

ROCHESTER REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT SERVICES

quarterly newsletter



EXPLORE WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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HELLO FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

Written by Daniel Howard

This is the second edition of our quarterly newsletter, keeping you all up to date with the goals and accomplishments that we have completed and achieved since our last newsletter. We hope you enjoy what we have been doing in the community as well!

We have been serving New Americans in Rochester since 2010- this term includes refugees, asylum seekers, asylees, immigrants, and "no one left behind" (natives who have served our military in their home countries).

This newsletter highlights a few of our latest projects, the progress that we have made with our newly accepted asylum seekers, how ARSEO has been able to function virtually, and one of our biggest fundraisers of the year-ROC the Day! For more information about who we are and the members of our team, visit our website:



Pictured below is Sister Edna Cole, CEO Mike Coniff, and Mike Miller. Sister Edna was presented with a plaque to show our appreciation to her for the countless hours she has dedicated to tutoring our New Americans.



We also want to congratulate Bruno who is the first person in our Asylum program to get his drivers license!

Asylum Program

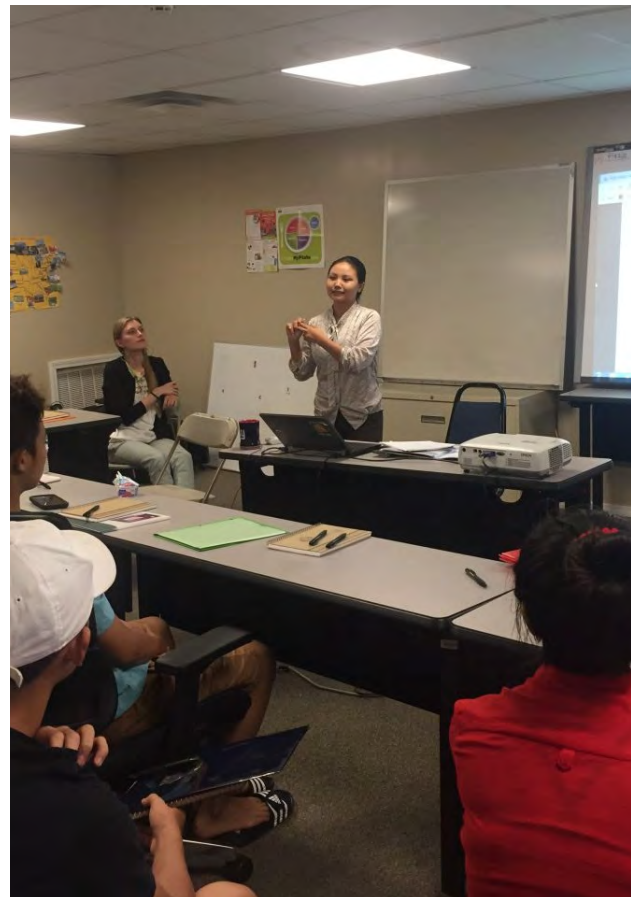
As compared to a refugee, an asylum seeker is someone who claims to be a refugee but whose claim has not been evaluated by the government. All of our asylum seekers are those who have been paroled from detention centers and have come to Rochester, where we will support them in all steps of their journey. Since our last issue, we have welcomed two new asylees from Yemen and Cameroon. We have helped them to get their arrival cards, apply for employment authorization, and give them a secure and safe place to live. Despite COVID-19, our asylum program is growing everyday. We receive more and more letters each day from people who have been detained across the country and are seeking legal and lawful residency.

We hope to be able to continue expanding our asylum program.

For more information or to see how you can assist our asylum seekers, contact Daniel Howard at daniel.howardrrrs@gmail.com

ARSEO

We are very excited to share the news of ARSEO. The ARSEO program was created the summer of 2019. During the 2019-2020 school year, we assisted 14 seniors, all of whom were accepted by local colleges: Rochester Institute of Technology, St. John Fisher College, Nazareth College, SUNY Brockport, and Monroe Community College. We continually assist them with anything they need to succeed in their academics. Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we are continuing the program this school year. The program is running in an online virtual format that matches students with a peer mentor electronically. We match students and peer mentors based on career interests and scheduling availability. As of now, we have 16 students (both juniors and seniors) and we continue to assist two recent graduates to enroll in college for Spring, 2021. We have 22 peer mentors from Princeton University, Notre Dame University, the University of Rochester, Rochester Institute of Technology, Nazareth College, and SUNY Geneseo. Our advisory board includes professors from Nazareth College, St. John Fisher College, and SUNY Brockport. We always count on this success!!!



HOUSING PROJECTS



GRANTS

It's been a difficult year, however, we continue our mission to provide safe housing to our new American neighbors. This year, Rochester Refugee Resettlement Services received 7 lead grants from the City of Rochester for 5 RRRS properties, totaling 6 units, and 2 lead grants for two properties RRRS manages which total 3 units. The 9 refugee families who live in these units come from Myanmar, Burundi, Somalia and Congo. The grant abated the units of lead by replacing the wood windows and replacing them with vinyl windows. The health and safety part of the grant also rebuilt three porches and sided a garage.

We would like to thank the City of Rochester for their continue support of our mission.

We have also been granted an energy grant to insulate the driving park hotel we rehabbed last summer as well as upgrade the HVAC system. This project is scheduled to start in early November.

ROCHESTER REFUGEE SEWING AND REPAIR



ITS HOLIDAY SEASON AT ROCHESTER REFUGEE SEWING AND REPAIR!

Rochester Refugee Sewing and Repair continues to grow, with three full-time employees as of Fall 2020. Our goals continue to be supportive; offering quality jobs for New Americans resettled in our community.

We hit a major milestone on the way towards that goal: our first full-time employee was able to buy his first car in the United States!

If you'd like to continue to support our efforts, please come visit us at the Public Market Holiday Market on Sundays from 8am-2pm starting November 29th. We will have ornaments, holiday masks, and many more great presents for you and your family.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit our website at <https://rochesterrefugee.org/shop> or contact Mike Kelly at mamdlwk@gmail.com

FALL 2020

ROC THE DAY

ROC

DECEMBER 1

THE • DAY

powered by United Way of Greater Rochester

10

YEAR
ANNIVERSARY

Your donation will go directly to us! Donate here:

<https://roctheday.org/RochesterRefugeeResettlementServices>

Our organization cannot exist without community support. Through the several years that we have existed we have seen generosity and compassionate support that has been amazing. It speaks to the nature of our Rochester community: welcoming, supportive, interested and open arms. Please join the hundreds of others who have helped keep this mission going.

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have hosted angels unawares."

HEBREWS 13:2

WE APPRECIATE THOSE WHO HELP US

During this pandemic, RRRS like many organizations have faced challenges and we are very grateful for those who have helped us keep moving through this time.

- The Devany Fund – supporting our high school to college program
- The ESL Foundation for supporting our high school to college program
- The Princeton Club of Rochester Summer Internship – supporting summer intern Katie Kopp who got our asylum program off the ground
- The Farash Foundation for supporting operations especially the Refugee sewing program
- The ESL Foundation for supporting our housing rehab
- Ongoing support from the City of Rochester and Action for a Better Community for contract programs
- The Greater Rochester Health Foundation for supporting the Deaf Refugee Advocacy program
- Sussman Family Fund at Rochester Area Community Foundation for supporting our asylum program



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Volunteer

We welcome:

- One-time or continuous involvement in any of our various programs
- High school and college interns
- individuals and groups for one-day painting and housing projects
- Churches who may want to sponsor a family by helping them adjust to life in Rochester
- and more!

Ways you can volunteer:

- Training drivers - if you taught your kids to drive, you can help teach our New Americans
- Volunteer with our Deaf Refugee Advocacy program - help with literacy classes, paperwork assistance, and social and cultural events.
- College-aged volunteers can be peer mentors for our ARSEO refugee high school student program
- Assist our staff as they upgrade, rehab, and maintain our housing.
- Volunteer as an English language tutor
- Medical professionals can volunteer to provide mentorship and support to New American healthcare workers.
- And more!

<https://www.rochesterrefugeeservices.org/volunteer/>

Donate

Right click this [link](#) to donate money directly to our organization.

Donations of working appliances (stove, refrigerators, washers, dryers, etc.) and cash help us equip our houses so the our New American families can function successfully in our community. Donations of operational computers (both laptops and PCs) with at least 5G memory help our adult computer training program and go to refugees and asylum seekers in need.

Buy from Rochester Refugee Sewing & Repair and/or share the link to buy rugs, masks, or shop the holiday collection!

<https://rochesterrefugee.org/shop>