



“I am very thankful. Without the help of Catholic Charities I would not be able to get a job.”

- Peter, Refugee from Burma



Refugee & Immigration Services
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catholiccharitiesks.org

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REFUGEE
EMPLOYMENT
SERVICES



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Imagine being forced to flee your country due to fear of being tormented or even killed for who you are and what you believe. You must leave the place you call home, the family and friends that you love, your job and familiar surroundings. This is the story for the nearly 400 refugees who are resettled by Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas each year.

WHO IS A REFUGEE?

A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. Most likely, they cannot return home or are afraid to do so. War and ethnic, tribal and religious violence are leading causes of refugees fleeing their countries.

WHERE DO REFUGEES WE SERVE COME FROM?



Catholic Charities is the largest of five resettlement sites throughout the state, and the only one in Johnson and Wyandotte counties. It is a “U.S. tie site” meaning that refugees are united with family members or friends who are already settled in the area and can provide some assistance. The majority

of refugees that we serve flee from Burma, located in Southeast Asia. Ethnic groups represented include Chin, Karen and the Karenni. Other refugees travel from Bhutan, Iraq, Somalia, Congo, Eritrea and Iran.



ACHIEVING SELF-SUFFICIENCY THROUGH EMPLOYMENT

Our Refugee & Immigration Services program is committed to helping resettled refugees rebuild their lives. Securing a job is an important piece of that. Refugees possess a wide variety of professional, technical and labor skills, as well as solid work experiences. Most of all, they are eager to work. They want to regain financial stability for their families.

Refugees are permitted into the country by the U.S. government. They are issued a valid Social Security Number and are fully authorized to work upon arrival. They may apply for citizenship within five years.

During the resettlement process, our Employment team provides free services to help refugees with the skills and support they need to successfully obtain their first U.S. job. Services include:

- Job search coaching and employment counseling
- Resume building assistance
- Employer/employee connections
- Job readiness courses
- Interview guidance
- Interpretation (when needed)

Employers needing to staff positions also receive free services including:

- Pre-screened applicants with skills matched to job openings
- Qualified candidates referred directly to the business
- Interpretation services provided during training and orientation
- Vocational skills assessment
- Mediation between employers and employees
- On-site assistance with employees to review and complete paperwork
- Post-employment follow-up and support

Employers who hire refugees may qualify for work opportunity tax credits for each new hire who receives public assistance.

JOB DAY PROGRAM

Refugees resettled through Catholic Charities may enroll in our Job Day course. The curriculum offers topics designed to prepare students for a typical workplace culture. A key element of Job Readiness learning is the inclusion of job-related English instruction that involves an overview of fundamental vocabulary and phrases. This reinforces confidence in learning and using English words that are applicable to everyday life. Businesses may also participate in the Job Day Program by presenting information about open positions. In addition, students have the opportunity to build their resume by participating in volunteer activities. These activities are aimed at learning job skills, building references and becoming engaged in their community.