

Tennessee Office for Refugees

"Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

To: Representatives of local government
Chairperson, Budget Committee (of city council or county legislative body)
Chairpersons, House and Senate Committees on State and Local Government
Local Refugee Resettlement Program

From: Holly Johnson, State Refugee Coordinator



Date: May 2, 2013

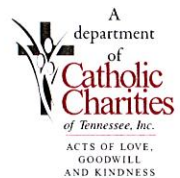
Re: Quarterly report on refugee resettlement for the period 1.1.2013 – 3.31.2013

Herein, please find information on actual arrivals for the period of this report.

Tennessee remains a very strong and welcoming state for refugees fleeing persecution in their homelands. Thank you for your continued support and concern for the well-being of refugees in your community. Please contact me (hjohnson@cctenn.org or (615) 354.5700) or your local refugee resettlement agency(ies) if you have any questions. Local agency contact information is below.

Agency	Contact Person	Address	Phone	Email
Bridge Refugee Services - Chattanooga	Marina Peshterianu	4791/A Hal Drive Chattanooga TN 37416	423-954-9288	marinapesh@aol.com
Bridge Refugee Services - Knoxville	Jennifer Cornwell	7035 Middlebrook Pike Suite A Knoxville TN 37909	865-540-1311	jenalbridge@aol.com
Catholic Charities Memphis	Duke Wheeler	1325 Jefferson Ave Memphis TN 38104	901-722-4714	dwheeler@cctenn.org
Catholic Charities Nashville	Kellye Branson	10 South 6th St. Nashville TN 37206	615-259-3567	kbranson@cctenn.org
Nashville International Center for Empowerment	Gatluak Thach	3221 Nolensville Pike Suite 103 Nashville TN 37211	615-315-9681	gatluak@empowernashville.org
World Relief Memphis	Steve Moses	2181 Union Avenue Memphis TN 38104	901-569-9797	smoses@wr.org
World Relief Nashville	Nathan Kinser	1655 Murfreesboro Pike Suite G Nashville TN 37217	615-833-7735	nkinser@wr.org

This report serves to meet the reporting requirements under the Refugee Absorptive Capacity Act (Public Chapter No. 316).



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Anticipated Arrivals:

The U.S. Department of State allocates refugees based on where the resettlement agency is located. In FFY (federal fiscal year) 2013, refugees have been allocated to programs in the counties below. Actual arrivals may vary. *This estimate is unchanged from last year's projections.* The local refugee resettlement program and/or the Tennessee Office for Refugees (TOR) has met with local officials and collectively believe that the programs in these counties have the capacity to successfully resettle refugees.

FFY 2013:

Davidson/Rutherford/Williamson	1,235
Hamilton	130
Knox/Johnson	260
Shelby	230

Actual Arrivals:

For the period of this report, actual new arrivals to counties were as follows:

Davidson	193
Hamilton	16
Knox	42
Madison	7
Maury	1
Robertson	2
Rutherford	14
Shelby	69
Sumner	1
Williamson	4

Letters of Agreement:

The agreements for FFY 2013 are unchanged from FFY 2012.

Information Requests:

For the period of this report, TOR received requests for data or information from the following:

- Senator Ketron's office
- A Tennessee resident who heard the testimony about SB1325/HB1326 and wanted to understand why the bill was being proposed and why anyone would have any problem with refugees in our state
- Numerous Tennessee residents who wondered what they could do to help defeat SB1325/HB1326
- A county finance director who received the report and wondered why he received it and what he should do with it
- Several individuals and organizations who were working on research papers and grant applications
- The Metro Davidson Office of Emergency Management who was working on a project to coordinate language services for emergency preparedness and response

No complaints were received.