Who We Are

The Tennessee Office for Refugees (TOR) is a department of Catholic Charities of Tennessee, Inc. designated by the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) to administer the state refugee resettlement program.

Our mission is to foster growth, integration, and self-sufficiency by providing financial, technical, and professional support to refugees and the agencies who serve them in the State of Tennessee.

What We Do

Funded by ORR, the Tennessee Refugee Program helps refugees statewide access cash and medical assistance, medical screenings, employment, language training, social adjustment, and other specialized services that meet their individual needs. The goal of all of these programs is self-sufficiency.

SELF-SUFFICIENCY: Between June 2008 and September 2009, 678 refugee men, women and children received temporary cash assistance while employable adults engaged in English Language Training and an intensive job search. 492 secured employment in a difficult economic climate with an average wage of $7.96 per hour. 71% retained that employment for at least 90 days, enabling them to financially support themselves and their families.

MEDICAL SERVICES: During the last 15 months, 1,572 new arrivals to the State of Tennessee received a comprehensive medical screening and referral for appropriate follow-up care. 993 refugees who were unable to access TennCare received Refugee Medical Assistance for eight months after arrival, enabling them to treat chronic conditions affecting their quality of life and ability to seek early self-sufficiency.

SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT: 1112 refugees engaged in English Language Training, enabling them to retain employment, interact with their child’s school and be an active part of their community. 251 refugee children and their parents were introduced to the American school system and received ongoing support with adjustment, academics and communication with school personnel. 59 teachers received training in working with refugee students.

Refugees Achieving Employment & Self-Sufficiency

Through an extensive offering of employment, English, and self-sufficiency programs funded by TOR, 71% of refugee clients in Tennessee achieved and retained employment for at least 90 days during the last 15 months.
Looking Back On 2009

July marked the completion of the first year of service for TOR. This year has been full of growth and challenges as TOR transitioned into the role of administering Tennessee’s statewide refugee resettlement program. Funded by the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement, TOR partnered with resettlement agencies in Chattanooga, Knoxville, Memphis, and Nashville to provide cash assistance, health benefits, employment services, and social services to nearly 1,300 refugees who have found a new home in Tennessee during the 2009 fiscal year.

In addition to cash and medical assistance, TOR administered numerous grants through ORR that targeted the specific needs of refugee communities. The Refugee Social Services grant funded employment services, English language training, and social adjustment services. Afterschool programming, tutoring, teacher training, and parent orientations were provided for families with school-aged children through the Refugee School Impact grant. After Davidson County was identified as one of the 57 counties nationwide facing the greatest refugee impact, the Targeted Assistance Program supported additional employment services. As more refugees arrive in Tennessee over the next year, TOR will continue working together with partner agencies to explore new ways to help refugee clients achieve self-sufficiency.

Our Partners

Who We Help

Between June 2008 and September 2009, 1,919 refugees arrived in the State of Tennessee. Of the total resettled, 68% were resettled in Nashville, 14% in Memphis, 9.5% in Knoxville, and 5.5% in Chattanooga. Through contracted services, technical assistance and administrative support, TOR partners with refugee resettlement agencies and mutual assistance associations (MAAs) that provide direct services to refugees, asylees, Cuban/Haitian entrants, victims of trafficking, Amerasians and Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders who choose to make Tennessee their home. Current TOR partners include Siloam Family Health Center, Catholic Charities of Tennessee, World Relief, the Center for Refugees and Immigrants in Tennessee, and the Sudanese Community Women’s Services Center in Nashville; Associated Catholic Charities in Memphis; and Bridge Refugee Services in Knoxville and Chattanooga.

Distribution of Refugees in Tennessee

Nashville (68%)  Memphis (14%)  Knoxville (9.5%)
Chattanooga (5.5%)  Other (3%)

## Affiliates

**Chattanooga**
Bridge Refugee & Sponsorship Services
4791/A Hal Drive
Chattanooga, TN 37416
(423) 954-9288

**Knoxville**
Bridge Refugee Services, Inc.
7035 Middlebrook Pike, Suite A
Knoxville, TN 37909
(865) 540-1311

**Memphis**
Associated Catholic Charities Refugee and Immigration Services
1325 Jefferson Avenue
Memphis, TN 38104
(901) 722-4700

**Nashville**
Catholic Charities of Tennessee, Inc.
Refugee Services
10 South 6th Street
Nashville, TN 37206
(615) 259-3567

World Relief
1655 Murfreesboro Pike
Suite G
Nashville, TN 37217
(615) 833-7735

## Mutual Assistance Associations

Center for Refugees & Immigrants in Tennessee
295 Plus Park Blvd., Ste. 201
Nashville, TN 37214
(615) 360-9696

Sudanese Community & Women’s Center
3221 Nolensville Pk. Ste. 103
Nashville, TN 37211
(615) 315-9681

## Healthcare Providers

Siloam Family Health Services, LLC
820 Gale Lane
Nashville, TN 37204
(615) 288-5408

To find out how you can assist refugees in your community, call TOR toll-free:

1-877-300-3993