

Tennessee Office for Refugees

"Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

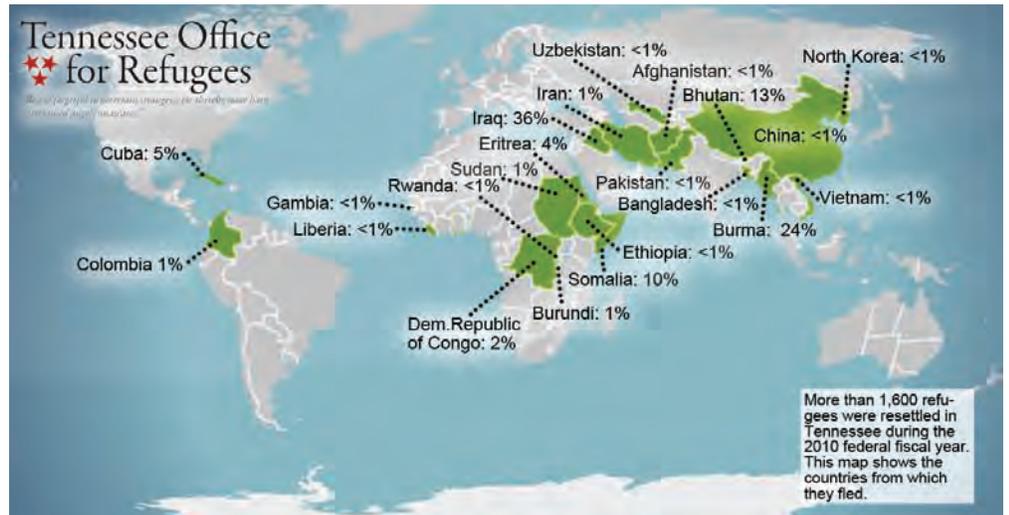


2010: A Year In Review

Who We Are

The Tennessee Office for Refugees (TOR) is a department of Catholic Charities of Tennessee, Inc. designated by the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) to administer the state refugee resettlement program.

Our mission is to foster growth, integration and self-sufficiency by providing financial, technical and professional support to refugees and the agencies who serve them in the State of Tennessee.



What We Do

Funded by ORR, the Tennessee Refugee Program helps refugees statewide access cash and medical assistance, medical screenings, employment, language training, social adjustment and other specialized services that meet their individual needs. The goal of all of these programs is self-sufficiency.

SELF-SUFFICIENCY: Between October of 2009 and September of 2010, 949 refugee families received temporary cash assistance while employable adults engaged in English language training and an intensive job search. 672 adults secured full-time employment in a difficult economic climate with an average wage of \$8.82 per hour. 65% retained that employment for at least 90 days, enabling them to financially support themselves and their families. An additional 80 refugees secured part-time employment, substantially contributing to the self-sufficiency of their households.

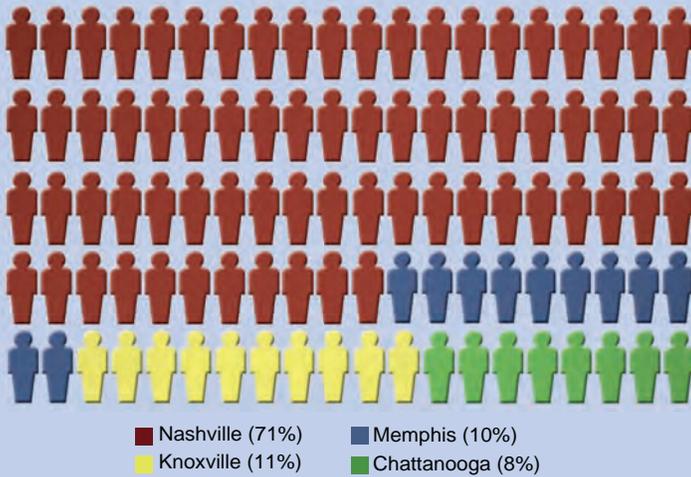
MEDICAL SERVICES: During the last 12 months, 1,605 new arrivals to the State of Tennessee received a comprehensive medical screening and referral for appropriate follow-up care. 1,107 refugees who were unable to access

TennCare received Refugee Medical Assistance for eight months after arrival, enabling them to treat chronic conditions affecting their quality of life and ability to obtain early self-sufficiency.



SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT: Approximately 750 refugees engaged in English language training, enabling them to retain employment, interact with their child's school, and be an active part of their community. 292 refugee children and their parents were oriented to the American school system and received ongoing support with adjustment, academics, and communication with school personnel. 191 teachers received training in working with refugee students.

Distribution of Refugees in Tennessee



Who We Help

Between October 2009 and September 2010, 1,640 refugees arrived in the State of Tennessee. Of the total resettled, 68% were resettled in Nashville, 13% in Memphis, 12% in Knoxville and 7% in Chattanooga. Through contracted services, technical assistance and administrative support, TOR partnered with agencies that provide direct services to refugees, asylees, Cuban/Haitian entrants, victims of trafficking, Amerasians, and Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders who chose to make Tennessee their home. TOR partners included Siloam Family Health Center, Catholic Charities of Tennessee, World Relief, the Center for Refugees and Immigrants of Tennessee, and the Nashville International Center for Empowerment in Nashville; Catholic Charities of West Tennessee in Memphis; and Bridge Refugee Services in Knoxville and Chattanooga.

Looking Back On 2010

Federal Fiscal Year 2010 (2010) saw the Tennessee Office for Refugees (TOR) celebrating two years since its transition to the role of administering Tennessee's statewide refugee program, funded by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR).

In addition to cash and medical assistance for new arrival refugees, TOR administered ORR-funded grants to meet the specific needs of refugee families. The Refugee Social Services Program funded intensive, comprehensive employment services including English language training and social adjustment services. After-school academic assistance and orientation to the American school system – as well as training and support for teachers of refugee students - were provided to refugee families through the refunded Refugee School Impact Grant. Intensive employment readiness and placement was provided through the Targeted Assistance Program for refugee residents of Davidson County, which has been identified as one of 57 counties nationwide facing significant refugee impact.

While 2010 was a year of hard work, it was also a year of celebration. Catholic Charities of Tennessee's Executive Director, William Sinclair, was honored by both the Tennessee Council on Social Welfare and the Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition for his many years of dedicated service; and its Refugee Youth Program received Catholic Charities USA's Family Strengthening Award. Marina Peshterianu, coordinator of Bridge Refugee Services' Chattanooga office, was named a finalist for the Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce's Lightkeeper Award in recognition of her grassroots efforts in promoting the advancement of women and girls.

Our Partners

Bridge Refugee Services, Inc.
4791/A Hal Drive
Chattanooga, TN 37416
(423) 954-9288
www.bridgerefugees.org

Bridge Refugee Services, Inc.
7035 Middlebrook Pike, Suite A
Knoxville, TN 37909
(865) 540-1311
www.bridgerefugees.org

Catholic Charities of Tennessee, Inc.
10 South 6th Street
Nashville, TN 37206
(615) 259-3567
www.cctenn.org

Catholic Charities of West Tennessee
1325 Jefferson Avenue
Memphis, TN 38104
(901) 722-4700
www.ccwtn.org

Center for Refugees & Immigrants in Tennessee
295 Plus Park Blvd., Ste. 102
Nashville, TN 37217
(615) 360-9696
www.centerforrefugees.org

Nashville International Center for Empowerment
3221 Nolensville Pk. Ste. 103
Nashville, TN 37211
(615) 315-9681
www.empowernashville.org

Siloam Family Health Services, LLC
820 Gale Lane
Nashville, TN 37204
(615) 298-5406
www.siloamhealth.org

World Relief
1655 Murfreesboro Pike
Ste. G
Nashville, TN 37217
(615) 833-7735
www.worldrelief.org

To find out how you can assist refugees in your community, call TOR toll-free at **1-877-300-3993**.
Visit us online at www.cctenn.org/TOR