

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska's Community Services Department serves the needs of refugees, immigrants and asylees across Nebraska. We seek to advocate on behalf of those who have yet to establish a strong voice within our community. We strive to provide individuals, families and communities with the tools, support and guidance necessary to achieve self-sufficiency and empowerment.

- ♦ **LUTHERAN REFUGEE SERVICES (LRS)** - Since 2001, in partnership with Church World Service and Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service, LRS has helped provide opportunities for the “good life” to thousands of refugees through resettlement and employment services from offices in Lincoln and Omaha.
- ♦ **INTERNATIONAL CENTER OF THE HEARTLAND (ICH)** - Provides case management and referral services to help Nebraska's newest residents to take steps toward self-sufficiency. With a multilingual staff that represents the communities served, the ICH provides education to communities throughout the state.
- ♦ **LUTHERAN IMMIGRATION SERVICES (LIS)** - Throughout Nebraska, LIS provides immigration legal services exclusively to refugees, immigrants and asylees who are eligible to pursue an immigration benefit through USCIS (*United States Citizenship and Immigration Services*). LIS helps families reunite in the U.S., represents clients seeking lawful permanent residency and citizenship, and defends these family members who may face deportation. LIS also conducts education, advocacy and outreach efforts to provide the community with accurate information regarding immigrants, refugees and asylees.
- ♦ **AMERICORPS** - A National Service program in which members commit to one year of service, receive a living allowance and, upon completion of their service, receive an education award. LFS AmeriCorps focuses on serving the needs of refugee and immigrant families as well as community development and youth enrichment programs.
- ♦ **EMPLOYMENT FIRST (EF)** - Provides temporary and transitional support for families to prepare them for economic independence through job training, education and employment preparation.

THE NUMBERS

- ♦ LRS resettled **409 adults and children** from 12 different countries in 2008.
- ♦ In 2008, **the ICH served 617** individuals (*386 secondary migrants, 16 asylees, 169 refugees & 46 immigrants*) from 19 countries. Of this number, 87 found safe, affordable housing; 53 secured employment; and 21 underinsured clients received medical exams, treatment & prescription assistance.
- ♦ LIS provided **immigration legal services to 713** immigrants, refugees and asylees from 43 different countries in 2008.
- ♦ LIS conducted **43 educational outreach events**, providing 3,051 individuals with accurate immigration information.
- ♦ In 2007-08, **LFS AmeriCorps members contributed 31,692 hours** of services and recruited 1,792 volunteers who provided 13,200 hours of services to Nebraska communities. In 2008, **AmeriCorps members served 2,804 individuals** through education, employment and immigration legal services.
- ♦ LFS Employment First staff provide job training and employment preparation to **250 clients** on average at any given time.

WHAT YOUR CONTRIBUTION WILL DO

- ♦ **\$30** provides a refugee child from Burma with their first school clothes and backpack.
- ♦ **\$100** allows a refugee or an asylee from Somalia to file an immigration petition for a relative to join them in the U.S.; also will help an ICH client buy groceries for a month, purchase diapers, pay a utility bill, pay for prescriptions and assist with transportation costs.
- ♦ **\$150** will purchase coats, mittens, scarves and shoes for a refugee family arriving from Sudan.
- ♦ **\$200** will help pay an ICH client's rent for a month.
- ♦ **\$300** can help purchase chairs, tables, bed frames, pots and pans, a couch or personal hygiene items for refugee families arriving in Lincoln and Omaha from Iraq.
- ♦ **\$450** allows an American citizen to file a visa petition for their spouse or fiancée to immigrate to the U.S.
- ♦ **\$800-\$1000** will pay off a refugee travel loan to come to the U.S.
- ♦ **\$1,000** will help support a caseworker who carries a client load of 25-30 people.
- ♦ **\$4000** supports a half-time AmeriCorps member in his/her year of service to our community, while **\$8000** supports a full-time member.