

REFUGEE WORKS

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR REFUGEE EMPLOYMENT AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY

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E-NEWSLETTER

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“Refugees in the Workforce” Photo Contest Winners Selected!

Congratulations to Brian Bollinger of Atlanta's World Relief! He won first prize in the “Refugees in the Workforce” photo contest for a photograph he submitted from Your Dekalb Farmer's Market in Decatur, Georgia. Stay tuned for a special feature story (and photographs!) in the next newsletter about this unique business whose workforce is comprised of refugees from around the world. Interestingly, the winning photograph was taken by the company's resident photographer, a refugee from Ethiopia himself.

The winning photo will be the centerpiece for a poster celebrating refugee workers in the United States. Stay tuned for a chance to view the design and order prints for your agency and partners. In addition, Brian will receive a scholarship to attend an Employment Training Institute (ETI) of his choice. When told the news about his win, he said, “my main motivation for entering the contest was to try to help cover some of the costs for the Manchester ETI. So I am happy personally and also happy to help promote refugee employment in this way!” See you in Manchester, Brian!

A second congratulations is in order for Eric Bestrom, Employer Liaison at Hmong American Partnership in St. Paul, Minnesota. His photograph showing a highly-skilled glass blower of Hmong origin at Goldenflow Studios in Minneapolis earned the runner-up award. He too won a scholarship to attend either the Manchester Employment Training Institute or an ETI during the next fiscal year. In Eric's words, “I'm honored to have won this award. Thanks to my client, for learning how to do this interesting career; to Goldenflow Studios, for hiring and training him despite no previous US employment; and thanks to RefugeeWorks for publicizing the great contributions refugees are making in the American Workforce.”

A special thank you to everyone who submitted photos for the contest. It was a difficult decision to pick the top two photographs - there were so many great photos to choose from! Our review panel looked at both the artistic quality of the photograph as well as the social marketing potential of the shot. Those sent show the tremendous variety in occupations and people that make refugees such a vibrant part of the American workforce. We look forward to showcasing all of them in our publications and website soon.

The winning photos as well as several other entries will be showcased online (<http://www.refugeeworks.org>) and in our upcoming newsletter (September 2008).

CONTACT US

Please visit our web site at <http://www.refugeeworks.org>

RefugeeWorks is the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement's training and technical assistance arm for employment and self-sufficiency activities. Submit newsletter contributions to dsturm@refugeeworks.org

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