

# REFUGEE WORKS

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR REFUGEE EMPLOYMENT AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY

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### E-NEWSLETTER

July 2009 (Vol. 2, Issue 13)

#### CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: REINVENTING YOURSELF

A *Newsweek* magazine article recently described how Somali, Sudanese and other refugee entrepreneurs had given a fresh burst of energy to a dying Maine mill town. The story symbolized a pattern of immigrant success that was spanning the nation. Between 1990 and 2007, 45 percent of U.S. workforce's growth can be contributed to refugees, asylees and immigrants.

Refugees are reviving troubled economies, and they're reinventing themselves in the process. An Iraqi calligrapher accepts a university faculty position teaching Arabic language courses. Burmese refugees turn a vacant church lot into a thriving farm operation. Somali entrepreneurs launch small businesses that provide translation and in-home care services for the elderly. If you work with refugees, you probably know many similar examples.

The RefugeeWorks Newsletter invites submissions for a special theme issue on how refugees in the United States are re-making themselves through new employment, and often rebuilding communities in the process.

The submission deadline for this issue is Aug. 18, 2009 (500-1,000 words). The RefugeeWorks Newsletter has a subscriber base of 3,000 (job developers, case managers, and social service program managers). Contributing authors will receive their own byline.

Please send your submissions to Daniel Sturm at:  
dsturm@refugeeworks.org.

#### DOCUMENTARY FILM

"Home Across Lands" follows a small group of refugee Kunama as they begin their new lives in Rhode Island.

--> <http://www.homeacrosslands.org>

--> <http://www.eastbayri.com/detail/130267.html>

#### EDUCATION

The BRIDGE (Building Refugee and Immigrant Degrees for Graduate Education) Program for refugees and immigrants at Boston University's School of Social Work will soon be accepting applications. Applications will be accepted from Aug. 1 to Nov. 2 (thanks BRYCS for the hat-tip!)

--> <http://www.bu.edu/ssw/academic/bridge/index.shtml>

--> <http://www.bu.edu/ssw/academic/bridge/how/index.shtml>

#### FINDING JOBS IN HARD TIMES

Refugees and the Economic Crisis (IRC Fact Sheet, May 2009)

--> [http://www.theirc.org/resources/2009/irc\\_economiccrisis\\_onesheet.pdf](http://www.theirc.org/resources/2009/irc_economiccrisis_onesheet.pdf)

The Real Cost of Welcome. A Financial Analysis of Local Refugee Reception (Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, April 2009)

--> <http://tinyurl.com/n78oj4>

Traditional weaving ties Utah refugees to their culture. Karen women from Burma sell their handmade wares at Pioneer Craft House (The Salt Lake Tribune, July 26, 2009)

--> [http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci\\_12914929](http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci_12914929)

## **GREEN JOBS**

Moving from Red to Green: Working Women in the Green Economy (Business and Professional Women's Foundation, July 2009)

--> <http://tinyurl.com/m574e5>

## **HEALTHCARE CAREERS**

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Institute of Medicine Launch Unprecedented Initiative on the Future of Nursing in America (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, July 14, 2009)

--> <http://www.rwjf.org/newsroom/product.jsp?id=45714>

## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

Office Depot offers grants to non-profit or civic organizations that serve the needs of communities, particularly those of children and families. While grants range from a minimum of \$50 to a maximum of \$10,000, Office Depot most often awards grants of around \$1,000. The deadline is ongoing.

--> <http://www.officedepotfoundation.org/funding.asp>

## **NEW POPULATIONS**

Bhutanese refugees find help in Houston (The Houston Chronicle, July 22, 2009)

--> <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/breaking/6542653.html>

Burmese refugees find home in Buffalo. Oppressed at home, refugees chase the American dream on city's West Side (The Buffalo News, July 26, 2009)

--> <http://www.buffalonews.com/home/story/744722.html?imw=Y>

The IRC's Refugee Quiz (The International Rescue Committee, July 2009)

--> <http://www.theirc.org/help/quiz.html>

The Iraqi Displaced (Associated Press Multimedia Site)

--> <http://tinyurl.com/aackpl>

## **LEGAL ISSUES**

Employment Lawyers Voice Skepticism About Biometric Verification (The National Law Journal, July 28, 2009)

--> <http://tinyurl.com/nwhhyr>

Employment Verification Webinar (Migration Policy Institute - July 30, 2009 at 2 p.m. EST)

--> <http://tinyurl.com/lwxw8o>

The Next Generation of E-Verify. Getting Employment Verification Right (Migration Policy Institute, July 2009)

--> [http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/Verification\\_paper-071709.pdf](http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/Verification_paper-071709.pdf)

Immigration Law Firm Charged with Visa Fraud (ABA Journal Law News Now, July 29, 2009)

--> <http://tinyurl.com/mnsqms>

Who Is Affected by a Higher Minimum Wage? (The New York Times, July 24, 2009)

--> <http://tinyurl.com/m5t94w>

## **PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS**

Previous e-newsletters are now available for download from our website. The archive can be found in the section "RefugeeWorks E-Newsletter," at:

--> <http://www.refugeeworks.org/about/publications.html>

## **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](mailto:dsturm@refugeeworks.org)

Would you like to hear about new RefugeeWorks resources and Web site feature each month by email? To sign up for the RefugeeWorks E-Newsletter, visit our subscription page at:  
--> <http://lists.lirs.org/mailman/listinfo/refugeeworks>

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