

WILMINGTON FACT SHEET

Diocese of East Carolina

INTERFAITH REFUGEE MINISTRY

An Affiliate of **Episcopal Migration Ministries**, New York City



WHO ARE REFUGEES: Refugees are people who have fled their own country and, because of a well-founded fear of persecution based on their race, religion, ethnicity, political opinion or membership in a social group, are unable or unwilling to return. They are subjected to rigorous background and medical screening before they are accepted into the U.S. refugee resettlement program. They are expected to become self-sufficient within four to six months after arrival.

WHO WE ARE: Interfaith Refugee Ministry (IRM) is an affiliate office of a national refugee resettlement agency. *IRM – Wilmington* is a new sub-office of IRM in New Bern. With the help of churches and other organizations, we resettle refugees who arrive legally in the U.S. through the government's refugee program.

WHAT WE DO: Simply stated, we help legal refugees rebuild their lives in a safe land through flexible resettlement opportunities with churches, organizations, employers, and individuals. Although we encourage a commitment for full co-sponsorship, we welcome and appreciate any degree of participation as well as donations of furniture, household items, cars, computers, and cash. Any group, regardless of size or distance from the IRM office, can participate in refugee resettlement – the sum of each small effort can result in a tremendous positive impact on the lives of these refugees.

CASELOAD PROFILE: To date, we have resettled the following ethnicities in East Carolina: Vietnamese, Russians, Bosnians, Croatians, Serbians, Kosovar Albanians, Burmese (Chin, Karen, and Mon ethnicities), Montagnards, Iranian B'hai, Cubans, Colombians, Meskhetian Turks, Sudanese, and Iraqis.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS: From 1992 to 2009, IRM in New Bern resettled over 1000 persons in eastern North Carolina. During 2010, *IRM – Wilmington* will resettle approximately 33 refugees, with hopes for a larger number of arrivals in 2011.

WILMINGTON AREA CHURCH CO-SPONSORS: St. Paul's Episcopal, Winterpark Baptist, St. Andrew's On the Sound Episcopal, St. John's Episcopal, Myrtle Grove Presbyterian, Unitarian, Church of the Servant Episcopal, St. James Episcopal, St. Andrew's Covenant Presbyterian, Winterpark Presbyterian,

WILMINGTON AREA EMPLOYERS OF REFUGEES: Chuck E. Cheese, UNC-Wilmington, Hughes Tire, Solid Concepts, Elizabeth's Pizza, Carpet Tech, McDonald's, Atlantic Stoneworks.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Our all-volunteer board meets 8-10 times a year. Members oversee Interfaith Refugee Ministry's affairs, develop policies and procedures and assist with sponsorship development. Board Members provide representation from local cities and towns in Eastern North Carolina.

FUNDING SOURCES: Current funding sources include three government grants and private donations. The grants are restricted funds and must be spent in specific ways. Cash donations are always welcome. We are a 501©3 non-profit organization and your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law.

TO JOIN US IN THIS MINISTRY: Call, write, or email:

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