



Spring 2013

A Publication of The Episcopal Refugee Network of San Diego

A Different Sandwich Generation

Americans often see themselves as a “sandwich generation”, with responsibilities for both their parents and their children. For refugees in America, this responsibility is often even more multifaceted and comes especially early.



What do you do, when you become discouraged by the depression that consumes your father; the way that both the training your mother and brother received did not lead to jobs; and the constant badgering by a local gang eager to initiate you and your siblings? What do you do when you get better grades than your father, at Community College? Do you drop out to avoid causing him embarrassment, and undermining his authority? What do you do when you turn 18 and have to leave high school and get a job to help the family, without needed training? What do you do if your mother is so traumatized by life in America that she must go back to her country of origin, leaving you with several siblings to provide for?

In addition, your culture dictates that you owe a special duty to relatives if you have a job. An uncle's funeral must be paid for. A parent needs medical treatment or prescriptions. A clan

member is in jail in another country and needs you there to prove his innocence. Or you now have qualifications needed to help your country of birth develop, but your family needs your salary to survive here.

These situations have all been experienced by refugees served by the Network. This is a very many-layered “sandwich” indeed. While the difficult decisions have to be made by the refugee involved, the Network staff and volunteers provide a sounding board and services to ease both such times of deliberation and the anxieties or unexpected outcomes that result.

In June we will celebrate with a new generation of young refugees, the tenacity, which enabled them to complete courses and graduate from GED programs, schools, and universities. We will encourage their dreams for their future, and with your support, we will help strengthen that tenacity when roadblocks appear.

President's Corner



SPRING! Some of us are planting our flower and vegetable gardens, tending, nurturing, and weeding. We wait for the harvest, which frequently comes all at once, and we find ourselves happily sharing bags of tomatoes from our excess with everyone we know – and don't know.

Recently, we learned from the San Diego Refugee Forum to expect the arrival of new refugees from Iraq, Bhutan, Burma, Southern Sudan and Dafur. Looking at the news, who knows where the next refugees will come from! The camps in Jordan are now bursting at the seams.

This creates opportunities and challenges: new cultures, new languages, new needs and new expectations. That we have been able to meet the needs in the past is due to the continued generosity of our many friends.

Thank you, Joyce Justus

“What can we do to help?”

Some groups:

1. collect 10lb and 25lb bags of white rice; half gallon and gallon containers of cooking oil; warm jackets; new packets of socks and underwear; school supplies; disposable diapers,
2. run a fundraiser such as a Fall Festival,
3. volunteer time or talent.

Other ideas are always welcome.



Meet the Staff



Nadia Agory, our Senior Outreach Worker, volunteered with the Network for 6 years before joining our staff 7 years ago. She and her mother and sister received refugee status in Cairo after they fled from fighting in Southern Sudan together.

Nadia stayed in Egypt to complete her high school education before joining her family here in the United States. She and her husband, Michael, have a son and daughter and are expecting a new baby soon.

Nadia speaks English, Arabic, Dinka and Mandari. Her translation and interpretation services have been a gift to refugees from Iraq, Dafur, and Southern Sudan who are facing medical visits, completion of forms, understanding bills, and the myriad of things that are incomprehensible if you do not read or speak English. I asked her what she likes best about her job, and she said, "Working with the people." It explains why she is so successful. I see her laughing and chatting

with everyone. She is a part of this community and they love her and she loves them. You can confide in Nadia – you can trust her – you know she wants to help you. Recently, she took 16 Bhutanese families under her wing, newly arrived from the UN camp in Nepal. They have no common language – and yet, Nadia is making them feel at home.

Our staff picks up food from food banks, drives a van full of children to tutoring, translates between doctor and patient, teaches people how to grocery shop and explains how to cook potatoes. We want you to meet Nadia Agory, teacher, friend, diplomat, confidant, chauffeur – professional, a blessing to us all.

The Gift of Service

The Refugee Network could not do our work without our many dedicated volunteers. The time, effort and patience they invest in tutoring, food distribution, helping individuals decipher mail and forms, job applications makes an incalculable difference in the lives of refugees. Stepping forward when there is need is a way of life for these volunteers. We are so grateful for all they do.

In February our President, Joyce Justus, Board member, Mike Collier and his wife Linda, and former Board member, Chris Christopher received The Bishop's Cross, a prestigious award given to people Bishop Mathes selects for their special commitment to the work of the diocese. Joyce, Mike and Linda also received the "Servants Award" from their churches.



We wish to extend our congratulations and gratitude for the selfless work these wonderful people continue to do for the refugees served by the Network.

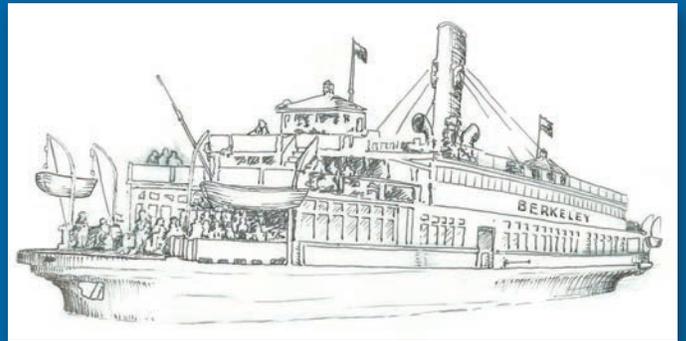
2013 Amazing Journey Gala

Saturday, May 11

It was changed from the original date of May 4

Another exciting evening
on board the Berkeley.

You will not want to
miss this year's gala.



[Click here to buy tickets on line](#)

[Click here](#) to read more about the gala and buy tickets,
or you can send a check using the form below to buy tickets
and/or to support the work of the Network.

We are located at 4305 University Ave, Suite 630, San Diego, CA 92105
Please be sure to visit our website to see what we do as a charitable organization:
episcopalrefugeenetwork.org

I Want to Support The Episcopal Refugee Network

I am enclosing \$ _____ for _____ tickets to the Gala @ \$75 each.

I am enclosing \$ _____ for this needful cause.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

The Network has its own 501(C) 3 tax exempt status.

To donate, please include this form with a check and send to:

The Episcopal Refugee Network, 4305 University Ave, Suite 630, San Diego, CA 92105

Or you can donate by credit card online, through our website episcopalrefugeenetwork.org