

This issue of *The POWR Post* is the second issue of the 2016 Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugees (POWR) Program. *The POWR Post* disseminates promising practices to POWR program participants, as well as all other USCCB/MRS diocesan resettlement sites.

~Daniel Sturm, MRS Research and Evaluation Manager



Outreach

Reaching More than 1,000 People (Cleveland, Ohio)

Community outreach was high during this reporting cycle. We spoke at six parishes and four organizations, which reached 1,307 individuals. In collaboration with the Refugee Services Collaborative, we celebrated World Refugee Day with 400 attendees at Edgewater Park in Cleveland. We also participated in a pancake breakfast at Eaton Corporation, to raise awareness of the plight of refugees, bringing in \$2,700. Our presentation at Eaton Corporation was broadcast live to all their international locations.

Stacy Dever, sdever@ccdole.org

New Food Partner Joining the Force (New Orleans, Louisiana)

A new partner organization, Market Umbrella, will be hosting workshops on site during cultural orientation classes to train refugees on using the market match token program. Through this program, clients receive extra spending power when they use SNAP funds at local farmer's markets. Bringing refugees into the markets to engage with locals and small businesses on food is a low barrier method of fostering inclusion. Our hope is that refugees will feel confident and comfortable telling their own stories as they achieve self-sufficiency and integrate into the larger community.

Emily Gaddis, egaddis@ccano.org

DOS Deputy Visits Program (Oakland, California)

We were delighted to have a visit with Antony Blinken, the Deputy Secretary of State. Mr. Blinken and his staff spent close to three hours with us, much longer than the original 90 minutes we expected. The key is – they wanted to stay that long. They valued the dialogue and decided to invest their time with us. Mr. Blinken was authentic, articulate and gracious. He attentively listened to refugee stories and asked questions to clarify information. We were inspired by Mr. Blinken and his team – true policy professionals who care and want to make a difference. Mr. Blinken tweeted a group photo of the staff to his 10,000 twitter followers thanking us for our heroic work.

Christopher Martinez, cmartinez@cceb.org

<https://twitter.com/CCEB/status/718100165148561408>

<http://www.state.gov/s/d/2016d/258928.htm>

Partnership with Moving Company (New Orleans, Louisiana)

As a result of the POWR-funded position, we are creating a strategic plan to develop the partnerships, systems, and contacts necessary to achieve the goals of the program. Housing, childcare and transportation pose challenges for refugees. A preferred vendor agreement with a moving company is in the final stages of negotiations. If this conversation is successful, our program will have access to free movers. This potential donor will provide a service that will save staff countless hours, reduce risk for personal injury and property damage. After completing an inventory of donations, we found that we had much more clothing and toys than needed. We have set up these items in an empty classroom like a store so our clients can go “shopping.” We will share excess clothing with other agency programs.

Emily Gaddis, egaddis@ccano.org

Changing Hearts and Minds (Portland, Maine)

Staff members have presented “In Their Shoes” trainings in two parishes and two Catholic schools. These four trainings reached more than 45 individual parish members and 90 students. On their evaluation, one participant from Camden wrote, “The presentation helps me understand better the difference between refugees and asylum seekers, the coverage on the news is confusing.” Another participant wrote, “The simulation was great, when you put yourself ‘in their shoes’ you get a whole different perspective.” Following the presentation at St. Dominic’s middle school one student remarked, “What I learned today is that refugees lose everything that is close to their hearts.”

Hannah DeAngelis, hdeangelis@ccmaine.org

Pitching POWR to University (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma)

We met with a Free United Methodist conference representative who hopes to direct local congregations in meaningful participation within the refugee community. We were invited to present our program at a teaching workshop held at the University of Oklahoma hosted by the Qatar Foundation International. We fielded their questions, presented possibilities for classroom participation in our work and made excellent connections with university faculty. We anticipate that this will open doors for continued involvement with students completing an education degree.

Angela Jennings, ajennings@ccaokc.org



Finalizing Videos (Portland, Maine)

We are currently finalizing train the trainer materials to distribute to parishioners. Staff members have created short videos with clients’ stories to supplement written training materials. These videos will be available for parishioners to utilize in their own trainings. We have also recruited two additional volunteers as trainers. Utilizing a VISTA volunteer as the primary staff member working on the POWR grant enables us to provide services with limited use of paid staff time. Additionally, the Train the Trainer model is set up to expand our volunteer training capacity.

Hannah DeAngelis, hdeangelis@ccmaine.org

Sisters Opening Home to Refugees (San Antonio, Texas)

The Brigidine Sisters have opened their home to refugees. After hearing that, Mr. and Mrs. Smith of St. Louis in Castroville have opened their extra home for refugees.

Anastacio Hinojosa, ahinojosa@ccaosa.org

Forming an Advisory Board (Los Angeles, California)

Our newly-hired fundraising consultant helped us put together a plan for a social media campaign and “lunch and learn” meetings on refugee resettlement to help attract and recruit prospective board members. We also began researching other successful Advisory Boards to learn best practices.

Sara Tompkins, stompkins@ccharities.org

Internship Program Takes Off (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma)

We have engaged Dr. Christy Vincent, Professor of Organization Communication at the University of Central Oklahoma, who has placed two interns with us. These interns work 20 hours each week to strengthen cultural orientation and job development curricula, and to develop volunteer training materials. We have accepted two interns for the fall semester.

Angela Jennings, ajennings@ccaokc.org

Volunteering

POWR Outreach Heating Up (Cleveland, Ohio)

We have been able to do a lot more outreach through POWR and have engaged eight parishes to adopt a family. It takes a lot of planning, training and follow up. Each parish involves at least four meetings prior to final “adoption.” Our Lady of Peace was our first parish to complete the process. They completely furnished the house for new arrival, cooked a traditional meal, met the family at the airport and will provide human ministry by mentoring the family for six months. The parish has also committed to rental assistance after the 6-month period.

Stacy Dever, sdever@ccdacle.org

New App for Time Tracking (Cleveland, Ohio)

We created a new way to track volunteer hours on *Formstack*, which allows clients to easily input hours and download photos of their experience each month. Our volunteer coordinator has been working with volunteers and also posting these photos on Facebook in appreciation of their work. We are planning a volunteer appreciation dinner in the fall and continue to meet with volunteers and have smaller group meetings with cupcakes, ice cream and pizza. We are also planning a volunteer barbeque to honor those working specifically with our single-mothers program in September at Mary’s House.

Stacy Dever, sdever@ccdacle.org

<https://www.formstack.com>



POWR Team Welcomes Syrians (Los Angeles, California)

One of our strongest welcome teams comprised of 20 Mosaic church members with three Arabic speakers, welcomed the first Syrian family. Prior to arrival, they started a department store “registry” for the family and began purchasing household items. They greeted them at the airport, took the family to apply for social security and public benefits, took the family shopping to purchase Halal meat, took the family swimming, and to a July 4 celebration. The team meets twice per week to discuss the family’s needs.

Sara Tompkins, stompkins@ccharities.org

Front Page Coverage (Dubuque, Iowa)

We had a front page article of our local newspaper, featuring the POWR program.

Hart, Edwards and others from their church decided to do long-term mentoring, they inspired a brand-new program. Called “Families Strengthening Families” and **boosted by a \$15,000 grant from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops**, the program assists refugees through their first six months. The program is operating in Waterloo, Cedar Rapids and Postville, three of the top [refugee] communities.

Agnes Kress, a.kress@dbqarch.org

<http://tinyurl.com/hev3r2d>

Job Readiness in Focus (Phoenix, Arizona)

We have begun a dialog with the Latter Day Saints Community to obtain hands-on-vocational training at their Deseret Industries store. We are also working with their leadership to identify LDS members who may be willing to let refugee shadow them in the work place to learn some hard/soft employment skills. We continue to work with Arizona State University, Ethnic-Based Community Organizations, and parish volunteer groups to create vocational training opportunities for refugees with a refugee-owned business called *New American Community*.

Daniel Kelly, dkelly@cc-az.org

Program on a Roll (Phoenix, Arizona)

In June, two new parishes – Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community and St. Benedict Catholic Church – started helping their first refugee families. This will be a four-month partnership. Parishioners will work with the families on job readiness, maintaining employment, and ongoing orientations about American life. Also this month, two non-Catholic groups – Go to Every Nation (GoTEN) & The church of Jesus Christ of latter-day saints – provided furniture for a refugee family of five. LDS community members have begun helping with apartment set-ups from A-Z.

Daniel Kelly, dkelly@cc-az.org

Enlisting New Faith-Based Partners (Jacksonville, Florida)

The POWR team met to brainstorm strategies how to grow the established four refugee ministry groups, in addition to recruiting new parishes. POWR team members were successful in enlisting the support of the Protestant Church at Orange Park for the refugee department. Their bishop agreed to assist at the upcoming Thanksgiving gathering as well as with Christmas gift distribution. They are excited about our partnership and anxious to be involved.

Sarah Maley, smale@ccbjax.org

POWR Sponsors Win Award (Phoenix, Arizona)

We are thrilled to report that the Refugee Ministry Group at Notre Dame Preparatory High School, *Women of the World and Works of Mercy*, won this year's Volunteer of the Year Award. This volunteer group of 40 members sponsors a new refugee family every month. Sponsors donate gently used furniture, new beds, kitchen and bathroom items, bedding hygiene and cleaning supplies, and a week's worth of food. Providing this kind of basic needs support means the refugee families save about \$1,500 each, which leaves refugee families with more funds to pay their rent over a longer period of time. Some members of the group choose to serve by helping the family with ESL, employment readiness coaching, budgeting, and other ongoing orientations about education, the law, U.S workforce culture, and/or "American" life.

Daniel Kelly, dkelly@cc-az.org

https://www.facebook.com/CatholicCharitiesAZ/photos/?tab=album&album_id=10154308533534445

Flurry of Activities (Baton Rouge, LA.)

A new initiative, *Conversation Partners*, is designed to recruit volunteers who will travel to client homes for one-on-one English tutoring and intense conversation with refugees. So far, ten volunteers have signed up. Our CRS ambassador has helped us connect with fifty church parishes to build new relationships. Outreach calls have also been made to Catholic student organizations at three local universities to explore interest in starting on-campus ministries. Additionally, we visited a student service summer camp to get ideas for volunteer opportunities involving high-schoolers.

Norma Palma, npalma@cddiobr.org

Multicultural Mass Draws Multiple Donors (Jacksonville, Florida)

We were able to secure food donations from various refugee countries for the July 31st Multicultural Mass and Multicultural Celebration at Assumption Catholic Church, in addition to paper plates and utensils. We are reaching out to the Knights of Columbus, Men's Club, Women's Club and several ministry groups. Rev. Jose P, Rev. Martin Raj, OSB, Rev. Donald Lum, Deacon Dale, Deacon Ralph Martinez and Josh Burch, a seminarian, will be celebrating mass. Five different dance groups from various countries will be presenting their native music and dances for our entertainment. A Carmelite secular group donated \$200 worth of gift baskets for the event. We also received a donation of an ETablet for the raffle.

Sarah Maley, smale@ccbjax.org

<https://www.facebook.com/powr.jacksonville>

USCCB/MRS Volunteer Resources

Check out the myriad of volunteer education resources, which may be useful as you are revamping your own outreach materials and volunteer resources. All resources have been developed with the support of the USCCB/MRS Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugees (POWR) Program.

Source: [USCCB/MRS POWR Volunteering Network Developments](#)





Donations

LDS Steps Up (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma)

Most notably the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints has followed through on their initial outreach to our program. We presented our program to an audience of approximately 150 individuals in May and have continued to correspond with leadership and individual members. The church has its own service outreach center, www.justserve.org, where we have posted several needs. We received toothbrushes and tooth paste for the entire upcoming year, bathroom kits for 10 families, kitchen cleaning sets for 15 families and dinnerware and cooking sets for 10 families. They have also brought eight home-made quilts and will continue to bring them as they have time to make them. These donations not only alleviate the financial burden our clients face upon arrival, but they give a loving personal touch to each home we set up for their arrival.

Angela Jennings, ajennings@ccaokc.org

Major Donors Contribute (Oakland, California)

One of the congregations we have engaged singly raised \$10,000 for their refugee family! Another is raising \$10,000 as well. These are incredible amounts. We have not yet identified additional corporate or foundation support, but we are researching these more heavily. In addition, because of the potential of monies raised by parishes we will be cultivating these relationships more deeply. Overall, the POWR project has been a huge success, with more parishes and teams joining the effort. We will report on new projects, such as creating a housing fund, workshops on cultural competency for parishes, check-ins with parishes, and hosting a dinner party for parish teams in our next report.

Christopher Martinez, cmartinez@cceb.org

Individual Generosity (Chicago, Illinois)

Two families received full payment of both months' rent from sponsors. One sponsor is a parish which has agreed to generously provide for the family's first three months of rent, furniture and welcome back. The second sponsor was an individual woman who generously donated \$6,000 to be put towards a Rohingya family of nine's rent, furniture and other expenses. The combination of the donations allowed R&P funds to be saved for both families, providing the families with longer-term financial flexibility and stability for housing and other needs. A third parish donated \$5,000 towards general rental assistance. In addition, increased in-kind donations from other parishes allowed the program to save R&P money for other families that otherwise would have been spent on welcome packs, furniture, etc.

Joseph Schenk, jschenk@catholiccharities.net

Smart Phones and Bikes (Portland, Oregon)

The Jewish synagogue has coordinated efforts to refurbish bicycles for refugees. We have received a dozen bicycles for adult clients. Given that our community is incredibly bicycle-friendly, these donations go a long way in providing great self-sufficiency to our clients. One donor has stepped forward to provide smart phones and chromebooks to each refugee family. In addition to the technology, there is a commitment to providing technical support to help ensure new arrivals have the tools they need to be successful even past the resettlement period.

Michelle Welton, mwelton@catholiccharitiesoregon.org

Refugees Receive Car Donation (Oakland, California)

We have received the following significant items in-kind for our refugee families: laptops, smartphones, microwave, beds, tables & chairs, other household furniture. One of our families was even given a used car (luxury sedan) as an in-kind donation, and another refugee family received a donated station wagon. The parish volunteers, with the resettlement staff, have fully furnished most of the apartments for the new arrivals.

Christopher Martinez, cmartinez@cceb.org

World Refugee Day News (Portland, Oregon)

Enclosed are two news pieces related to local World Refugee Day news coverage. The first article includes quotes from our case manager and a former client. The second article highlights the stories of four current staff or former clients.

<http://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/news/2016/06/19/message-given-salem-refugees-you-welcome-here/86115016>

<https://www.mercycorps.org/articles/refugees-share-their-stories-loss-hope-and-survival>

Donations Flurry Continues (Cincinnati, Ohio)

We continue to see a regular flow of donations to our new warehouse location, particularly through individuals who were connected to our program through parish outreach. We received a very large donation of household supplies from the Sisters of Charity in Cincinnati. In addition to the donations we receive, eight parishes have made a pledge to do collection drives in the late summer. Parishes are excited about the opportunity to do something locally to help those who have had to flee their home country. Parishes are getting regular bulletin announcements about the needs of refugees and ways in which they can get involved. We are in the process of finalizing the details of a parish mentoring program which we hope to pilot in the next few months.

Katie Hannah, khannah@ccswoh.org

One Girl Scout Troup's Fundraiser (Chicago, Illinois)

Our program has received significant contributions of diapers (literally, dozens of boxes), personal hygiene items and offers of furniture from several parish partners. A local girl scout troop collected \$80 worth of quarters for laundry for our clients. A parishioner from one of our parish partners generously allowed us to use his company warehouse to store welcome pack items, even offering to deliver them to client apartments. We have also received a few bicycles, which are of great help to clients whose jobs are not conveniently accessed by public transportation.

Joseph Schenk, jschenk@catholiccharities.net

A Parish Volunteer Kit

Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugees (POWR)

A Parish Volunteer Kit

April 1, 2015



Presenter:
Daniel Sturm, Special Projects Manager, Migration and Refugee Services, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

In 2010, USCCB Migration and Refugee Services launched the Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugees (POWR) Program, to strengthen and deepen its support of church and community involvement on behalf of newly arriving refugees. This presentation explains step-by-step how your agency can strengthen its parish connections in an effort to boost volunteerism. It includes many practical tips related to setting up successful volunteer programs, and it shares specific guidance on managing volunteers, measuring impact and more. The Parish Volunteer Kit is available for download on the USCCB/MRS [My Membership website](#).

[Login: Your email; Password: migration1234]

Volunteer Screening Resources

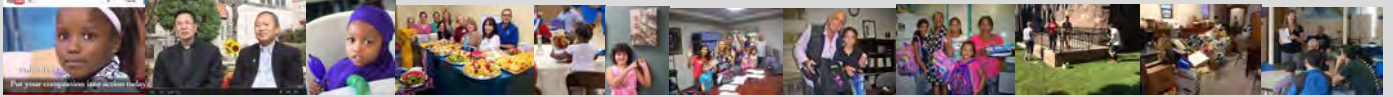
Due to an increased interest in volunteering, a number of MRS affiliates are rethinking their volunteer screening procedures. The goal is to identify reputable services that offer fast and affordable criminal background checks, or alternatively establish an effective and cost effective in-house screening process. To identify some good practices, the MRS Program Advancement and Evaluation unit launched a quick survey among current and past participants of the Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugees (POWR) program. Enclosed is an overview of all responses.

Agency	Screening Service & Cost	Additional Thoughts
Catholic Charities Diocese of Charlotte Sandra Buck, SKBuck@CharlotteDiocese.org	Screening One Between \$4.95 and \$6.95 for volunteers, around \$30 for interns. Fluctuations due state of residence.	We run our screenings through the diocesan Human Resources department.
Catholic Charities in Lansing Marissa Nalley, nalleym@stvcc.org	We currently screen our own volunteers. \$24.25 for national criminal history check, all other checks we do are free.	It is a time consuming process and can be overwhelming. It is helpful to have a designated person to handles incoming volunteers.
Catholic Charities of Louisville Darko Mihaylovich, dmihajlovic@archlou.org	Selection.com \$25 and the Archdiocese of Louisville currently covers \$10 of this.	No issues. The system works well.
Catholic Charities Maine Refugee and Immigration Services, Portland, Maine Hannah DeAngelis, hdeangelis@CCMAINE.ORG	Maine State resources and ADP background checking services Maine state criminal - \$21.00 Maine drivers license - \$7.00 Department for Child protective \$15.00 Out of state Drivers and criminal \$38.00 or more depending upon state	We can turn around instate criminal and drivers checks within 24 hours. Using an agency for services like ADP when we do out of state checks can take up to 4-5 days. The length of time to have this info would be critical in meeting our programs desire for getting the volunteer on board.
Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan, Clinton Township, MI (Metro Detroit) Jeralda Hattar, hattari@ccsem.org	We run background checks through the Michigan State police (ICHAT), the National Sex Offender listing and the State Sex Offender listing. The three services that are mentioned above do not cost us anything. ICHAT is usually not free, but as a nonprofit agency, we are able to use the service at no charge.	This seems to be a sensitive issue with some ethnic communities so the way it is presented is very important. Occasionally we will reach our limit of background checks (I believe it was 200 per year?), but when that happens, we write a letter to the service requesting to increase the amount that we can run and we are always able to add more.
Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas, Kansas City, KS Kristina Marsh kmarsh@catholiccharitiesks.org	Zaeplex \$6.50 One note, if the person has resided in multiple locations, it may cost extra for the background check.	It's sometimes helpful to think about how the volunteer could be used for things that would not require direct service to clients or one time activities – sorting, doing supply drives, etc. It can be frustrating when you do the background check, all of the other onboarding stuff, and then the volunteer doesn't end up working out or having a flexible schedule to work directly with clients. Sometimes, these one-time volunteer opportunities with indirect service activities both give the volunteer a chance to feel they've given and give the agency a chance to feel out how serious the volunteer is about a long term commitment which makes the onboarding feel worthwhile.
Catholic Charities Des Moines IA Rachel Kinker, RKinker@catholiccharitiesdm.org	3rd Degree Screening Current price for a volunteer screening is \$7.25. That will increase to \$10 on July 1.	It can be costly to screen volunteers, if it is possible for MRIS to offer an online tool that tracks information that would be great.
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City Sara Dougherty sdougherty@ccaokc.org	Integrated Screening Partners \$7 per basic applicant, a more thorough check costs more. These are cases which we need a ten year check, international check or a more extensive check on unique cases.	IPS is very cooperative and someone is usually available to answer any questions. We go through the Archdiocese when doing background screens, I don't know if this is what they charge everyone or just us. It is our understanding that most background checks cost quite a bit more.
Catholic Charities Chicago Elmida Kulovic ekulovic@catholiccharities.net	\$22 per background check	Volunteer coordinator meet with potential volunteer, volunteer fills out volunteer application and Human Resources does actual background check.
Catholic Social Services- Mobile, AL Mary Katherine Sullivan mksullivan@cssmobile.org	A&A Screening Solutions The base price of the background check is \$18.75, but there is a \$5 charge for each additional name searched.	The Office of Child Protection in the Archdiocese of Mobile handles all of the background checks for Catholic Social Services and the entire archdiocese. I do know it takes a few days to a week to get the results.
Catholic Charities Phoenix Joanne Morales jemorales@cc-az.org	The finger print cards are \$11 per year, or \$64 for 6 years.	Our agency/volunteer program requires all volunteers to facilitate the criminal background checks themselves – as an additional proof of commitment.

POWR Post E-Newsletter Directory

2015 POWR Funding Cycle

Vol. 6, Issue 1	January-February 2015	2015 Conference & Training Guide	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 6, Issue 2	March-April 2015	Visual Education Resources	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 6, Issue 3	May-June 2015	Resources for Helpers	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 6, Issue 4	July-August 2015	Volunteer Education Resources	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 6, Issue 5	September-October 2015	Refugee Screening Resources	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 6, Issue 6	November-December 2015	Best of 2015 Resource Guide	http://community.usccb.org



2014 POWR Funding Cycle

Issue	Month	Theme	Link
Vol. 5, Issue 1	January-February 2014	Volunteer Education	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 5, Issue 2	March-April 2014	Special Events Planning	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 5, Issue 3	May-June 2014	Recruiting Volunteers	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 5, Issue 4	July-August 2014	Raising Awareness	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 5, Issue 5	September-October 2014	Online Learning	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 5, Issue 6	November-December 2014	Best of 2014 Resource Guide	http://community.usccb.org



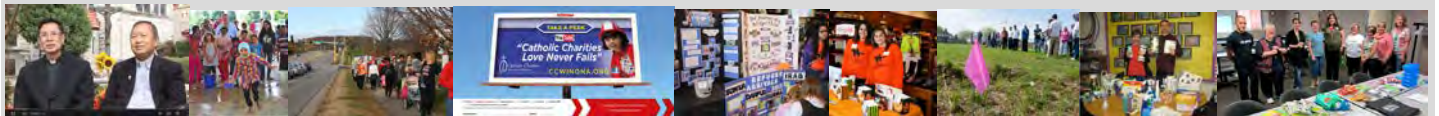
2013 POWR Funding Cycle

Issue	Month	Theme	Link
Vol. 4, Issue 1	January-February 2013	Volunteer Orientation	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 4, Issue 2	March-April 2013	Resource Development	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 4, Issue 3	May-June 2013	Employment Resources	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 4, Issue 4	July-August 2013	Refugee Employment Quiz	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 4, Issue 5	September-October 2013	Technical Assistance Providers	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 4, Issue 6	November-December 2013	Best of 2013 Resources	http://community.usccb.org



2012 POWR Funding Cycle

Issue	Month	Theme	Link
Vol. 3, Issue 1	January-February 2012	Best of 2011 Resource Guide	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 3, Issue 2	March-April 2012	Fundraising	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 3, Issue 3	May-June 2012	Parish Outreach & Communication	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 3, Issue 4	July-August 2012	English Literacy	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 3, Issue 5	September-October 2012	Best of POWR Resources 2012	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 3, Issue 6	November-December 2012	Best of POWR Resources 2012	http://community.usccb.org



2010-11 POWR Funding Cycle

Issue	Month	Theme	Link
Vol. 1, Issue 1	October 2010	Program Development Resources	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 1, Issue 2	November 2010	Volunteer Management Resources	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 1, Issue 3	December 2010	Marketing Your Success Stories	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 2, Issue 1	January 2011	Locating Funding Opportunities	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 2, Issue 2	February 2011	Writing Grant Proposals	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 2, Issue 3	March 2011	Employment Services	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 2, Issue 4	April 2011	Social Media	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 2, Issue 5	May 2011	Volunteer Guide Books	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 2, Issue 6	June 2011	N/A	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 2, Issue 7	July-August 2011	Events Planning	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 2, Issue 8	September-October 2011	Refugee Career Guide	http://community.usccb.org
Vol. 2, Issue 9	November-December 2011	Best of 2011 Resource Guide	http://community.usccb.org

★ Online Learning Opps for Refugees Resources ★

You probably heard about Coursera's new partnership with the U.S. Department of State to offer online learning courses for refugees. This POWR resource special includes an overview of several Internet-based university learning opportunities. The first one, **Kiron**, is also specifically designed for refugees. Kiron lists 18 partner universities and has staff based in Germany, Turkey and Jordan. Courses are offered in English **free of charge** in study tracks that include business, engineering, computer science and social science. I am enclosing brief project and web links. Feel free to share widely. To access the archive of *The POWR Post* or locate more volunteer resources, go to [My Membership](#) [Login: Your email; Password: migration1234]

Kiron At a Glance

Less than 1% of refugees globally have access to higher education. At Kiron, we believe that everybody has the right to fulfill their potential and improve their life prospects via education. Our vision is to provide millions of refugees worldwide with the opportunity to graduate with an accredited university degree, free of charge. No more time, potential, or lives wasted. Kiron uses an innovative combination of online and offline learning to provide accessible, sustainable, and cost-effective education. To date, we have over 1,000 students, 18 partner universities, and 4 degree programs. That's over 1,000 lives changed already.

<https://kiron.ngo/study/tracks>



Coursera for Refugees: Here NOW

Aug. 2, 2016 – By Lorel Donaghey, *Higher Advantage/LIRS*

Coursera and the Department of State have partnered to offer Coursera for Refugees as part of a larger White House private sector engagement initiative. Read more in a previous Higher post or in a recent article in U.S. News if you aren't already excited about the opportunity this presents for refugees.

Where to Start?

Higher strongly recommends that you first open the application, which includes additional information you'll need in order to consider how your agency will proceed. Here are three important points we learned by reviewing the application.

1. There are minimum client requirements for eligibility. Organizations with fewer than 50 refugees with middle- to high-skills and the ability to complete courses in English will not be eligible for financial aid for organizations. It might make sense to explore with other agencies in your community or at the national resettlement agency level. You could also consider promoting individual financial aid for qualified refugees instead.

2. Technology access is required. Internet connectivity and IT resources are required to participate and to afford meaningful access. That doesn't mean that you have to have a computer lab to participate. You might partner with a library, Goodwill computer lab or other community resource. Refugees might have their own technology and connectivity, too. Coursera courses are mobile optimized.

3. After 12 months, there may be costs to continue. There is a modest reporting commitment and the financial aid expires after 12 -months. This means it's important to develop a plan before you apply, so you make the best use of the 12-month access period.

Get in touch at information@higheradvantage.org if you are already making plans or have an organizational financial aid package already. We really want to hear how this looks on the ground

<https://refugees.coursera.org>

The Open University

The Open University is a world leader in modern distance learning, the pioneer of teaching and learning methods which enable people to achieve their career and life goals studying at times and in places to suit them.

<http://www.open.edu/openlearn/about-openlearn/try>



POWR  Post

May-June 2016 (Vol. 7, Issue 2)

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