

ROCHESTER REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT SERVICES

Quarterly Newsletter



"If you're a refugee, Rochester is a good place to come and settle in the United States, but when it comes time for you to become self-sufficient, it's hard."

Rochester is a welcoming home to New American arrivals. However, acclimating and learning your own way can be a challenge here, as Djifa states. This is where **Rochester Refugee Resettlement Services** steps in. We fulfill our mission statement by putting focus on enhancing that self-sufficiency, all the while providing stable and affordable housing. It's this holistic focus on assistance that can overcome the intense challenge of gaining self-sufficiency in a new country and a new culture.

Healthy Home

All of the material that Ngo Hna created for Healthy Home is finished and ready to be used and distributed! This includes the Healthy Home book (download [here](#)) as well as the journal, coloring book, and two-part video series (watch [here](#)), all available in English, Somali, Swahili, Karen, Burmese, and Spanish.



Now England Abdi, our new Healthy Home Coordinator, will be implementing the material, teaching workshops on how to keep your family safe and healthy inside the home.

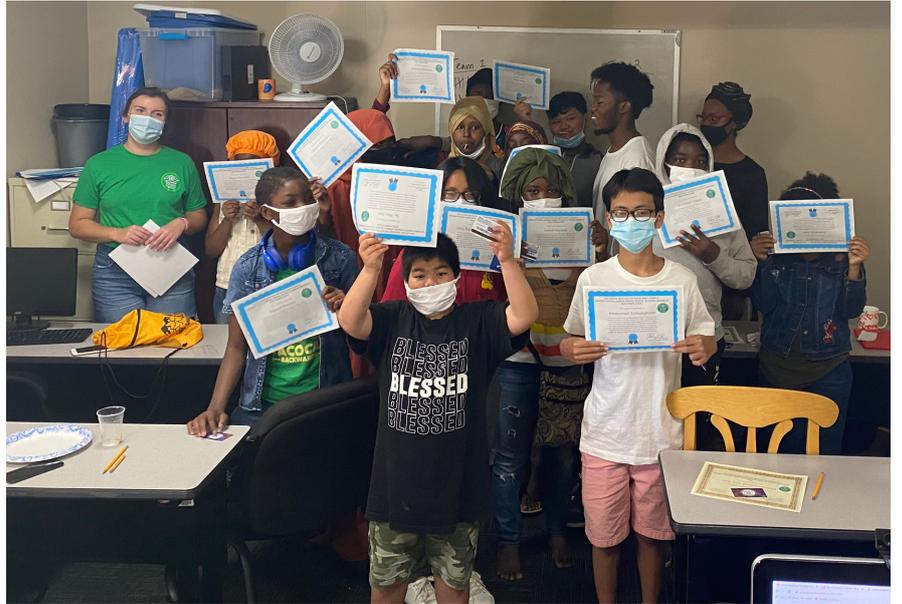
"I am honored to be working with diverse communities as Healthy Home Coordinator at RRRS. I believe the families and I can make progress in the next few months by working together as a unit. Henry Ford once said, 'coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.'"



ARSEO

The ARSEO Summer Middle School Program was a big hit! We want to thank everyone involved. The students loved the program and want it to come back bigger and better next year. We hope to run it for a 2-month duration next time, as opposed to 5 weeks, and have more guests, more field trips, and more educational support.

"We enjoyed embracing each student's strengths and gifts, and making memorable summer moments together."
- Grace Ridley, ARSEO coordinator



Partnerships

Bishop Kearney High School has hosted a number of students from the local refugee community. The school holds regular yard sales, and this year we've sent teams over to help twice. In June, our AmeriCorps NCCC crew assisted BK, and currently we have asylum seekers helping them, glad to have some community volunteering to do.



Keeping Our Promise is the Rochester organization that assists Special Immigration Visa holders from Afghanistan and Iraq, people who helped America and just want a chance at a stable life here. The organization is always short on housing, so we've been taking in their people where we can, and we're happy to help grow this ongoing collaboration.

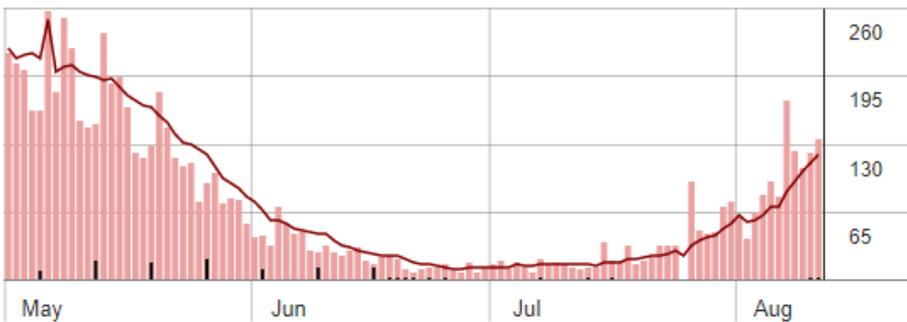
Farewell!



We're wishing our employees Daniel Howard and Ngo Hna the best as they further their educations. Ngo Hna is going for a PhD in higher education at the University of Buffalo, and Daniel is going for his J.D. at Case Western Reserve University.

Our CEO, Mike Coniff presented them with Angels Unawares statues (pictured left) before they set off.

COVID-19 Update



Confirmed Cases in Monroe County: **71,041**
Deaths in Monroe County: **1,264**

Here at RRRS, we serve a vulnerable population, and school is fast approaching. With COVID-19 surging again in the area, especially due to the delta variant, we ask everyone to please stay safe, get vaccinated if you can, and wear a mask. We're all in this together, and we can succeed together. Thank you.

We look forward to cooler days ahead and moving into the fall. Our Holistic Homes program is growing to encompass a complete package of assistance for those we house. As students go back to school, ARSEO will be there to support them with mentorship. We'll have English lessons, financial literacy, and first-time homebuyer assistance beginning in our office. We always offer job assistance, and our employment partner list is growing. We're engaged with the Somali community, doing what we can to help them grow, unite, and thrive. Beyond all that, we plan to have a 10-year anniversary party in the fall for RRRS. Stay tuned, and we hope to see you all soon! Thank you to everyone for all your support. It has been a true boon to our organization.

Our organization cannot exist without community support. Through the 10+ years that we have existed, we have seen amazing generosity and compassionate support. It speaks to the nature of our Rochester community: welcoming, supportive, interested, and with 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

Like many organizations during this pandemic, RRRS has faced challenges. We are very grateful for those who have helped us keep moving through this difficult time.

- The Devany Fund – supporting our high school to college program
- The ESL Foundation for supporting our high school to college program and our housing rehabs
- The Farash Foundation for supporting operations especially the Refugee sewing program
- 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
- The Wilson Foundation for supporting our Asylum Program
- Stella Matutina for supporting our Asylum Program
- Spiritus Christi
- Duane and Ida Miller for their continued support
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church for their donation in memory of a refugee member of their church.

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!

Donate

Click on the button below 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 5GB memory help our adult computer training program and go to refugees and asylum seekers in need.

We thank you all for your continued support.
Nothing we do is possible without support from the community.