

# Tennessee Office for Refugees

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

To: Representatives of local government  
Chairperson, Budget Committee (of city council or county legislative body)  
Chairpersons, House and Senate Committees on State and Local Government  
Local Refugee Resettlement Program Directors

From: Holly Johnson, State Refugee Coordinator 

Date: January 29, 2016

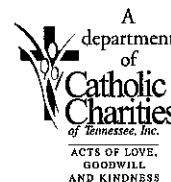
Re: Quarterly report on refugee resettlement for the period 10.1.2015 – 12.31.2015

Herein, please find information on actual arrivals for the period of this report.

Tennessee remains a very strong and welcoming state for refugees fleeing persecution in their homelands. **Thank you** for your continued support and concern for the well-being of refugees in your community. Please contact me ([hjohnson@cctenn.org](mailto:hjohnson@cctenn.org) or (615) 354.5700) or your local refugee resettlement agency(ies) if you have any questions. Local agency contact information is below.

Agency	Contact Person	Address	Phone	Email
Bridge Refugee Services - Chattanooga	Marina Peshterianu	4791/A Hal Drive Chattanooga, TN 37416	423-954-9288	marinapesh@aol.com
Bridge Refugee Services - Knoxville	Marina Peshterianu	3839 Buffat Mill Road Knoxville, TN 37914	865-540-1311	marinapesh@aol.com
Catholic Charities - Nashville	Kellye Branson	2806 McGavock Pike Nashville, TN 37214	615-259-3567	kbranson@cctenn.org
Nashville International Center for Empowerment	Gatluk Thach	417 Welshwood Drive Suite 100 Nashville, TN 37211	615-315-9681	gatluk@empowernashville.org
World Relief - Memphis	Steve Moses	2181 Union Avenue Memphis, TN 38104	901-569-9797	smoses@wr.org
World Relief - Nashville	Tim Patterson	1655 Murfreesboro Pike Suite G Nashville, TN 37217	615-833-7735	tpatterson@wr.org

This report serves to meet the reporting requirements under the Refugee Absorptive Capacity Act (Public Chapter No. 316).



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**Anticipated Arrivals:**

The U.S. Department of State allocates refugees based on where the resettlement agency is located. In FFY (federal fiscal year) 2016, refugees have been (preliminarily) allocated to programs in the counties below. Actual arrivals may vary. The local refugee resettlement programs and the Tennessee Office for Refugees (TOR) have met with state and local officials and collectively believe that the programs and these counties have the capacity to successfully resettle refugees.

**FFY 2016:**

Davidson/Rutherford/Williamson	1,350
Hamilton	85
Knox	215
Shelby	200

**Actual Arrivals:**

For the period of this report, actual new arrivals to counties were as follows:

Bradley	12
Davidson	269
Hamilton	13
Knox	34
Rutherford	2
Shelby	41
Sumner	2

**Age Breakdown:**

The age breakdown for these arrivals is as follows:

Minors	149
Employable adults	220
Seniors	4

**Letters of Agreement:**

The agreements for FFY 2016 were submitted with the last quarterly report.

**Information Requests:**

For the period of this report, TOR received requests for information from Representative Pody, multiple correspondence from Representative Ragan, information requests from college students and professors, numerous media outlets across the state re: Syrian resettlement, citizens who had questions about our role in refugee resettlement (provided education and redirected them to the organizations/individuals who can address their concerns), many citizens who want to help resettle refugees (directed to the resettlement agencies as volunteers), a few threats that were reported to the local FBI office, and media inquiry re: Senator Tracy's false accusation regarding the regular and timely submission of these reports.

**No complaints were received.**