

# 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: October 27, 2014

Re: Quarterly report on refugee resettlement for the period 7.1.2014 – 9.30.2014

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](mailto: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 Peshlerianu	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	jenatbridge@aol.com
Catholic Charities - Nashville	Kellye Branson	10 South 6 <sup>th</sup> St. Nashville, TN 37206	615-259-3567	kbranson@cctenn.org
Nashville International Center for Empowerment	Gatluak Thach	417 Welshwood Drive Suite 100 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	Anna Beth Walters	1655 Murfreesboro Pike Suite G Nashville, TN 37217	615-833-7735	awalters@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) 2014, refugees have been allocated to programs in the counties below. Actual arrivals may vary. *This estimate is less than last year's projections.* The local refugee resettlement program meets quarterly with local officials and together believe that the programs in these counties have the capacity to successfully resettle refugees.

**FFY 2014:**

Davidson/Rutherford/Williamson	1,275
Hamilton	125
Knox/Johnson	232
Shelby	200

**Actual Arrivals:**

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

Bedford	2
Davidson	399
Hamilton	25
Knox	55
Montgomery	1
Rutherford	14
Shelby	63
Sumner	12
Williamson	2

**Age Breakdown:**

The age breakdown for these arrivals is as follows:

0 – 18 years	206
19-64 years	349
Over 65 years	18

**Letters of Agreement:**

The agreements for FFY 2014 are unchanged from FFY 2013.

**Information Requests:**

For the period of this report, TOR received inquiries from

- Individuals and organizations working on research papers or grant applications
- Representative John Ragan, Chairman, Joint Judiciary and Government Subcommittee
- Don Barnett, Refugee Resettlement Watch Blogger
- WTN 99.7 Radio
- Several other media outlets

**No complaints were received.**