What is your name?











refugee??NE

ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2012





We create <u>opportunity</u> for refugees fleeing war, terror and persecution to <u>build new lives</u> of safety, dignity, and <u>self-reliance</u>.

refugee@NE



Dear Friends,

My name is Melineh Kano and I am honored to write to you as Acting Executive Director of RefugeeOne.

During Fiscal Year 2012 (7/1/11 to 6/30/12), the agency celebrated its 30th Anniversary. It was a year of looking back with pride, looking at the present thoughtfully, and looking to the future with hope.

As we recalled our past, we had the opportunity to re-connect with friends: refugees, as well as people who helped the agency fulfill its mission. We found that, in many ways, RefugeeOne furthers the goal of the founding fathers of the United States: to help people fleeing persecution build lives of safety and self-reliance.

As we scanned our current environment, we evaluated how to effectively manage our role in one of the nation's most humanitarian efforts. We expanded our Refugee Youth Program's after-school component to five days a week. We began our own in-house mental health program. We made changes in our "back office" functions, improving our accounting procedures and our skills at social media and other e-communications. This skillful management of people and resources allowed RefugeeOne to end the year in the black, no small accomplishment in today's rapidly changing global economy.

The anniversary year ended with Gregory Wangerin joining May Campbell and Mary Caroline Mitchell in our hall of respected leaders. Each laid a solid foundation for new leaders in refugee resettlement to emerge. It is through their work that we look ahead not only with hope, but with confidence that RefugeeOne will continue to be a beacon of safety and dignity in a world where such qualities are too often in short supply.

On behalf of the RefugeeOne Board, staff and clients, I'd like to thank everyone who assisted in our important and life-saving work during the year. Together with volunteers, we made the world a safer place for some of the most mistreated people on the planet. We came together to help with many voices, but only one vision. *What is our name?* RefugeeOne!

In gratitude,

Melineh Kano Acting Executive Director

In FY12 RefugeeOne assisted people	
from forty-nine countries:	

Afganistan	Iran
Argentina	Iraq
Belarus	lvory Coast
Belgium	Jamaica
Belize	Korea
Bhutan	Lithuania
Bosnia	Mexico
Brazil	Moldova
Burma	Morocco
Cameroon	Nepal
Chile	Nigeria
China	Panama
Colombia	Peru
Democratic Republic	Philippines
of The Congo	Poland
Cuba	Romania
Dominican Republic	Russia
Egypt	Rwanda
El Salvador	Somalia
Eritrea	Sudan
Ethiopia	Tadshikistan
Guatemala	Turkey
Haiti	Ukraine
Honduras	Uzbekistan
India	Venezuela



OUR NAME IS ... AMERICA

What is your name?

An easy question if you understand English. For most refugees, knowing how to answer is the first step in building their new identity as Americans. A name relays so much: ancestry, religion, ethnicity, membership. From the moment they step off the plane, RefugeeOne helps refugees build lives as Americans who live in safety and dignity. The journey to a new life often begins with the question: "What is your name?"





Pau arrived at O'Hare on July 5, 2011. In Burma, he worked his family's farm until **he was targeted for forced labor and torture** for not joining the military. Finding temporary safety in a refugee camp in Thailand, Pau taught himself English in order to get a jumpstart should he be resettled in an English-speaking country.

Just four months after stepping off the plane, Pau was working as a janitor at a gym in the Gold Coast. He became active in the Burmese community and



volunteered to translate for newly arriving Burmese refugees. He also began a program at Progressive Truck Driving School. Pau received his commercial drivers license, and enrolled in Progressive's job placement service.

When asked why he wanted to

drive a truck, Pau simply replied, "I like to drive." He drove a dump truck for a jade mine, so he is used to handling large vehicles. "*Since I arrived in the United States, in my mind, I've been thinking about my future.* For me, the only way to earn more money is to be a truck driver. My English is not good and I don't have [an American] education."

Thinking of his wife and daughter, still in Burma, he wants to make more money so he will have a nice home when they arrive. Pau's wife works the family farm and, although she has been questioned about his whereabouts, she remains safe. He hopes they will join him soon.

Pau is a living example of RefugeeOne's mission.

PROGRAMS REPORT FY12-



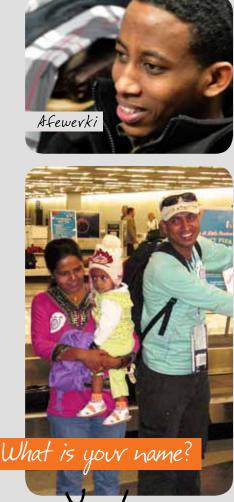
◄ Vincent Cochetel, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' Regional Coordinator for the United States and the Caribbean was one of the speakers at RefugeeOne's new educational series. The series, provided free of charge, invites the community to learn more about refugees and resettlement issues.

RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM: RefugeeOne welcomed 356 refugees in FY12. This was lower than the 500 we had planned for: One of the major refugee camps in Thailand was quarantined due to an outbreak of measles; A tsunami closed the major airport where refugees from Burma/Myanmar exited; Syria closed its borders and trapped thousands of Iraqi refugees. Despite all these challenges, refugees are being resettled at more customary rates. The U.S. also began to increase the number of Africans resettled. After slowing for several years, RefugeeOne was happy to see the nation begin to provide refuge to Africans again.

198 refugees took part in English Language Training and 196 were placed in jobs. Of these, 182 remained employed for at least 90 days and 107 received medical benefits through employment.

A NEW PROGRAM TO MEET A GROWING NEED: RefugeeOne used to refer clients with mental health issues to other agencies. Due to cutbacks in state funding, it was taking as long as six months for a new refugee client to be seen by a therapist or psychiatrist. To meet this need, RefugeeOne developed a program that now provides individual screenings for each refugee it welcomes to Chicago. RefugeeOne's Wellness Program is able to identify and treat mental health issues before they negatively impact a refugee's journey toward self-reliance.

EXPANDED SERVICES FOR YOUTH: RefugeeOne's Youth Program expanded it's after-school component to five days a week. With this additional day, the program has been able to provide extra services resulting in improvement in English, Math and Reading skills. 180 kids participated in after-school, tutoring, and summer components in FY12.



Yadu, Yoshika *‡* Tika Devi

MANY VOICES. ONE VISION.

RefugeeOne's annual gala continued to grow, breaking the \$100,000 mark in FY12. With entertainment, a panel of refugees that spanned the agency's history moderated by WBEZ's Jerome McDonnell, and an upbeat after-party, 300 guests celebrated 30 years of refugee resettlement in Chicago. We were particularly honored to host past Board members, Joyce Allen, Ronald Balsbaugh, Craig Mousin, Georgianna Gleason, Karen Hunt-Ahmed, and Susan Horowitz. Special thanks go to the more than

Desiré Asukulu, from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, who arrived a mere week prior to the gala, took part in a panel presentation of refugees.

What is your name? Desivé

50 companies, arts groups and individuals who contributed to the silent auction and to our sponsors: Abercrombie & Fitch, Bridgeview Bank Group, The Eli Cheesecake Company, Hi-Style Furniture Co., Steve and Maureen Meyer, and VedderPrice.



▲ Morikeba Kouyate was raised into a family of Griots (storytellers), in Senegal. He is known internationally for his expert command of the musical instrumnet, the Kora.

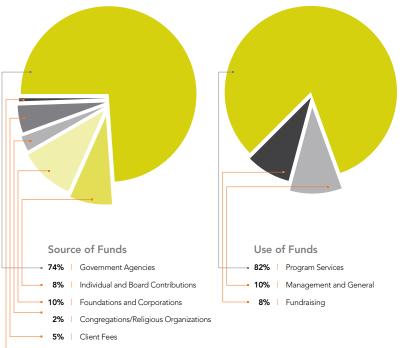


▲ The KUD "Bosna" group performed traditional folk dances from Bosnia, from which RefugeeOne resettled refugees in the 1990s.

IN MEMORIUM: RefugeeOne mourns the loss of Robert O. Carlsen and the closing of Mayfair Evangelical Lutheran Church of Chicago. Mr. Carlsen, a man of deep faith, connected to RefugeeOne through his involvement at Mayfair. Over the years, Mr. Carlsen, through his generous contributions and genuine interest, and the Mayfair community, through their partnership, made it possible for hundreds of refugees to build lives of safety, dignity and self-reliance. Both will be missed by RefugeeOne.

FY 2012

Statement of Activities Years Ended June 30, 2012 and June 30, 2011 **Final audit numbers



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1% | Other Income

THANK YOU!

RefugeeOne thanks the following individual donors who made financial contributions from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012. Although space restrictions do not allow listing every contributor, please know that all contributions are deeply appreciated and essential to ensuring that people fleeing war, terror and persecution find refuge – safety – in the Chicago metropolitan area.

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*Any omissions or errors are regretted in advance. If you notice an error, please contact Tom Hartman, Assistant Director of Development at thartman@refugeeone.org

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RefugeeOne thanks the following organizations who made financial contributions from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012, and the employers who hire and train refugees in the Chicago metropolitan area.

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Just click on the link below and make a secure online contribution to RefugeeOne. Going green means we all save valuable resources like trees and oil, AND we save money so RefugeeOne can ensure that more than 90¢ of every contributed dollar goes toward directly helping refugees.

http://www.refugeeone.org/donate/

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RefugeeOne Chicago

4753 North Broadway Suite 401 Chicago, Illinois 60640

Phone

773.989.5647

Fax 773.989.0484

RefugeeOne Waukegan

1020 Glen Flora Suite 204 Waukegan, IL 60085

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847.244.4342

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