

REFUGEE WORKS

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR REFUGEE EMPLOYMENT AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY

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E-NEWSLETTER

March 2008 (Vol. 1, Issue 3)

REFUGEE WORKS ADVISORY BOARD 2008

We're pleased to announce the selection of the new members for the 2008 RefugeeWorks Advisory Board.

ADVISORY BOARD

- * Chris Cavanaugh, Sub-Office Director, Lutheran Social Services of Michigan, Grand Rapids, Michigan
- * Alfredo Fuentes, Job Counselor, Catholic Family Center Staffing Solutions, Rochester, NY
- * Susan Gundlach, Director for Community Integration, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, Baltimore, MD
- * Spogmai Hashmi, Job Specialist Supervisor, International Institute of St. Louis, St. Louis, MO
- * Alejandra Holway-Behrends, Employment Services Coordinator, Integrated Refugee & Immigration Services, New Haven, CT
- * Ryan Hite, Employment Services, Catholic Charities-MRS, Louisville, KY
- * Dan Imbody, Job Developer, World Relief, Wheaton, IL
- * Faith Lamb, Program Coordinator, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Ft. Worth, Inc. Immigration & Refugee Services, Fort Worth, TX
- * Zarifa Rasool, Career Specialist, KentuckianaWorks One Stop Career Center, Louisville, KY
- * Zach Tennant, Employment Specialist, Exodus Refugee & Immigration, Inc., Indianapolis, Indiana

GOVERNMENT LIAISON

- * Laura Barker, Contract Program Analyst, Office of Refugee Resettlement, Washington, DC
- * Laura Garcia, Sr. Functional Analyst/Contractor, HHS/Office of Refugee Resettlement, DOL/Employment & Training Administration, Washington, DC
- * Miki Kim, Program Analyst, HHS/Office of Refugee Resettlement, DOL/Employment & Training Administration, Washington, DC

PRINT NEWSLETTER

RefugeeWorks publishes a quarterly newsletter in print. The first issue of 2008 is out. Contact us for a free subscription! (dsturm@refugeeworks.org)

Issue #24: Iraqi Refugees in Focus

--> http://www.refugeeworks.org/downloads/rwnews_24.pdf

Table of Contents:

- * A Difficult Adjustment: Iraqi Refugees in Detroit, Field Report
- Language
- Financial situation
- Transportation
- Recertification
- Peer Networks
- Establishing a Career Counseling Pilot Project
- * Iraqi Refugee Employment Survey
- * Consultant's Corner: Jonathan Lucas

Please contact us to order a free subscription.

CURRENT RESEARCH

* Questions from part one of the RefugeeWorks Iraqi refugee employment survey were published in the issue #24 of the Employment Quarterly. Please share the survey with colleagues and send it in by July 15, 2008, if you haven't already done so. We're curious to hear how your Iraqi clients are adjusting.

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

* We are researching best practices on the issue of re-certification. Sign up for one of our upcoming workshops in Texas, Indiana and New Hampshire to join the discussion on "reclaiming careers." Also, check out ORR's new fact sheets on re-licensing refugee professionals, at:

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

RESEARCH QUESTION OF THE MONTH

More than 20 states currently have pending legislation that would make Basic Pilot/E-Verify mandatory for some or all employers. Have any of your clients had problems with this new system? If so, we'd like to hear from you. Thanks!

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

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>

*** 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>

BOOKS, REPORTS & OTHER RESOURCES

IRAQI REFUGEE RESOURCES

* Assessment on Psychosocial Needs of Iraqis Displaced in Jordan and Lebanon (International Organization for Migration, 2008)

--> <http://tinyurl.com/2kk6n8>

* Iraqi refugee population Curriculum for Service Providers 2008 (The Center for Victims of Torture, 2008)

--> <http://tinyurl.com/37oua5>

* Farah, an Iraqi Mother (BRYCS Parenting Conversations, 2008)

--> http://www.brycs.org/IraqiMother_Interview.htm

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

* 2008 Earned Income Credit Kit in 19 languages (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 2008)

--> <http://www.cbpp.org/eic2008/>

* Pursuit of the Dream: Cars & Jobs in America (Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2008)

--> <http://tinyurl.com/2baxez>

* Can Escaping from Poor Neighborhoods Increase Employment and Earnings? Urban Institute, 2008)

--> http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411640_employment_earning.pdf

LEGAL ISSUES

* DHS Basic Pilot /E-Verify Program, Basic Information Brief (National Immigration Law Center, 2008)

--> <http://tinyurl.com/2n899s>

* Compliance Issues Put Recruiters on the Hot Seat (Workforce management, February 2008)

--> <http://www.workforce.com/section/06/feature/25/36/79/>

* I Can End Deportation (ICED) Video Game (Breakthrough - USA/India, 2008)

Designed to spark dialogue and create awareness of unfair U.S. immigration policies, ICED teaches players about current immigration laws on detention and deportation that affect legal permanent residents, asylum seekers, students and undocumented people.

--> <http://icedgame.com>

INDUSTRY & WORKFORCE TRENDS

* Inside Workforce3 One: Innovations for the Health Care Industry (U.S. Department of Labor & US Department of Education)

--> <http://www.careervoyages.gov/healthcare-main.cfm>

* Manpower Employment Outlook Survey (Manpower USA, 2008)

--> <http://tinyurl.com/35bjre>

* Refugee Resettlement in Metropolitan America (Brookings Institute, 2007)

--> <http://tinyurl.com/2n74ml>

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

Would you like to hear about new RefugeeWorks resources and Web site features each month? To sign up for the RefugeeWorks E-Newsletter, visit our subscription page at:

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

To post to this listserv, send your email to:

--> refugeeworks@lists.icn.net

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700 Light Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21230

Phone 410/230-2758

Fax: 410/230-2859

The National Center for Refugee Employment & Self-Sufficiency

A Program of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

Email: dsturm@refugeeworks.org

Visit: <http://www.refugeeworks.org>

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