

Tennessee Office for Refugees

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



2012: 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.

▶▶ 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.

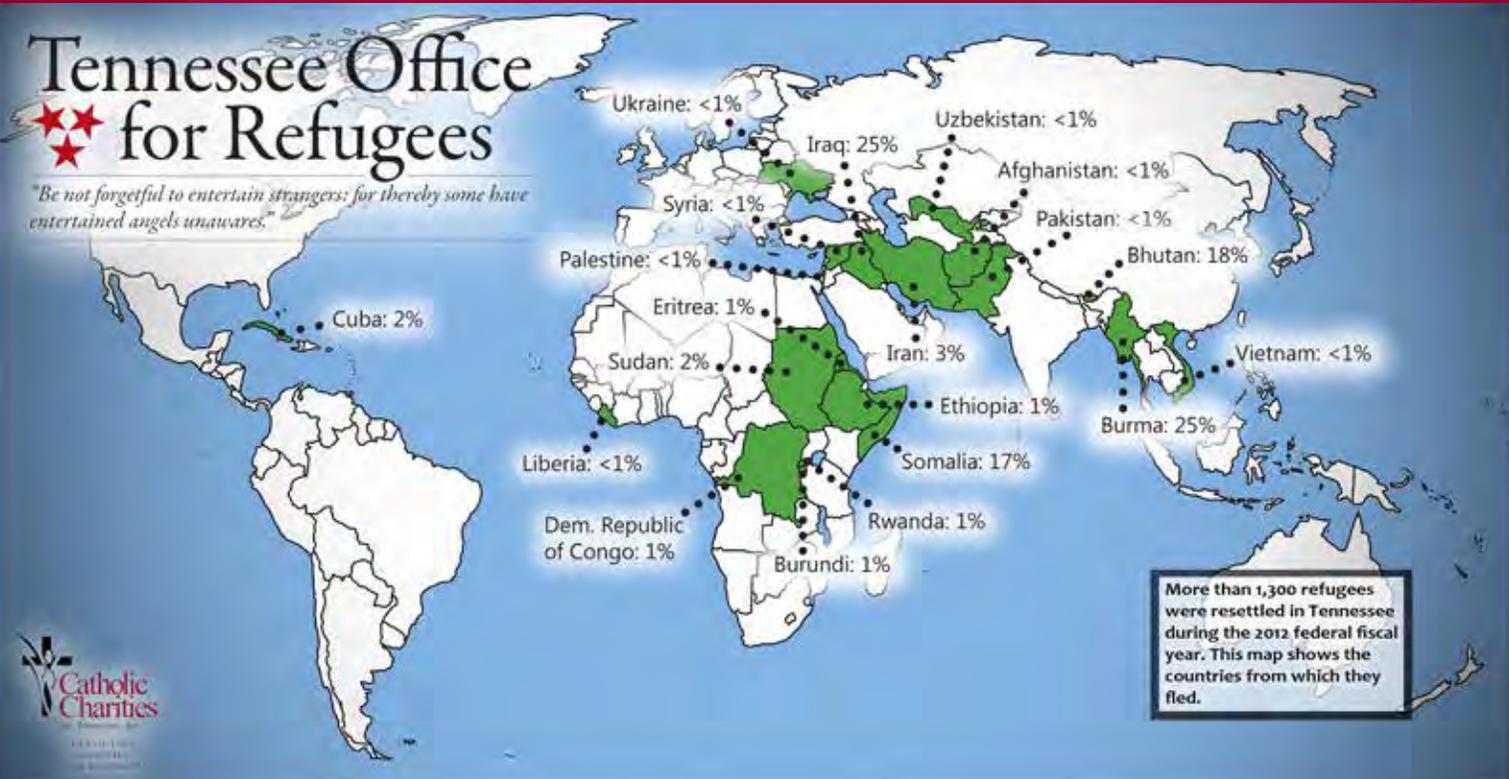
▶▶ Who We Help

Between October of 2011 and September of 2012, 1376 refugees arrived in the state of Tennessee. Of the total resettled, 75% were resettled in Nashville, 12% in Knoxville, 9% in Memphis, and 4% in Chattanooga. Through contracted services, technical assistance, and administrative support, TOR partnered with refugee resettlement 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 Catholic Charities of Tennessee, Nashville International Center for Empowerment, Nations Ministry Center, Siloam Family Health Center, Tennessee Foreign Language Institute, and World Relief in Nashville; Catholic Charities of West Tennessee, Catholic Charities of Tennessee, and World Relief in Memphis; and Bridge Refugee Services in Knoxville and Chattanooga.

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.

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▶▶ Results and Statistics

SELF-SUFFICIENCY: Between October of 2011 and September of 2012, 746 refugee individuals and families received temporary cash assistance while employable adults engaged in English language training and an intensive job search. 535 adults secured full-time employment in a difficult economic climate with an average wage of \$8.62 per hour. Seventy-six percent retained that employment for at least 90 days, enabling them to financially support themselves and their families. An additional 159 refugees secured part-time employment, substantially contributing to the self-sufficiency of their households.

MEDICAL SERVICES: During the last 12 months, 1272 new arrivals to the State of Tennessee received a comprehensive medical screening and referral for appropriate follow-up care. 742 refugees who were unable to access TennCare received Refugee Medical Assistance for up to eight months after arrival, enabling them to treat chronic conditions affecting their quality of life and ability to seek early self-sufficiency.

SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT: Approximately 550 adult 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. 383 refugee children and their parents were oriented to the American school system and received ongoing support with adjustment, academics and communication with school personnel. 384 teachers received training in working with refugee students. In addition, 88 refugee students improved their academic performance, including their level of English language acquisition, through participation in specialized after-school programming. Over 160 new arrival refugees received orientation to the American health care system, as well as how to establish and maintain physical and emotional wellness habits in the US.



▶▶ Our Partners

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

*Nashville International Center
for Empowerment*
3221 Nolensville Pike # 103
Nashville, TN 37211
(615) 315-9681
empowernashville.org

World Relief
1655 Murfreesboro Pike, Suite G
Nashville, TN 37217
(615) 833-7735
wrnashville.org

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

Nations Ministry Center
4710 Charlotte Avenue
Nashville, TN 37209
(615) 828-9664
nationsministrycenter.org

Catholic Charities of Tennessee, Inc.
Refugee Services
10 South 6th Street
Nashville, TN 37206
(615) 259-3567
cctenn.org/services/refugees

Bridge Refugee & Sponsorship Services
4791/A Hal Drive
Chattanooga, TN 37416
(423) 954-9288
bridgerefugeeschatt.org

Tennessee Foreign Language Institute
227 French Landing Drive # 100
Nashville, TN 37228
(615) 741-7579
tflfi.org

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

▶▶ Looking Back on 2012

The Tennessee Office for Refugees (TOR) celebrated four years of administering Tennessee's statewide refugee program during Federal Fiscal Year 2012, currently as the 14th Wilson/Fish program nationwide. Wilson/Fish programs are funded by the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) and are recognized alternatives to the traditional state model. Refugees served by such programs historically demonstrate stronger employment and self-sufficiency outcomes. TOR partnered with refugee-serving agencies in Chattanooga, Knoxville, Memphis and Nashville to provide cash assistance, health screenings and benefits, employment services and social services to over 1300 refugees who found a new home in Tennessee.

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, was provided for refugee families through the Refugee School Impact Grant. Intensive employment readiness and placement was provided through the Targeted Assistance Program for refugee residents of Davidson County, which expanded to include two new subgrantees – Nations Ministry Center and Tennessee Foreign Language Institute's ESL to Go program. The Preventive Health grant provided health-related orientation and case management for newly arrived refugees and enabled access to a 24-hour nurse line for eligible clients, to reduce non-emergency hospital visits.

2012 was a year of new beginnings and farewells. Catholic Charities of West Tennessee decided to close its long-standing Refugee Services program, while Catholic Charities of Tennessee and World Relief both expanded their Nashville operations by opening sub-offices in Memphis to continue that city's history of welcome to refugees. TOR is proud to report the award of a new grant to Tennessee: the Refugee Elders Program, designed to assist refugees age 60 and above in accessing needed services, including citizenship preparation. TOR looks forward to continuing to be a source of support and information for Tennessee's refugees and those who welcome them in 2013.

For questions, or to find out how you can assist refugees in your community, call TOR toll-free:

1-877-300-3993

Visit us at cctenn.org/tor