

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 Directors

From: Holly Johnson, State Refugee Coordinator 

Date: May 6, 2015

Re: Quarterly report on refugee resettlement for the period 1.1.2015 – 3.31.2015

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	jcornwell@bridgerefugees.org
Catholic Charities – Nashville	Kellye Branson	10 South 6 th St. Nashville, TN 37206	615-259-3567	kbranson@cctenn.org
Nashville International Center for Empowerment	Gatluk Thach	417 Welshwood Drive Suite 100 Nashville, TN 37211	615-315-9681	gatluk@empowernashville.org
World Relief – Memphis	Steve Moses	2181 Union Avenue Memphis, TN 38104	901-569-9797	smoses@wr.org
World Relief – Nashville	Tim Patterson	1655 Murfreesboro Pike Suite G Nashville, TN 37217	615-833-7735	tpatterson@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) 2015, refugees have been (preliminarily) allocated to programs in the counties below. Actual arrivals may vary. The local refugee resettlement programs and the Tennessee Office for Refugees (TOR) have met with state and local officials and collectively believe that the programs and these counties have the capacity to successfully resettle refugees.

FFY 2015:

Davidson/Rutherford/Williamson	1,225
Hamilton	85
Knox	190
Shelby	200

Actual Arrivals:

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

Anderson	1
Bedford	1
Davidson	211
Hamilton	10
Knox	50
Montgomery	1
Rutherford	4
Shelby	36

Age Breakdown:

The age breakdown for these arrivals is as follows:

Minors	111
Employable adults	199
Seniors	4

Letters of Agreement:

The agreements for FFY 2015 are unchanged from FFY 2014.

Information Requests:

For the period of this report, TOR received requests for data from students (undergrad and graduate), Don Barnett (Eagle Forum), and multiple requests for information from Representative Ragan.

No complaints were received.