

# REFUGEE WORKS

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR REFUGEE EMPLOYMENT AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY

**REFUGEE WORKS  
E-NEWSLETTER  
February 2008 (Vol. 1, Issue 1)**

RefugeeWorks is the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement's training and technical assistance arm for employment and self-sufficiency activities. We assist states, counties, voluntary agencies, mutual aid associations, employment service providers, workforce development boards, employers and policymakers in their efforts to help refugees achieve self-sufficiency.

RefugeeWorks is pleased to announce the publication of its first electronic newsletter. This occasional E-Newsletter (monthly or bi-monthly) is devised to bring refugee employment issues to your attention in a timely manner. Do you have news items, stories or pictures that relate to refugees in the workplace? If you'd like to submit them for publication in an upcoming newsletter, contact Daniel at [dsturm@refugeeworks.org](mailto:dsturm@refugeeworks.org)

This month, RefugeeWorks is celebrating the one-year anniversary of its online resource portal, [www.refugeeworks.org](http://www.refugeeworks.org). The website offers a wealth of research materials, downloadable publications and best practices and training materials for service providers, employers and clients.

Would you like to learn more about supporting refugees with disabilities? Are you interested in career pathways for refugees with professional certifications? Check out our recently expanded online resource center. Find new strategies, helpful tools and promising practices specifically for front-line employment services staff.

Check out the new materials in the sections For Service Providers & For Employers!

--> [http://www.refugeeworks.org/service\\_providers/](http://www.refugeeworks.org/service_providers/)

--> <http://www.refugeeworks.org/employers/>

Unsubscribe or manage your RefugeeWorks E-Newsletter subscription at:

--> <http://lists.lirs.org/mailman/listinfo/refugeeworks>

To post to this list, send your email to:

--> [refugeeworks@lists.icn.net](mailto:refugeeworks@lists.icn.net)

with regards,

~Daniel Sturm, Jonathan Lucus, Rebecca Armstrong

The RefugeeWorks Consultant Team

## **RESEARCH QUESTION OF THE MONTH**

Does your agency have a partnership with CVS stores? If so, we'd like to hear from you. Drop us a line to give your feedback on refugee service providers' employer relations. Thanks!

## **CURRENT RESEARCH**

We've opened a short online survey that explores Iraqi refugee employment options. The results will be shared during this year's RefugeeWorks Employment Training Institutes. Your participation in this 15-minute survey will help to improve employment services in the national network for this incoming refugee population. The participation of more employment specialists will improve our findings. Please complete this survey by February 15, 2008 and share it with colleagues.

Survey link:

--> <http://tinyurl.com/36v53l>

## **EMPLOYMENT TRAINING INSTITUTES**

RefugeeWorks trainings are specifically tailored for front-line employment staff from refugee resettlement and mutual assistance agencies. Each of our two-day trainings will highlight a special topic and cover a range of themes (such as vocational training, new populations, financial literacy and career upgrading.)

--> <http://refugeeworks.org/about/training.html>

### **Los Angeles, California**

Focus: Transportation, Housing & Jobs

March 4-5, 2008:

Host: Refugee Forum of Los Angeles County

Although 3/4 of low-income residents live in city centers, 75 percent of employment in the United States today is located in the surrounding suburbs. Attend this training and take back home with you solutions and practical ideas that will help bring your clients to their workplaces.

### **Fort Worth, Texas**

Focus: Engaging Employers

April 15-16, 2008

Host: Catholic Charities of Fort Worth

Since 1980 refugee service providers have amassed a wealth of knowledge on how to entice employers to hire refugees. Over the course of this two-day workshop, we will explore some of the tactics that have worked best, and will brainstorm solutions for the future. Come and participate in exciting expert panels and discuss best job development practices with employers, refugees, employment specialists and scholars.

### **Indianapolis, Indiana**

Focus: Recertification & New Populations

June 17-18, 2008

Host: Exodus Refugee and Immigration, Inc

Recertification allows refugees with university degrees and professional training to remain in their chosen career fields. And job upgrading can lift refugees out of entry-level employment and increase their income level and self-sufficiency. In this training, you will hear success stories from refugees who have reclaimed their careers or built new ones and meet recertification specialists. You will also learn more about new refugee populations and hear about RefugeeWorks' Iraqi Refugee Employment Survey findings.

### **Manchester, New Hampshire**

Focus: Employment Strategies from A-Z

August 19-20, 2008

Host: International Institute of New Hampshire

This workshop is designed to bring experienced refugee employment professionals together with newcomers in the field, enabling both sides to learn from each other. Attend this training and learn the essential skills of an effective workforce development specialist. Seasoned professionals will be encouraged to share their secrets of success with new colleagues from across the country. Topics will include marketing, career upgrading, employment obstacles and more.

To register for an upcoming institute, download a registration form, at:  
--> <http://www.refugeeworks.org/downloads/ETIRegistration2008.pdf>

**REFUGEEWORKS WINTER 2007 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER IS OUT!**  
**Issue #23: Tackling Transportation**

**Table of Content:**

- \* Tackling Transportation, Editorial
- \* The Point Is to Join Up -- An Interview with Carolyn Jeskey, Community Transportation Association of America
- \* Establishing a Reverse Commuter Express Line in Kentucky
- \* Collaborating With Employers
- \* Maryland Refugees Gain Special Access at the MVA
- \* Bicycles Can Bridge the Gap
- \* The Commercial Driver's License: A Career and Chance to See the Country

--> <http://www.refugeeworks.org/transportation.html>

Please contact us to order a free subscription.

**BOOKS AND REPORTS:**

\* Recertification Fact Sheets (Office for Refugee Resettlement, December 2007)  
Three new fact sheets on re-licensing of refugee professionals are now available.

--> <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/resources>

\* E-Verify: Case Resolution (USCIS, 12/2007)

--> <http://www.immigration.com/newsletter1/everifyuscis.pdf>

\* E-Verify Factsheet, "Not a Magic Bullet" (National Immigration Law Center, 09/2007)  
National Immigration Law Center

--> <http://tinyurl.com/3ys3lj>

\* Raising Children in a New Country. An Illustrated Handbook (Bridging Refugee Youth and Children's Services, 2007)

--> <http://www.brycs.org/documents/RaisingChildren-Handbook.pdf>

\* Living in Religious Time and Space: Iraqi Refugees in Dearborn, Michigan (Journal for Refugee Studies, 2007)

--> <http://jrs.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/abstract/20/3/441>

**NEWCOMERS IN THE NEWS:**

\* First Iraqi war refugees heading for NH this week

The New Hampshire Union Leader, Jan. 27, 2008

--> <http://tinyurl.com/27hnmc>

\* Leaders discuss turning ex-store into service hub  
The News-Sentinel, Dec. 29, 2007 (Indiana)  
--> <http://tinyurl.com/35kzuv>

\* Iraqi Refugees Reach City  
The New Haven Independent, Nov. 19, 2007  
--> <http://tinyurl.com/373klf>

\* Iraqi family fleeing war finds refuge in Lakewood  
Cleveland Plain Dealer, Oct. 18, 2007  
--> <http://tinyurl.com/yput4z>

\* Towns Rethink Laws Against Illegal Immigrants  
The New York Times, Sept. 26, 2007  
--> <http://tinyurl.com/2tekua>

\* A kind of homecoming  
YES Weekly, Greensboro, Sept. 18, 2007 (North Carolina)  
--> <http://tinyurl.com/3dzykz>

\* Bourbon, Baseball Bats And Now the Bantu. Louisville, Ky., Welcomes Immigrants to  
Bolster Its Shrinking Work Force  
Wall Street Journal, Sept. 18, 2007  
--> <http://tinyurl.com/2us4gp>

## **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 your subscription page at:  
<http://lists.lirs.org/mailman/listinfo/refugeeworks>

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[refugeeworks@lists.icn.net](mailto:refugeeworks@lists.icn.net)

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