

The Journey



JOURNEY'S END REFUGEE SERVICES INC.
 184 Barton Street
 P.O. Box 885
 Buffalo, NY 14213

jersbuffalo.org

v 716-882-4963
 f 716-882-4977

PLEASE PARDON OUR TELEPHONIC DUST!!

JOURNEY'S END IS GETTING A NEW PHONE SYSTEM WITH NEW EXTENSIONS IN DECEMBER 2009.

THE NEW SYSTEM WILL MAKE IT EASIER TO REACH JOURNEY'S END STAFF MEMBERS.

THANKS FOR YOUR PATIENCE!

Journey's End Has a New Website:

Jersbuffalo.org

Successful Resettlement Requires a Multi-Service Approach

Resettlement: One Family's Story of Coming to Buffalo

Soe Reh and his wife were farmers in Burma, growing rice, pumpkin, corn, chilies, and cucumbers until 1996 when they were forced to flee to a refugee camp in Thailand. Mr. Reh feared arrest and conscription by the Burmese Army. Burma has been ruled by a military junta since 1962. It has been described as one of the most repressive regimes in the world with more than 800,000 currently subjected to forced labor.

While in Thailand, Mr. Reh lost a leg in a land-mine accident more than 10 years ago. Finally, in August 2009 Mr. Reh, his wife and their four children arrived in Buffalo after winning their asylum claim following more than 13 years in a refugee camp.

Since their arrival, the Reh family has been assisted by Journey's End to identify, prepare, and move into a house on Buffalo's west side. Journey's End also worked with the family to arrange their initial medical screenings, assist with enrolling their children in school, and are currently assisting Soe Reh and his wife with placement in English classes. Down the road, Mr. and Mrs. Reh will be assisted by the Employment Department to secure a steady job.

Soe Reh is also working with JERS Medical Case Manager and is being fitted with a new prosthetic leg. The new leg weighs considerably less and has knee and ankle joints for more natural movement. Replacing his leg will improve the quality of life for his whole family and improve his prospects to secure and maintain employment. Soe Reh and his wife's primary focus now is their children's education.

In 2009 Journey's End assisted 355 refugees, more than in any other year. Resettling refugees requires a coordinated multi-service approach to meet a families many needs to adapt, integrate, and ultimately thrive. Journey's End has met these many needs for thousands of refugees from more than two decades.



Soe Reh and his family

DIRECTOR'S CORNER:

MOLLY SHORT

Have you heard the news? Journey's End is looking for a new home. As our agency grows and we serve more and more refugees, we find ourselves needing a larger and more permanent home. Our goal is to work with West Side organizations to find a space that is easily accessible to our clients and adds value to our community.

2009 has been a wonderful year for Journey's End, thanks in no small part to the contributions of you, our supporters. This year we resettled 355 new refugees who are on their way to becoming successful and active members of the Western New York community.

We have high hopes for continued growth and success in 2010. I am happy to welcome many new staff to provide much needed support for newly arriving refugees, including a Medical Case Manager, Development Coordinator, and a Co-Sponsorship Developer. We are also looking forward to growing our employment services for refugees.

In addition to our efforts to find a home and enhance services, we are also working diligently with our sister resettlement agencies in Western New York to organize and develop the much needed infrastructure to support the increasing refugee populations in Buffalo. The combination of our collaboration and your continued support will make 2010 another magnificent year for refugees in our community.



esmyth-bogumil@jersbuffalo.org

Getting Back, giving Back

Volunteers are a staple at every non-profit, and that is certainly the case here at Journey's End. Volunteers assist refugees by setting up new homes, reorienting new arrivals into our community and culture, or helping out at Journey's End; answering the phones, sorting donations and so much more. Beyond doing good deeds, volunteers have the opportunity to practice their language skills and act out their values. The truth is Volunteering for Journey's End benefits our clients, our organizations, and our volunteers.

Nothing illustrates that better than our relationship with the Olmsted Center for Sight. Olmsted has offered services to the blind and visually impaired for over a hundred years and their clients have been getting valuable work and independent living experience volunteering at Journey's End in a number of capacities for several years. One of our recent volunteers is a visually impaired Somali youth enrolled at Olmsted. In addition to answering the phones he also interpreted regularly for our East African clients. He is now considering returning to Journey's End to go through our training program and begin work as a paid interpreter. Beyond the benefit to the organization and the volunteer. The Olmsted volunteers have a positive cultural effect on our clients, many who are used to seeing visually impaired or disabled individuals as people to be ostracized or not capable of giving back. Seeing them as an important contributing part of Journey's End makes a lasting impression.

If you are a member of a faith community or if you would like to volunteer either as a mentor, provide

transportation, or to help a family settle in, please contact Elaine Smyth-Bogumil for more information at the email listed above.

mrumpf@jersbuffalo.org

Working Towards His Goals

Employment is an important part of the resettlement process and Journey's End works to place hundreds of refugees in jobs each year. Journey's End builds and strengthens our relationships with area employers, while at the same time working with our clients to prepare them for work here in the United States.

One employer which has hired place numerous clients is the Pearl Street Bar and Grill in downtown Buffalo. One client named "Hermon" from Eritrea arrived in Buffalo with his wife. They were forced to seek asylum because they were being persecuted because of their religious beliefs. Hermon began working as a dishwasher, and served as an interpreter for some of the other Eritrean employees. He has since moved up to busser and he is now attending ECC part time. Hermon's goal is ultimately to attend a four year university.

Employment Services are available to any refugee, asylee, or victim of human trafficking and services include: Assistance with English skills, resume writing, work etiquette, and assistance finding potential employers and employment, as well as ongoing assistance after successful placement. for more information, please contact Meghann Rumpf at the above email.



dpepero@jersbuffalo.org

Kid's Talk - Refugee Children Telling Their Own Story.

Over the last two and a half years eight school-age refugee children have been telling their stories of becoming refugee, living in refugee camps and transitioning to life in the United States, to their peers in schools around Western New York. Recently two Kid's Talk students presented their stories to 4th Graders at Elmwood Franklin School in Buffalo.

According to Donna Pepero, Journey's End Education Coordinator, "every time we hold a session we run out of time because the questions don't stop. They want to know what they did for fun, how they watched TV. Then they go home and they talk to their parents about the "Mojo" who they met in school today. There's no better way to share the refugee experience. The kids are really the best educators on what it means to be a refugee. So the next time they here about refugees, they might thing about these kids, or they might do more research."

"We've been doing Kid's Talk for 2.5 years. We've presented to Grand Island, Frontier, Elmwood Charter, Elmwood Franklin. There's



enough demand that we could do this once a week, but to do this we have to pull the kids out of school. We need to expand our base of children with the language skills to be able to communicate their experiences to their peers."

Recently in the run-up to the presentation at Elmwood Franklin School, the kids were so excited to meet our kids that they started a clothing drive

that spread through out the whole school. The students at Elmwood Franklin were so moved by presentation that the school is seeking a deeper relationship with Journey's End and the refugees we assist.

According to Ms. Pepero the kids participating in the program "feel like movie stars." At the presentation they had pictures of the refugee camps. At the end of the presentation more than 40 students encircled the boys and peppered them with questions. On the way

home the boys couldn't stop talking about it. It's done wonders for their self-confidence and self esteem. Kid's Talk gives refugee children an opportunity to recognize the

value of their experiences and who they are, while they tell their stories of their families stories to their peers in other districts. They've also spoke to a local Rotary Club and really made an impact on the Rotarians.

In addition to the Kid's Talk program Journey's End Educational Services offers support through the Refugee School Impact Program to provide linguistic and cultural support to transitioning students. Additionally, Educational Services

offers Academic Coaching, translations and interpretation, orientations to refugee families and school officials, the Refugee Academic 4-week Summer Camp, and the Let's Go to the Library Program to inform refugee families on educational resources as well as providing positive role models. For more information please contact Donna Pepero at the above email.

Dates To Remember

New Volunteer orientations will be held at the **Journey's End Offices from 6:30 to 8pm** on:

Tuesday, January 12

Wednesday, February 10

Space is limited and reservations are required. For more info contact Elaine

Smyth-Bogumil at

esmyth-bogumil@jersbuffalo.org

The Citizenship and Immigration Department at Journey's End is starting a new session of the **Naturalization Preparation Classes in February 2010**. Classes are held on **Saturdays** at the **Niagara Porter Library**. Everyone is encouraged to attend! Study materials will be available. Drop by the office Tuesdays-Fridays for more information.

Introduction to Community

Interpreting professional training is scheduled for **Saturday, January 23, 2010 from 9 -5 PM at Journey's End**.

Registration is required. For more information contact Monica Zucco at 716-392-8576 or mzucco@jersbuffalo.org

Interpreting Services

JERS' Interpreting Services Department offers professional, high quality service in more than 30 languages. These services are ideal for health and human organizations, educational institutions, legal and government agencies, and corporations.

The JERS' Advantage:

- Quick, Easy, and Efficient Scheduling
- Competitive Rates
- Integrity - Our trained, professional interpreters are held to the strictest of professional guidelines.
- Availability - JERS' Interpreters are available during the business day, as well as evenings and weekends.
- Accuracy - Our professional interpreters are trained to accurately convey the true meaning and content of every communication.
- Responsibility - Hiring a professional interpreter gives a strong message to the community that all of your clients are being served regardless of the language they speak.

Working Languages (including, but not limited to):		
Amharic (Ethiopia)	Arabic	Belorussian
Bengali	Bosnian	Burmese
Dari (Afghanistan)	French	Hindi
Karen (Burma)	Karenni (Burma)	Kinyarwanda (Congo, Rwanda, Burundi)
Kunama (Eritrea/ Ethiopia)	Kurdish	Liberian (Kru/ Krahn)
Lingala (Central Africa)	Mai Mai	Mandarin (Chinese)
Nepali	Russian	Serbian
Somali	Spanish	Swahili
Turkish	Urdu	Vietnamese
	and More....	

Community Training

- One day interpreter training, "Introduction to Community and Medical Interpreting"
- On-site customer training, "How to Effectively Use Interpreters"
- On-site bilingual staff Interpreter training

For more information on upcoming training, contact Monica Zucco at 716-392-8576, or at mzucco@jersbuffalo.org.

Citizenship Workshop

- Are you interested in becoming a U.S Citizen?
- Do you need assistance with your application?
- Do you have questions about the Naturalization process?

Join us at Journey's End Refugee Services on **Saturday February 7, 2010 at 5:00pm.**

We will be hosting an informational workshop on becoming a U.S Citizen. Eligibility interviews will be conducted, application completions and documentation assistance. **Let us help you get started!**

JERS Participates in Turkey Basket Project.

JERS' again participated in the Turkey Basket Project sponsored by North Presbyterian Church and Temple Beth Am. Thanks to the Turkey Basket Project we were able to distribute 55 Thanksgiving feasts to refugee families this year.

Green Cleaning Supplies Needed

- Distilled White Vinegar
- Castile Soap
- Lemon Juice
- Kosher Salt
- Scrub Brush
- Caddy for Ingredients



ffoster@jersbuffalo.org
**A Slow Road to
 Citizenship**

Zoran, a refugee who served in the Military in Yugoslavia entered the United States in 1994 on what he thought was his lucky ticket to a better life. Unfortunately, upon his arrival life proved much more difficult than he anticipated. He lived throughout the United States from Nevada to New York and eventually found himself in Buffalo where things really took a turn for the worse.

After being admitted to the hospital for several months for an injury that occurred on the job, Zoran found himself homeless and unemployed. He lived in a motel and had no friends or family to rely on. Zoran began to wonder if moving to the United States was a mistake. He wanted to be a valuable member of society, so he started attending ESL classes in hopes of one day becoming a U.S. Citizen. After he began the process he began to believe the idea was too farfetched after everything he had been through.

After looking for an agency that could help him with his question and concerns, Zoran stumbled upon Journey's End Refugee Services. Soon after, he started the first steps to becoming a citizen. Completing and submitting the Application for Naturalization, Zoran was on his way. After several months of waiting he was finally had his interview. As luck would have it, he passed the exam! Zoran is currently awaiting his Oath Ceremony where he would soon transition and fulfill his dream of becoming a citizen of the United States of America. For more information on Immigration and

Citizen Services contact Fatima Foster at the above email.



jmiller@jersbuffalo.org
Weatherization

This fall as a part of a new initiative we've weatherized 27 refugee homes with the help of 64 volunteers including WNY AmeriCorps and donations from Home Depot in Buffalo and Blasdell along with Journey's End Board Members and other supporters. Weatherization included sealing windows and doors against drafts and heat loss. Thanks to the efforts of our volunteers and the donations of Home Depot our families will enjoy warmer homes and lower heating bills.

Journey's End is also working on a "Green Clean Initiative". We'll be working with clients on identifying safe local cleaning supplies to help keep families safe and their homes clean. If you can donate any of the green products listed on page 4 or would like to volunteer on either project please contact Jennifer Miller at the above email.

OUR MISSION

Journey's End Refugee Services Inc. is a Christian community-based organization with the mission of welcoming refugees without regard to ethnic origin or creed and to assist them to become healthy, independent, contributing members of the community.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairwoman
 Rev. Barbara Price Chair

Vice-Chairwoman
 Ann Eisenlord

Secretary

Jack Norton
Treasurer

Patricia Potts

Board Members

- Jeff Carter
- Anne Doebler
- John Harbison
- Laurie Irish Jones
- Chuck Massey
- Nancy Siegel
- Evelyn Swarts
- Thomas Tripp
- Awadia Yahia

Administrative Contacts

Molly Short
Executive Director

Donna Pepero
Educational Services Coordinator

Meghann Rumpf
Refugee Services Coordinator

Elaine Smyth-Bogumil
Coordinator of Volunteers

Monica Zucco
Interpreting Services Coordinator

Fatima Foster
Immigration & Citizenship Services Coordinator

Brian Brown-Cashdollar
Development Coordinator

Kristal Nowatchik
Administration and Development Assistant



Don't Forget! We are a donor choice recipient of the United Way

We Need Car Seats! If you have a new or gently used car seat that you can donate please contact **Kristal Nowatchik** at (716) 882-4963 ext. 26 or donations@jersbuffalo.org

Thank You!

Over the years, Journey's End has development relationships with area employers to provide employment opportunities for refugees resettling to our community. This relationship has also benefitted area employers by providing motivated hard-working employees. If you're looking for motivated workers don't hesitate to contact Meghann Rumpf at mrumpf@jersbuffalo.org some of our recent employers have included:

- Pearl Street Grill and Brewery
- Shanghai Red's
- Dave's Christmas Store
- Fox Valley Country Club
- Holiday Inn
- Shea's Performing Arts Center
- Kaleida Health's Deaconess Center
- Salvatore's Italian Gardens
- Wegman's Markets
- PriceRite Markets
- Tuxedo Junction



Official Affiliate of Church World Services and Episcopalian Migration Ministries



CURRENT RESIDENT OR:

Non-Profit
Organization
Postage Paid
Buffalo, NY
Permit #3978

Journey's End Refugee Services
184 Barton Street
P. O. Box 885
Buffalo, NY 14213

