/flee> (*Seeking Refuge: Forced to Flee. A Refugee Camp Simulation Guide* – Catholic Charities of Louisville)

<http://www.unhcr.org/473dc1772.pdf> (*Passages Awareness Game*, UNHCR)

<http://www.redcross.org/rulesofwar> (*Global Refugee Simulation & Conference*, American Red Cross)

<http://worldreliefspokane.org/refugee-simulations/> (*Refugee Simulation - World Relief Spokane*, Washington)

### **Welcoming Refugees Is Paying Off – Economic Impact of Refugees in the Cleveland Area**

Online @ <http://rscleveland.org/economic-impact-refugees-community/>

### **World Refugee Day Toolkits, Posters, Digital Banners, Website, Ads (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)**

Online @ <http://www.unhcrwashington.org/world-refugee-day-events>

## **Managing Volunteers**

**Parish Volunteer Kit** – Step-by-step guide how your agency can strengthen its parish connections to boost volunteerism.

Online @ <https://tinyurl.com/jmbzp97>

**POWR from A to Z** – This guide covers promising practices, activities and learning materials developed with POWR program support.

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

**POWR Training Manual** – POWR-Boston developed a [Manual Presentation](#) to explain the pre- and post-arrival process to volunteers.

Online @ <https://tinyurl.com/yicisljvd>

**The Parish Refugee Resettlement Ministry Manual** --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.

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

**Volunteer Orientation Manuals** –POWR in Anchorage developed a three-part volunteer manual, covering volunteer roles and responsibilities, as well as two chapters detailing tasks for volunteer committee work (Warm Meals and Transportation).

Online @ on My Membership, under [USCCB/MRS POWR Volunteering Network Developments](#)

POWR  Post

November-December 2017 (Vol. 8, Issue 4)

Daniel Sturm, Research and Evaluation Manager (Editor)

POWR on the [Web](#)