

This issue of *The POWR Post* is the sixth and final issue of the 2015 Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugees (POWR) Continuation Program. *The POWR Post* disseminates promising practices to POWR program participants, as well as all other USCCB/MRS diocesan resettlement sites.

~Daniel Sturm, MRS Program Projects Manager

POWR Program Announcement

Dear Colleagues,

It's my pleasure to announce the finalists for the 2016 Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugee (POWR) program. This issue of *The POWR Post* features a directory of the 15 POWR projects that have made the cut for the 2016 project cycle, along with a summary of project goals (see page #2). A total of 30 dioceses submitted proposals this year. Dioceses that have never received POWR program funds in the past are marked GREEN.

The POWR program's goal is to develop long-term, sustainable programs. The funding is intended to assist parishes, and other community-based organizations partnering with the dioceses, in the mission of welcoming refugees. You can access presentations, program newsletters (*The POWR Post*) and volunteer manuals on MyMembership at <http://community.usccb.org>

With regards,

-Daniel

Daniel Sturm, USCCB/MRS Program and Evaluation Manager
Dsturm@usccb.org

[Moving From Stranger to Neighbor:](#)

How to Incorporate Parish Volunteers into Newcomer Integration Initiatives

Thursday, March 31, 2:00 – 3:30 Eastern

Register [Here](#)

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/592077486941849346>

In Part Two of our series on incorporating parish volunteers into immigration-related services, we move our focus to immigrant integration. Immigrant integration occurs most successfully at the local level, particularly because a community designs its response around the local and immediate needs of its community members. Thus, the impact that a local faith community can have on the larger community's welcome to newcomers cannot be overstated. Welcoming the stranger is a basic tenet of many faith communities, including Catholic, but how do you do it? Staff from Catholic Charities USA, the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, and USCCB's Department of Migration and Refugee Services will share best practices in motivating, coordinating, and sustaining parish volunteers committed to integrating refugees and other immigrants into our common home.

Presenters:

- Jean Beil, Vice President for Programs and Services, Catholic Charities USA;
- Daniel Sturm, Research and Evaluation Manager, USCCB Migration and Refugee Services;
- Leya Speasmaker, Integration Program Manager, Catholic Legal Immigration Network

Please contact Leya Speasmaker at lspeasmaker@cliniclegal.org with questions.

2016 Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugees (POWR) Program

Diocese	POWR Program Goals (Summary)	POWR Contact
Baton Rouge, LA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch a volunteer-led initiative to help refugee parents maneuver public schools. • Expand ESL beyond four weeks, recruiting volunteers as classroom helpers and conversation partners. • Establish parish-led volunteer programs assisting resettlement case managers from A-Z. 	<p>Lisa Lee, llee@ccdiobr.org</p>
Chicago, IL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish four refugee sponsorship committees consisting of 12 parish members per parish group. Parishes commit to raising three months of rent, plus an additional emergency assistance. • Establish parish employment committees, offering job mentoring and workplace ESL training. • Intensify recruitment of family mentors. 	<p>Elma Kulovic, EKulovic@catholiccharities.net</p>
Cincinnati, OH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a clearinghouse for furniture donations and other goods. • Set up formal mechanism for parish outreach and volunteer recruitment and retention. 	<p>Megan Zarnitz, mzarnitz@ccswoh.org</p>
Cleveland, Ohio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a refined “Refugee 101” presentation to intensify parish outreach, professionalize recruitment and retention. • Organize volunteer appreciation events and quarterly gatherings to encourage peer-to-peer learning, improve volunteer training & retention. • Recruit Catholic volunteer as housing and donations coordinator. 	<p>Stacy Dever, sdever@clevelandcatholiccharities.org</p>
Detroit, MI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish educational materials, including a step-by-step guide on how to adopt refugee families. • Craft an appeal to moving companies for the donation pickup and delivery services. • Assemble volunteer teams specializing in furniture pickups and deliveries. 	<p>Jeralda Hattar, hattarj@ccsem.org</p>
Dubuque, IA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct presentations in refugee-receiving parishes and communities. The goal is to recruit 80% of all parishes attending events. • Match refugee families with church mentors. • Churches commit to providing specific furniture, household items, and initial food assistance. 	<p>Lori Williams, DBQCCPS@dbqarch.org</p>
Erie, PA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce videos and other educational materials for parish outreach. • Set up information meetings with 25 parishes to garner interest and attract resettlement volunteers. • Attract a minimum of 1,000 people attending resettlement-themed parish gatherings and special events. 	<p>Joe Haas, jhaas@cccas.org</p>
Los Angeles, CA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form a refugee services advisory board, comprised of parish and community leaders. • Reinvigorate and expand the network of parish “welcome teams” to provide resettlement support, particularly related to housing. • Recruit parishioners for employment mentorship program, matching refugees with job mentors. 	<p>Sara Tompkins, STompkins@CCHARITI ES.ORG</p>
New Orleans, LA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify key parish priests, deacons and clergy as ambassadors within the parishes and inter-faith collaborations. • Increase awareness through special events and storytelling. • Professionalize volunteer management and establish formal donations management system. 	<p>Julie Ward, jward@ccano.org</p>

Oakland, CA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage 30 of 84 parishes in resettlement, asking parishioners to co-sponsor refugee families. Involve parish volunteers in housing program, utilizing their support in working with landlords, offering housing and transportation assistance. Utilize parish volunteer expertise in ESL training events, job coaching. 	Sr. Elisabeth Lang, elang@cceb.org
Oklahoma City, OK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approach parishes and Catholic student associations in an effort to recruit refugee mentors. Recruit interns to assist with Medicaid enrollment process. Broaden outreach to non-Catholic and inter-faith audiences. 	Julie Lewis, jlewis@catholiccharitiesok.org
Portland, Maine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand American Friends program to suburban communities, matching eight refugee families with trained volunteers. Conduct “In Their Shoes” refugee immersion workshops in eight parishes, raising awareness and increasing donations. Implement a <i>Train the Trainer</i> refugee workshop, in collaboration with the Parish Social Ministry program. 	Tarlan Ahmadov, tahmadov@CCMAINE.ORG
Portland, Oregon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand collaboration with Holy Trinity Ministry House project to offer temporary housing for refugees, adding wrap-around services. Coordinate with parishes on refugee outreach for special events and fundraising. Utilize Traveling Suitcase model to household donations. 	Michelle Welton MWelton@CatholicCharitiesOregon.org
Saint Augustine, FL (Project cycle: July 1, 2016-June30, 2017)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish two new parish-led refugee ministries, who will co-organize multicultural mass. Recruit four local Catholic schools to set up refugee student mentorship program. Recruit five parishioners to adopt refugee families. 	Michelle Karolak, mkarolak@ccejax.org Sara Male, smale@ccejax.org;
San Antonio, Texas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Match at least 15 refugee families with parish sponsors, who will help with airport pickups, housing set-up and cultural orientation. Set up designated point of contacts in each parish, who will be responsible for monthly visits and supplemental grocery shopping. Parish points of contact increase refugee awareness and battle anti-immigrant attitudes. 	Paula Walker, pwalker@ccaosa.org

New Refugee Integration Study

You may be interested in reviewing the study results of the groundbreaking [Refugee Integration and Evaluation Survey](#) (RISE) in Denver, Colorado. This 4-year research project with a sampling size of 467 adult refugees from four countries analyzed 10 different integration pathways, measuring integration within each pathway and assigning an individual integration score).

To pull out three “nuggets” from the study for you:

- *Language & Cultural Knowledge* and *Social Bridging* (i.e. social capital) were identified as the 2 pathways with the highest correlation to other integration pathways.
- *Employment and Economic Self-Sufficiency* is correlated with *Overall Integration* for many, **but not all refugees**.
- RISE data show that refugee men and women integrate at the same pace, but men start out higher than women do.

While the complete RISE report hasn’t been officially released, this presentation summarizes key findings of the study. Since the RISE study was made possible with funds of ORR’s Wilson-Fish program, we will stay tuned for more publications and presentations.

-The Editor

<http://qualityevaluationdesigns.com/published-reports/refugee-integration-survey-evaluation-rise%EF%BB%BF/>

Survey – Catholic Immigrant Integration Initiative

As a Catholic or other faith-based entity that serves and works with immigrants, we would like to invite you to participate in a [survey](#) on immigrant integration. The survey will take approximately 30 minutes to complete. Once completed you will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 Amazon gift card.

The Catholic Immigrant Integration Initiative, a research project of the Center for Migration Studies of New York (CMS), is trying to document best programs, ministries and practices within the Catholic and faith-based world on immigrant integration and to identify appropriate metrics for gauging the effectiveness of these programs. This survey – which is being distributed to diverse Catholic agencies, programs, and ministries – will play an important role in meeting these goals.

By “immigrant,” this initiative means the foreign-born, their progeny, and others from immigrant communities. By “integration,” it means the process of promoting immigrant well-being, empowerment and full participation in the broader society.

NOTE: This survey is intended for all Catholic agencies, programs, and ministries that serve or work with immigrants, with the exception of parishes and schools. CMS and its partner agencies will be sending out another survey for parishes and schools in the weeks ahead. For more information on the parishes and school survey or any other questions about the survey, contact Kyle Barron at 212-337-3080 x. 7010 or kbarron@cmsny.org

Organizations willing to participate in a follow-up phone interview will be contacted after the survey has been submitted. All information in this survey will be confidential. No participant will be identified without their permission.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/cmsimmigrantintegration>

Outreach

Steady Stream of Donations (Charlotte, North Carolina)

During this reporting period, I would like to highlight to news pieces: One of our local parishes which is a consistent supporter of our refugees, was honored by our agency with an [award](#). A [letter to the editor](#) supporting refugee resettlement.

Sandy Buck, skbuck@charlottediocese.org

Flurry of Volunteer Activities (Portland, Oregon)

During this period, [The Oregonian](#) highlighted the volunteer outreach efforts in Portland.

Michelle Welton, mwelton@catholiccharitiesoregon.org

POWR Provides 50 Percent Boost (Portland, Oregon)

In 2015, volunteers and interns submitted more than 3,500 hours to our program, which is 1,200 hours up from 2014. Some of this can be attributed to better tracking systems and overall program implementation, but there were also 48 volunteers who submitted some type of monthly hours in 2014 compared to 71 in 2015.

Michelle Welton, mwelton@catholiccharitiesoregon.org

Reaching Out to Arab Community (Orlando, Florida)

We met with three parishes in the southern deanery of the diocese about mentoring refugee families, St. Luke, Our Lady of Grace, and St. Joseph. We gave a presentation and tour to the Arab American Society to promote coordination of services and mentoring of refugee clients from Arabic speaking countries. We have connected with a parish in the northern deanery, St. Timothy's, who are currently promoting a supply drive. We have also done some outreach with a local hospital and made a presentation to the chaplains on the children's unit. They are interested in providing refugee families with health and hygiene baskets around Easter time. We are brainstorming about additional activities to involve children and families in understanding healthy habits and first aid.

Jennifer Powers, jennifer.powers@cflcc.org

Powerful Documentary Film (Salt Lake City, Utah)

“[Finding Home: Utah’s Refugee Story](#)” tells the powerful, touching, inspiring stories of refugees involved in the Utah resettlement program, and their daily struggle to adjust and belong in the American experience.

Raul Yumul, ryumul@ccsutah.org

Finding Home: Utah's Refugee Story



Finding Home: Utah's Refugee Story



Finding Home: Utah's Refugee Story



Finding Home: Utah's Refugee Story



Finding Home: Utah's Refugee Story



Finding Home: Utah's Refugee Story



Volunteering

Volunteers Create Welcoming Environment (Atlanta, Georgia)

In November, St. Joseph’s hosted a two-day furniture drive to help furnish apartments for arriving refugee clients. The furniture collected filled up a 26 foot Penske truck and was a great help in furnishing apartments through the end of the year. Blessed Trinity Catholic School also completed a furniture drive to furnish an apartment for a Burmese family and assisted agency staff in setting up the apartment. They created a beautiful and welcoming environment for the arriving family. Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School completed their annual holiday drive for household items. There were enough household items collected to fill up an entire storage unit and we estimate that this is enough household items to fill apartments for new arrivals through the end of March.

Kimberly Longshore, klongshore@catholiccharitiesatlanta.org

Mayor Adopts Refugees (Portland, Oregon)

In December, 20 newly arrived families were “adopted” for Christmas donations. These donations were not tracked as in-kind donations since gifts were given specifically to families. The Portland Mayor’s office adopted one of the families and employees from the Boeing Corporation adopted 13 families. A single donor also gave \$2,500 as a matching gift as we roll out a campaign to aid in the purchase of a box truck that will help us more efficiently set up apartment homes.

Michelle Welton, mwelton@catholiccharitiesoregon.org

Volunteers Participating in Cultural Orientation (Salt Lake City, Utah)

Parish Refugee Resettlement Ministry groups are now participating in the initial intake orientation on Mondays, following a refugee family’s arrival. This increases the volunteers’ involvement in R&P, while the in-depth cultural orientation comes from our CO coordinator. Learning more about refugee backgrounds enables volunteers to better help them in every aspect of their new life. The relationships the families develop with their volunteers are amazing.

Raul Yumul, ryumul@ccsutah.org

Graduate Students Chip In (Phoenix, Arizona)

Three Masters of Social Work students from Arizona State University participate on POWR activities.

Daniel Kelly, dkelly@cc-az.org

Pilot Project Succeeds (Baton Rouge, LA.)

Our Education Navigators have assisted sixteen children at the end of the fall term, which was the first term of this pilot program. We are pleased with the knowledge gained by the refugee parents. They now feel better equipped to ask teachers questions, help their children with homework. Overall, they begin to feel like they are part of a community.

Norma Palma npalma@ccdiobr.org

Donations

Crowdfunding Campaign Underway (Portland, Oregon)

Our agency is putting together a crowdfunding campaign to secure funding for the purchase of a box truck that will help with picking up donations and apartment set-up. Video planning and filming took place during this time with the campaign rolling out in January 2016. Presentations at parishes & churches saw some designated giving come in through the end of December 2015. Reports are not yet available from our Finance Department with final numbers.

Michelle Welton, mwelton@catholiccharitiesoregon.org

Steady Stream of Donations (Charlotte, North Carolina)

We continue to receive a steady stream of furniture and household item donations. In addition, Christmas gifts of coats and hats/gloves were provided by three parishes to 306 clients. Three local Knights of Columbus councils donated 20 children's coats and 75 toys, an anonymous donor provided 20 pairs of children's athletic shoes, and local students provided several boxes of Welcome Supplies (food, kitchen items, toiletries, etc.).

Sandy Buck, skbuck@charlottediocese.org

Innovative Refugee Enterprise Project

Eat Offbeat Brings Refugee Cooking to new Yorkers —And Jobs to Refugees

By Lucy Westcott, *Newsweek Magazine*

Feb. 19, 2016

Kahi and her brother, Wissam, began thinking about who in the U.S. could make hummus that tasted as good as their grandmother's. The siblings came up with an answer: Syrian refugees resettled in metropolitan New York. That's how [Eat Offbeat](#), a food delivery service based around dishes cooked by refugees, was born.

Launched in November, Eat Offbeat employs six women refugees from Syria, Iraq, Eritrea, Tibet and Nepal who have resettled in Queens, the Bronx and New Jersey to tweak their homespun recipes (with the help of a professional chef) for delivery and catering across New York City. The number of Syrian refugees who have been admitted to the U.S. so far this year—841—is tiny compared with the 2.6 million who have fled to Turkey and the more than 1 million who arrived in Lebanon since Syria's war broke out in 2011, according to data from the State Department and the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR).

<http://www.newsweek.com/eat-offbeat-refugee-kitchen-new-york-428165>

The Offbeat Chefs



EAT OFFBEAT



Discover authentic off-the-beaten path cuisines made by refugees, delivered to your door.

Our offbeat delivery system is the most rapid and efficient way to get authentic, prepared and delivered by refugees delivered to you.

A Parish Volunteer Kit



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 in an effort 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]

Update on Refugee Carpentry Workshop (Louisville, Kentucky)

On Dec. 3, 2015 we presented the project to the Fifth-Third Bank and were encouraged to submit our application for funding. We will produce four types of furniture at the carpentry workshop: dining sets, chests/dressers, sofas, and end/coffee tables. The designs for these items have already been completed. In an effort to limit injuries and liability, the shop will perform assembly only. The Millwork Company of Sellersburg, Indiana, will manufacture the parts for our clients to assemble. The company has already received specifications of the designs and is currently developing pricing for all four products. In addition, Millwork has committed to donate parts for 50 dining tables.

Christopher Martini, cmartini@archlou.org

Increasing Donations (Las Vegas, Nevada)

POWR continues to assist with increasing in-kind donations. During this holiday season, we partnered with St. Viator in providing Christmas gifts to refugee children. Parishioners donated more than 100 gifts consisting of toys and clothing. In addition to this, Christ the King conducted a gift card drive for our program. Church members collected 138 gift cards totaling \$2,800 in value. These gift cards included various restaurants, movies and stores. We also had a number of community members who "sponsored" a family this Christmas season. Gifts donated were valued close to \$5,000.

Carisa Lopez-Ramirez, cramirez@catholiccharities.com

Parishes in High Gear (Orlando, Florida)

MPB parish continues to provide funding through their care and outreach program, who selected us as one of their four focus organizations for the year. They have provided \$5,000 worth of material goods since September, particularly bedding, bed frames and kitchen tables. We participated in a parish school's Christmas outreach program, which provided 60 refugee children with new socks, underwear and pajamas. We received Christmas presents from a ladies bible study group for refugee children at our 4th Annual Breakfast with Santa party. Each child received at least one gift specifically chosen for them and delivered to them by Santa. Our local Knights of Columbus chapter has continued to support this effort by providing a homemade American-style breakfast and Santa. St. Isaac Jogues parish youth group provided crafts, volunteers, and caroling for the event. St. James parish confirmation classes provided us with thousands of dollars worth of cleaning supplies, and hygiene items. We were overwhelmed by the donation, as it will likely last us a fiscal year, and equates to a great deal of savings to our organization and ultimately the clients.

Jennifer Powers, jennifer.powers@cflcc.org

A Truck Full of Donations (Atlanta, Georgia)

Our Lady of the Assumption collected a truck full of brand new household items to furnish refugee apartments. St. Joseph's held a furniture drive that resulted in a truck full of furniture. Christ the King donated \$1,312 to support a refugee mother from Congo who needed surgery. The Emory University Student Life Center made our agency its annual holiday luncheon recipient organization. They raised \$401 to support clients and purchase household items.

Kimberly Longshore, klongshore@catholiccharitiesatlanta.org

Large Ministry Group Rocks (Phoenix, Arizona)

Notre Dame High School Refugee Ministry Group provided 100% of all basic needs support for a refugee family of four (couch, love seat, dinning table w/ chairs, three new beds, all the "Wal-Mart": hygiene, cleaning, towels, sheets, dishes, pots, pans, plus culturally appropriate food for the first week). This ministry group has quickly grown to 40 people, each taking on a different task: from providing basic needs support (cash or donations) to ESL and work readiness training. Cash & In-kind Value=\$2,000!

Daniel Kelly, dkelly@cc-az.org



Survey – What Makes a Welcoming Community?

Welcoming America is asking organizations and communities around the country to weigh in on what makes a welcoming community. We would like to hear from the refugee resettlement network. Please give us your [feedback](#).

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/wastandards>

Dr. Kamila Valenta: Welcoming Syrian refugees could make our country safer

Dec. 2, 2015



The recent refugee crisis in Europe, coupled with the terrorist attacks in Paris, Beirut and other cities around the world, has spurred a heated debate over our reaction to these events – mainly whether the United States should accept more refugees from Syria.

While Church leaders have repeatedly asserted our moral obligation to help refugee families in need, some politicians have warned of the potential danger of terrorist attacks on our soil if we are too generous in resettling Syrian refugees here. More than 30 governors have expressed unwillingness to accept refugees and members of Congress passed a resolution that would halt further acceptance of these people in the U.S.

As a consequence, many Christians are faced with the dilemma of supporting the intake of refugees out of our Christian generosity on the one hand, and supporting stricter limits to immigration out of our responsibility to protect the American population from terrorist violence on the other. However, this perceived dilemma is largely the result of misinformation and unfounded fears. There is reason to believe that accepting more Syrian refugees could actually make our country safer.

Evidence suggests that refugees are no threat to American citizens and do not increase the likelihood of a future terrorist attack. To be granted refugee status, a person must go through a screening process that involves the United Nations Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the FBI, the State Department, the Department of Homeland Security and other national intelligence agencies – each of which reviews candidates independently in a thorough screening process which takes 1-3 years, all while the refugee applicant remains outside the U.S.

This screening process has proven very effective. Since 2001, the U.S. has accepted approximately 800,000 refugees from around the world, and only three people have been charged with a connection to a terrorist group abroad (according to the Migration Policy Institute, Washington, D.C.). None of the persons admitted through the U.S. refugee screening process have actually committed or conspired to commit an act of terrorism on American soil. In addition, the Migration Policy Institute and the Pew Research Center both consistently show that refugees and other legal immigrants living here commit significantly fewer crimes than native-born Americans.

The vast majority of terrorists tend to be home-grown citizens from marginalized communities in their native countries. Those terrorists who were born outside the U.S. and committed crimes in our country usually traveled here on student or tourist visas – a much easier way for them to enter the U.S. than going through the very lengthy refugee screening process. Furthermore, in this globalized world, terrorist attacks tend to be organized from outside the target countries, and thus the terrorist masterminds have no need to ever cross American borders. They usually connect with radicalized citizens but not with refugees, who have their own horrific experiences with these groups from which they are trying to flee.

Accepting Syrian refugees will not only not increase the risk of a terrorist attack in our country, it will most likely help fight terrorism and defeat ISIS. It is the strategy of Islamic extremist groups such as ISIS to recruit as many Muslims as possible and to frame their conflict in terms of Islam versus the West. Rejecting refugees fleeing from war-torn countries just plays into their perverted narrative.

The best strategy for winning any war is to maximize the amount of allies and to minimize the number of enemies. By integrating peaceful and desperate Muslims into our societies, we would be doing exactly that, and at the same time isolating these terrorist organizations. By accepting them and integrating them into our society, we are giving them the chance to start new lives in peace and freedom, and they become less motivated to join terrorist groups out of fear and desperation.

Furthermore, to effectively fight the international threat of terrorism, America cannot stand alone. We desperately need to strengthen alliances with other countries. Our European partners are overwhelmed with the numbers of refugees and asylum seekers streaming into their countries, which has prompted serious security and humanitarian concerns. By welcoming our share of refugees, we will strengthen our international credibility and show our commitment to leading the global fight against terrorism. We cannot be a credible world partner, much less a leader, if we do not share in the effort to alleviate this crisis caused by the massive exodus of desperate people seeking safety from the violence of these extremist groups.

There are two very compelling reasons for welcoming them with open arms. First, it is our basic moral obligation to aid desperate people who are escaping violence in their homelands. As Christians, it should be easy for us to identify with the plight of the Syrian refugees, especially at this time of year when we commemorate the Holy Family fleeing to safety in Egypt. Second, accepting more Syrian refugees and providing them with a new future is the best and most effective political strategy to fight terrorism and make our country safer over the long run.

Dr. Kamila Valenta is a member of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte and a part-time professor at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte, where she teaches ethnic conflict.

POWR Post E-Newsletter Directory

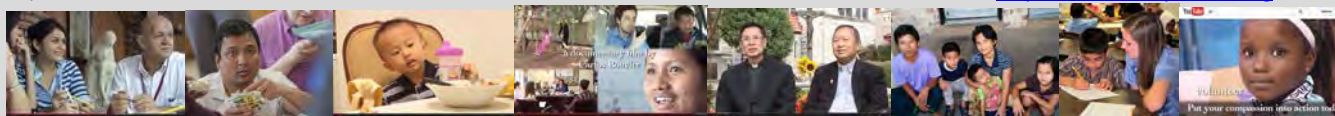
2015 POWR Funding Cycle

Vol. 6, Issue 1	January-February 2015	2015 Conference & Training Guide	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 6, Issue 2	March-April 2015	Visual Education Resources	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 6, Issue 3	May-June 2015	Resources for Helpers	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 6, Issue 4	July-August 2015	Volunteer Education Resources	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 6, Issue 5	September-October 2015	Refugee Screening Resources	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 6, Issue 6	November-December 2015	Best of 2015 Resource Guide	http://community.usccb.org



2014 POWR Funding Cycle

Issue	Month	Theme	Link
Vol. 5, Issue 1	January-February 2014	Volunteer Education	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 5, Issue 2	March-April 2014	Special Events Planning	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 5, Issue 3	May-June 2014	Recruiting Volunteers	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 5, Issue 4	July-August 2014	Raising Awareness	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 5, Issue 5	September-October 2014	Online Learning	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 5, Issue 6	November-December 2014	Best of 2014 Resource Guide	http://community.usccb.org



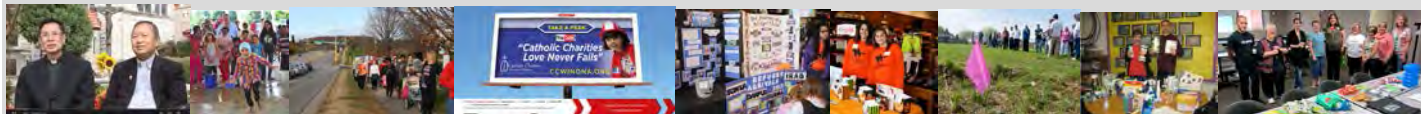
2013 POWR Funding Cycle

Issue	Month	Theme	Link
Vol. 4, Issue 1	January-February 2013	Volunteer Orientation	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 4, Issue 2	March-April 2013	Resource Development	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 4, Issue 3	May-June 2013	Employment Resources	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 4, Issue 4	July-August 2013	Refugee Employment Quiz	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 4, Issue 5	September-October 2013	Technical Assistance Providers	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 4, Issue 6	November-December 2013	Best of 2013 Resources	http://community.usccb.org



2012 POWR Funding Cycle

Issue	Month	Theme	Link
Vol. 3, Issue 1	January-February 2012	Best of 2011 Resource Guide	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 3, Issue 2	March-April 2012	Fundraising	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 3, Issue 3	May-June 2012	Parish Outreach & Communication	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 3, Issue 4	July-August 2012	English Literacy	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 3, Issue 5	September-October 2012	Best of POWR Resources 2012	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 3, Issue 6	November-December 2012	Best of POWR Resources 2012	http://community.usccb.org



2010-11 POWR Funding Cycle

Issue	Month	Theme	Link
Vol. 1, Issue 1	October 2010	Program Development Resources	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 1, Issue 2	November 2010	Volunteer Management Resources	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 1, Issue 3	December 2010	Marketing Your Success Stories	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 2, Issue 1	January 2011	Locating Funding Opportunities	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 2, Issue 2	February 2011	Writing Grant Proposals	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 2, Issue 3	March 2011	Employment Services	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 2, Issue 4	April 2011	Social Media	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 2, Issue 5	May 2011	Volunteer Guide Books	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 2, Issue 6	June 2011	N/A	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 2, Issue 7	July-August 2011	Events Planning	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 2, Issue 8	September-October 2011	Refugee Career Guide	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 2, Issue 9	November-December 2011	Best of 2011 Resource Guide	http://community.usccb.org

★ Best of POWR 2015 Resources ★

This issue presents a “Best-of 2015” 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 or access more POWR program materials, go to: <http://community.usccb.org> [Login: Your email; Password: migration1234]

1. Pope Francis on Refugees

“Our world is facing a refugee crisis of a magnitude not seen since the Second World War. [...] We must not be taken aback by their numbers, but rather view them as persons, seeing their faces and listening to their stories, trying to respond as best we can to their situation. To respond in a way which is always humane, just and fraternal. We need to avoid a common temptation nowadays: to discard whatever proves troublesome. Let us remember the Golden Rule: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you” (Mt 7:12).

Source: [Pope Francis, Speech to U.S. Congress, Sept. 24, 2015](#)



2. Volunteering Resources

Check out the myriad of volunteer education resources, which may be useful as you are revamping your own outreach materials and volunteer resources. All resources have been developed with the support of the USCCB/MRS Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugees (POWR) Program.

Source: [USCCB/MRS POWR Volunteering Network Developments](#)



3. Refugee Screening

“All refugees, including Syrians, are admitted only after successful completion of this stringent security screening regime, which includes all available biographic and biometric information vetted against a broad array of law enforcement and intelligence community databases to confirm identity and ensure safety.”

Amy Pope, Deputy Assistant to the President for Homeland Security

Producer: [White House](#)



4. Visual Education

Catholic Charities of Atlanta utilized POWR program funds to professionalize its outreach efforts with the production of a [video clip](#). Coupled with a Nissan Foundation Grant, Atlanta produced a Refugee Camp Immersion Project, and to film a short, informational video about refugees in Georgia. This simple yet moving film clip goes to show that visual advocacy for the refugee cause ought not to be costly. At the end of the film, viewers learn about different ways to get involved with the refugee program.

Source: [Catholic Charities of Atlanta](#)



5. ESL Guides

Caritas of Austin produced useful picture vocabulary guides for hotel housekeeping and entry level food services. The guides have been used with customized short term vocational training programs and target vocational ESL, employer relations and improved workplace communication. Hotel Housekeeping Guides: [Arabic](#); [Burmese](#); [Nepali](#); [Swahili](#); [Spanish](#)
Food Service Guides: [Arabic](#), [Burmese](#), [Spanish](#)



6. Workshops and Conferences

Consider reviewing conference calendars and workshop trainings that may be of relevance to resettlement workers and POWR program staff.

Source: [USCCB/MRS Events Calendar](#)

Source: [U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement Events Calendar](#)



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