National Migration Week 2019
Creating Communities of Welcome
Foster Care for
Unaccompanied Refugee
and
Immigrant Children

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
Migration and Refugee Services
A Unique Foster Care Program

A national network of foster care programs with special expertise to serve unaccompanied children from a variety of backgrounds.
Catholic Charities Foster Families

MAKING A DIFFERENCE
TAKING ACTION
FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH
THOUSANDS OF ARIZONA CHILDREN IN NEED OF GOOD HOMES
Who is an Unaccompanied Child?

- Definitions
- Common youth background and experiences
- Supportive services offered by our programs
Unaccompanied Child Demographics

• Ages
• Country of Origin
• Gender
• Religion
Meet our Network of Programs

Visit [www.usccb.org/fostercare](http://www.usccb.org/fostercare) for all locations
Foster Family Experience

“From the moment the home developer met with us, we knew this was the direction God intended for the next chapter of our life to go in. The energetic team at CCFW is unparalleled to any other we had previously worked with. Our family continues to grow and increase and we wouldn’t have our lives be any different than they are today” –An IFC Foster Mother
“Everywhere I have gone, I have always remembered that the URM program and my foster home built up a seed in me. URM showed me the best side of living with hope. URM receives minors from different places in the world, and embrace their unique culture. They raise each individual with love, care and wisdom. For the short time we were together, I humbly come to the acceptance that you shaped my inner self. I will live with what you taught me and share it with every heart that I meet in this world.”

— A youth’s departing words to the URM program staff in Jackson, Mississippi, when he emancipated from the program
Building Communities of Welcome

The POWR Program

National Migration Week Webinar (Sept. 6, 2018)

Photo credits: Sarah Williamson [http://www.sarahannayphotography.com](http://www.sarahannayphotography.com)

Daniel Sturm – Research, Evaluation and Resource Manager
USCCB/Migration and Refugee Services
Engaging Parishes
Mentoring Newcomers
Raising Awareness
Increasing Resources
POWR in a Nutshell – Empowering Immigrants

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 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
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.
2018 Program Participants
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>POWR Program / USCCB Affiliate</th>
<th>Resettlement Director</th>
<th>RD EMAIL</th>
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How Did Decreased Refugee Arrivals Impact POWR?

Decline in Refugee Arrivals

• From FY 2016 to FY 2018 the number of refugees was cut almost in half—from 85,000 to 45,000.

• For FY 2018, actual arrivals for the year are projected to be around 21,000, less than half the FY2018 PD and only 25% of actual admissions just two years before.
How Can POWR Respond to Decreased Refuge Arrivals?

• Using POWR support to welcome *other* migrants, including asylees, secondary migrants and victims of human trafficking.

• Using POWR funds to jump-start new initiatives for long-term community integration, extended employment services, housing and youth initiatives.

• The Bottom line—as a private initiative, the POWR program is *flexible* and can be used to support your agency’s efforts to *Building Communities of Welcome*. 
POWR Tactics

Example #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

Example #2: 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](http://tinyurl.com/y85xu4u2)
POWR Development Success

Cash and In-Kind Raised 2010-17

Cash & In-Kind (million $)

USCCB Expense

2.98

10.43
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 Learning Tools

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

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
The Bridging Refugee Youth and Children Services (BRYCS) clearinghouse, which is read by thousands of around the globe, added the POWR program to its collection of promising practices. 

https://tinyurl.com/y9ds7k3r (POWR)
• Chmura Economics & Analytics: *The Economic Impact of Refugees in the Cleveland Area*, 2017.
• *The New Economy: From Struggle to Resilience: The Economic Impact of Refugees in America*, 2017
Contact

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

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

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Building Communities of Welcome: Atlanta
Major barrier

An unwelcoming national rhetoric
Encourage people on a local level to take a more personal look. Challenge their perspective and what they see in the media. At Catholic Charities Atlanta, we’ve tried to do that in the following ways:

1. 120 Stories in 120 Days
2. Outreach and Education
3. Advocacy
4. Community Integration
120 Stories in 120 Days

Effort to tell personal stories, in their own words, from refugee and immigrant clients, volunteers, staff, and other community members (local business owners, owners of companies that employ refugees and immigrants, etc...) for each day of the 120 day halt on refugee arrivals.

https://catholiccharitiesatlanta.org/2017/03/21/120-stories-120-days/

Goals:
1. Humanize the refugee crisis
2. Highlight successes and contributions that refugees and immigrants make to their local communities
3. Help readers understand that the similarities far outweigh the differences
“My name is Pasupati, and I am originally from Bhutan. I had a house, went to school, and led a peaceful life in my home country. Around the late 1980’s, due to the Bhutanese monarchy’s ethnic cleansing policy and eviction tactics, I became a refugee at the age of 21.

Refugee life was full of difficulties without enough food to eat or good water to drink. I had no comfortable place to sleep and had no sense of belonging. Every minute of my refugee life has long stories to tell. Survival itself was a big question. For 17 years, I lived in a refugee camp hoping one day to return home, but it never happened. Ultimately, my family was given the opportunity to resettle in the United States.

Nine years ago, I came to the US with my wife and four-year old son. Two months after arriving in Atlanta, my wife and I started working and became self-sufficient. My son started school when he turned five years old and is currently in 7th grade. Now, I drive my own car and have a home to call my own. Everyone in my family has become a US citizen, and we voted in the last November election. Having my co-workers watch me take the oath of allegiance was one of the proudest moments in my life. Now, my family is part of the American community and has a sense of belonging. The United States of America believed in us and gave us a chance to lead a normal human life.”

Pasupati
Sr. Resettlement Specialist
Education and Outreach

Educational presentations at schools, churches, businesses, and other organizations:

- Provide information on the global refugee crisis and areas of concern
- Overview of refugee resettlement on a national and local level
- Provide information on how current policies affect refugees and immigrants negatively (halt on refugee arrivals, family separation, reduced ceiling for refugee admissions, etc...)
- Highlight client success stories

Refugee Camp Immersion Project (RCIP):

- Started in 2012 as a way to help people understand the situations that many refugees come from
- Large effort that involves the entire refugee resettlement staff and a day away from the office
- Have received very positive feedback over the last 6 years and has resulted in multiple monetary donations and in-kind drives for household items as well as a greater awareness of refugee and immigrant issues
Refugee Camp Immersion Project
Advocacy

• **Coalition of Refugee Service Agencies (CRSA)** - serves as a unifying entity for 18 refugee and immigrant serving organizations throughout metro Atlanta. **Mission:** To engage a broad coalition to highlight the cultural, social, and economic contributions of refugees and immigrants in Georgia.

• **Justice For Immigrants (JFI)** - National campaign for advocacy and education around refugee and immigrant issues as they relate to Catholic Social Teaching.
Community Integration

• New Americans Celebration-
  • A day designated each year aimed to provide outreach and education to GA legislators (joint effort with Coalition of Refugee Service Agencies)
  • Inviting refugees to participate in the advocacy process and tell their stories at the GA Capitol
  • Allow refugees to meet their legislative representatives and understand the state process

• Community Outreach sessions
  • Events for various refugee communities to discuss current events and how current immigration policy may affect them
  • Not agency organized—a response to requests from the community to present information
World Refugee Day Celebration

- Held each year at Refuge Coffee- a local coffee shop that employs refugees and has an in-house employment program (joint effort with CRSA)
- Celebrates refugees and all that they have overcome, in addition to the many cultural and economic contributions they make to the local economy
- Refugee and immigrant speakers, cultural performances
- Attendees receive a list of local refugee and immigrant owned restaurants and business that they are encouraged to lunch at and visit after the celebration
World Refugee Day 2018