

## IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE MINISTRIES

Immigration and Refugee Ministries focused on providing legal services to vulnerable immigrants and asylum seekers who were struggling through the system on their own, and on expanding its capacity for refugee resettlement.

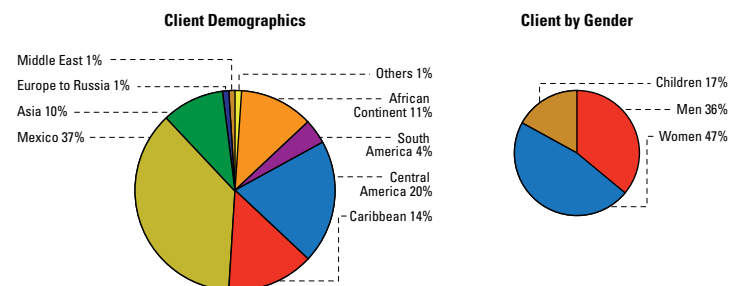
### REFUGEE ARRIVALS AND CASES SERVED

Most cases were sponsored by relatives and the affiliate offices of Church World Service Immigration and Refugee program. Twenty-seven United Methodist congregations sponsored 51 families consisting of 162 persons who had no family to join in the United States. A total of 50 United Methodist churches were involved in the ministry last year—full co-sponsorship, donations of resources and volunteer hours. Refugees came predominantly from Burma (Myanmar), Burundi, Somalia, Cuba, Uzbekistan, Iran, Sudan, Ethiopia, and Iraq.

### JUSTICE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

Through its outreach efforts to the broader United Methodist community and the public at large, Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON) clinics welcomed and served more than 2,100 new clients in 2007. The overwhelming majority of the clients are women and families with children.

### NOTEWORTHY CASE EXAMPLES



- An elderly Indian woman was able to gain citizenship. During her efforts to seek naturalization on her own she missed an interview due to illness. With the help of a JFON attorney she was able to complete the process.
- A family of five was able to receive their lawful permanent residence after over four years of trying. They had received a great deal of bad advice over the years which unfortunately caused the oldest son to not be able to obtain his lawful permanent residence as he turned 21. However, JFON Attorney Garcia eventually obtained legal status for him to remain with his family, including employment authorization.

- JFON Michigan Regional Attorney Susan Reed helped the wife of a US citizen and mother of two US citizens to finally obtain her permanent residence after living in the US since 1989. The family had paid a “notario publico” thousands of dollars through the years in attempts to pursue permanent residence, but the notario took their money without properly completing the case.
- A young man was denied asylum status by the US Embassy in Ghana in 2005 claiming that he had “aged out” and therefore no longer qualified to join his father’s asylum status. JFON NY Regional Attorney T.J. Mills successfully demonstrated to the government that the young man continued to qualify for asylum under the Child Status Protection Act. After the client finally arrived in the US and later applied for the green card, he was again subject to another erroneous rejection. JFON Attorney Mills relied on the same legislation to overturn the ruling.

### RESETTLEMENT CAPACITY PLANNING

UMCOR staff laid the groundwork for a bulge in refugee arrivals from Burma, Africa, and Iraq. Letters were drafted, emails were sent, and phone calls were made to encourage churches throughout The United Methodist Church to open their doors and hearts to welcome a refugee family.

Although the US pledged to resettle up to 7,000 Iraqi refugees in calendar year 2007, every Iraqi refugee has to undergo rigorous security, background, and health checks before they can benefit from the participation in the US Refugee Program. As a result of these security measures, hundreds of Iraqi refugees are being held back in countries such as Turkey, Syria, and Jordan. By the end of 2007, UMCOR resettled 35 individuals.

Refugee Ministries continued to strengthen ties with annual conferences through expanding and providing resources to network of Refugee/Immigration Ministries Coordinators. Three conferences appointed new Refugee Immigration Coordinators in 2007.

### PROJECT GRANTS

UMCOR funded projects with grants totaling \$26,125.

- World Refugee Survey
- Ethiopian Community Development Council
- InterServ, Missouri
- Elizabeth Detention Center, NJ
- Vermont Refugee Assistance
- Las Americas, El Paso, TX
- Refugee Immigration Ministry, Malden, MA

## HEALTH AND WELFARE

People in need of a healing touch receive it through Health and Welfare's programs that reach vulnerable people in the US and around the world.

### DOMESTIC

Health and Welfare programs support a variety of US-based programs including the United Methodist Church Committee for the Deaf, Late-Deafened, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind People, United Methodist Church Task Force on Developmental Disabilities, Annual Conference HIV/AIDS programs, and others.

Congregational Health is a large part of the Domestic program, which includes more than 450 parish nurses. An annual Congregational Health Ministry conference gathers clergy, parish nurses and others to learn how to grow and strengthen congregational health. At the September 2007 conference, members from 50 annual conferences gathered in Wichita, Kan.

### INTERNATIONAL

#### Community-Based Malaria Control and HIV/AIDS

Health and Welfare programs address the spread of both malaria and HIV/AIDS at a community level—providing education and training to staff, community workers and the communities themselves—to put an end to these deadly diseases that all-too-often strike the poorest members of a community.

The Community-Based Malaria Control program was launched in 2005. In 2007, Health and Welfare held a follow-up meeting to review the program's success and to formulate next steps, which include addressing the spread of HIV/AIDS in the same communities.

#### Hospital Revitalization

Health and Welfare works with 11 hospitals, nine in Africa and two in Asia, to improve their capacity and ability to respond to community health needs. Four hospitals in particular have benefited from this program: Kissy United Methodist Hospital, Freetown, Sierra Leone; Ganta United Methodist Hospital, Liberia; Chicuque Hospital, Mozambique; and Mary Johnston Hospital, Manila, Philippines. They have been able to dramatically increase services not only to their patients but also to their surrounding communities through this important program that provides training and support.

#### United Methodist Global AIDS Fund

2007 marked the third year of this fund that was established by the 2004 General Conference. It represents a \$1 commitment of every United Methodist in the United States to put a stop to AIDS. The Fund supports education, prevention, care, and treatment programs for people living with HIV/AIDS. The United Methodist Global AIDS Fund does not overlook the crisis in the US. About one million people are infected in the US and more are added to that number each day. The plan specifies that 25 percent of what each annual conference raises should be used in that conference for AIDS work, either locally or in global projects.

In 2007 the UM Global AIDS Fund provided 26 United Methodist or related projects in 15 countries with grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$30,000 to support their programs.



Paul Jeffrey/UMCOR



Michelle Scott/UMCOR

## RELIEF SUPPLIES

The UMCOR Sager Brown Depot receives, verifies, packages, stores and ships relief supplies throughout the world, including the US. In 2007, over \$7 million dollars worth of goods and materials were shipped around the globe. Supplies include health kits, flood buckets, sewing kits, school bags, layette kits and more.

In 2007 the UMCOR Sager Brown Depot celebrated the 140th anniversary of the wide-ranging ministry that has taken place on the Baldwin, La., campus. The receiving and shipping of relief supplies is the most recent use of the Sager Brown campus, which began in 1867 as an orphanage to serve African-American children orphaned by the Civil War. When Hurricane Andrew roared through Louisiana in 1992, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) brought volunteers and supplies to the area, and staged their operations at Sager Brown.

Volunteers from throughout the world come to UMCOR Sager Brown to help with processing of relief supplies and to work on community housing projects in the Baldwin/St. Mary's Parish area. A senior food program is administered from the site, and the Boys & Girls Club, Baldwin Unit, opened in February 2007, the only after-school program in Baldwin.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2007	
Value of emergency supplies shipped around the globe	<b>\$7,265,416</b>
Number of volunteers on campus	3,800
Total hours worked	48,935
Number of hours worked in community service	14,593
Number of community projects completed	42
Number of food boxes delivered to elderly residents	8,289
Number of meals served on campus	29,879

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