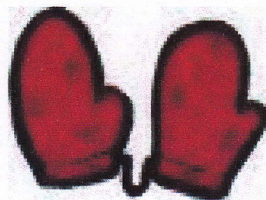


COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR ELLs & THEIR FAMILIES



Rochester Refugee Resettlement Network



Mission Statement

The purpose of this collaboration is to provide whatever services and opportunities are needed to ensure successful assimilation of refugees into our society. We provide assistance to refugees so they may become self-sustaining, law abiding contributors to our society - while still maintaining their cultural heritage.

All of the organizations listed on this site are in great need of volunteers! If you are interested in volunteering, there are links for contacting each organization on their respective pages.

<http://www.rochesterrefugeenetwork.org>

**Please visit this website for more information
on the following organizations:**

- [Refugee Health Program](#)
- [**Refugee Resettlement \(RCORR\)**](#)
- [Catholic Family Center](#)
- [Student Alliance](#)
- [Saint's Place](#)
- [**Mary's Place**](#)
- [Mercy Bridges - Literacy/ESL](#)
- [**"R" Community Bikes**](#)
- [Burma Refugee Mission](#)
- [Literacy Volunteers](#)
- [RCSD Refugee Assistance](#)
- [Regional Transit Service \(Bus\)](#)
- [**Maplewood Community Library**](#)
- [Nazareth College Refugee Advisory Board](#)
- [Somali Community Outreach](#)
- [Rochester Refugee Women's Network](#)

1. Committee on Refugee Resettlement (RCORR)

RCORR is a **broad alliance of professionals and community members** from academia, the Rochester School District, social work, health, resettlement agencies, the law, etc. concerned about refugee resettlement in Rochester.

It was formed in 2005 and meets monthly at Brown Square Health Center or more recently at School #5, on the second Tuesday of each month at 4 p.m.

In addition to acting as a clearing house for activities through its meetings and minutes distributed through its group email list, it has sponsored the following kinds of activities:

- **Refugee picnics**
- Educational presentations for medical "grand rounds" at Strong and RGH (behavioral health, public health, pediatrics)
- **Grant writing aid for individual members (Miner Library)**

Contact: [Louise Bennett M.D.](#) • Brown Square Health Center • 322 Lake Avenue, Rochester, NY 14608 585 672-1722

2. Mary's Place (See Pamphlet)

Mary's Place is a Refugee Outreach Center located in the Northwest Maplewood area of Rochester at 414 Lexington Avenue. We are open Mondays and Tuesdays 1-5, Thursdays 10-6 and Saturdays 10-12. [Please check our website for seasonal changes in our schedule.](#)

We always welcome donations of, and **distribute to, our families clothing, assorted home furnishings including bedding, toys, dishes, cookware and light furniture including cribs, tables, chairs and bookcases.** Donation drop-offs and client walk-ins are welcome any time we are open.

We tutor all ages of refugees helping them learn and practice their English skills. Our tutoring augments that of ESL and formal schooling. We also assist with homework. We offer on-premises counseling; thanks to Hkadin Lee and Liz Ewell and health-outreach counseling thanks to various agencies and volunteers.

We are a ministry of the Neighborhood Outreach Team of the Cathedral Community and have as our motto: serving Jesus in the name of His mother. We work closely with several other Churches and Communities and are blessed to be affiliated with them.

For further information or to volunteer your services please contact [Kathy LaBue](#) or call 585-278-0835. Come visit us any time!

3. "R" Community Bikes

"R" Community Bikes is an evolving program which seeks to provide safe, usable bicycles to needy children and adults in the Rochester area. Every child should have a bike and for the adults, bicycles frequently are their only means of transportation. Located in the heart of the inner Rochester, our warehouse serves as a holding area for bikes and also provides our volunteer corps with a place where they can make needed repairs on bikes before being distributed.

Bikes are solicited from and collected through individual donations and also through various faith communities. Bikes are then inspected, repaired and catalogued before they are distributed. Parts from unusable bikes are always reused and recycled as much as possible. In order to insure that individuals are indeed needy, they must be referred to the clinic by a community agency, church or school. Bikes are then fitted properly and given out free of charge BUT A LOCK AND CHAIN IS REQUIRED OR CAN BE PURCHASED FROM US FOR \$5.00.

BIKES ARE GIVEN AWAY ON WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY AT 9:30 (See: below for further information). Donations of bikes, bike parts or tools are always welcome as are monetary donations helping to cover the expenses incurred such as tires, tubes, locks and cables.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED IN A VARIETY OF POSITIONS FROM GENERAL MAINTENANCE TO BIKE REPAIR. WE CAN PROVIDE NEEDED TRAINING.

For further information or to volunteer, go to <http://rcommunitybikes.net> or contact [Dan Lill](#).



Bike Give-away Rules and Regulations

Adult bikes are given away at 226 Hudson Ave. on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 9:30 AM.

IT IS NOT FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE. DO NOT COME EARLY.

Just be there at 9:30 with:

- personal identification
- a signed letter of reference from an employer, doctor, school, church or SS agency stating why you need a bike
- a lock and chain to secure your bike or \$5 to purchase one - NO EXCEPTIONS
- Children under 18 only need to have a parent with them - no letter is required
- Children receiving an adult bike will also require a lock - see above
- **IMPORTANT:** There is no guarantee that you will receive a bike!
- Unfortunately, demand exceeds supply - by a lot

4. Maplewood Community Library

Most refugees are introduced to the library within their first week of arriving in the United States. They need identification and proof of address to obtain a **library card**. At Maplewood Community Library we offer **English Classes every Saturday morning from 10 am – noon**. These classes can be started at any time because we have a variety of teachers who will work with ESOL students at whatever level of fluency they might have.

We have materials they can borrow to learn English. We also have **materials on Civil Service Exams or on how to interview for a job**. We are willing to help everyone with computer usage, whether to get an email address to write home, or to apply for a job or to type a resume.

The children come to the Maplewood Community Library after school to get **homework help** and to play and learn more about the American way of life. We offer enrichment times during school vacations including a **Summer Reading Program**. Most days the children will learn with other children from at least six other nations. We enjoy learning about their cultures and welcome **art exhibits from their countries**.

Call the Maplewood Library at (585) 428-8220

5. Bureau of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance (BRIA)

BRIA is responsible for the implementation of services to refugees and for the administration of programs targeted at immigrants. BRIA consists of five units providing ongoing technical assistance and funding for newcomer services:

- The Refugee Services Unit supports the state and federal contracts for assistance to refugees and others eligible for refugee services;
- The Immigrant Community Liaison Unit provides community liaisons to ethnic communities across the state;
- The Language Services Unit helps state and local agencies with translation, interpretation, and other language needs; and,
- The Newcomer Transition Unit supports the state's Citizenship Initiative and the New York Immigration Hotline contracts, analyzes new immigrant-related legislation, oversees research efforts, coordinates state program and policy development for non-refugee immigrants on matters related to their integration into the larger community, and provides monthly updates on new refugee arrivals and newcomers served through the Citizenship Initiative, as well as general immigration data derived from the US Census and the US Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS).
- The Administrative Support and Data Management Unit obtains and tracks client and program data, analyzes data for required federal reports, interagency reports, and internal management reports to assist in planning and performance measurement as well as ensuring the ongoing development and maintenance of the BRIA Information Network or BIN System.

*Contact BRIA: New York State Office of Temporary and Disability
Bureau of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance
40 North Pearl Street, 10C
Albany, New York 12243
Phone: (518) 473-1178
bria.contact@otda.state.ny.us*

BRIA Programs

[New York State Citizenship Initiative \(NYSCI\)](#)

NYSCI provides direct services to assist New York's non-citizen residents in **attaining citizenship**. Services include naturalization application assistance, interview preparation, ESL and legal assistance.

[New York State Immigration Hotline](#)

The New York State Immigration Hotline is a New York State funded **multilingual service** that provides information to callers on **immigration questions and provides callers with referrals to service providers**. The New York State Immigration Hotline number is (212) 419-3737 or (toll-free in NYS) 1-800-566-7636.

[New York State Intensive Employment Program \(NYSIEP\) for Refugees Living with Disabilities](#)

The NYSIEP for Refugees Living with Disabilities addresses the employment needs of refugees that cannot be met with the formula social services or Targeted Assistance Grants (TAGs). The program promotes the **integration of refugees with physical and developmental disabilities into mainstream U.S. culture by facilitating their transition to permanent employment and economic self-sufficiency while reducing stigmas and cultural barriers**. The program also provides the necessary technical assistance and support services for refugee and employer participants to ensure their smooth adjustment to their respective roles as employees and mentors/supervisors. Services provided under this notice are available to all refugees, regardless of their length of time in residence in the U.S.

[New York State Refugee Resettlement Assistance Program \(NYSRRAP\)](#)

This New York State funded program is intended to **provide additional support services to eligible refugees so that they may attain self-sufficiency**. These support services are to fill in gaps not covered by other programs and to extend services beyond the time limits imposed by other programs.

[Refugee Cash Assistance and Refugee Medical Assistance \(RCA/RMA\)](#)

Provides **temporary assistance for refugees who are not eligible for other federal cash or medical assistance programs**, within eight months of being granted an eligible status. In New York State Refugee Cash Assistance and Refugee Medical Assistance Services are provided by the local county Departments of Social Services.

[Refugee Health Screening \(RHS\)](#)

The Health Screening Program was created to ensure **follow-up on conditions identified during the overseas medical exam**; identify persons with communicable diseases; identify health conditions that may adversely impact resettlement and to introduce incoming refugees to the United State health care system.

[Refugee School Impact Grant \(RSIG\)](#)

The New York Refugee School Impact Grant Program provides services that help refugee children

and their families adjust to American schools. The programs also provide supportive services to school staff. Services include **summertime Refugee Academies, academic coaching, translation and interpretation services, school staff orientations, parent orientations and family activities.**

Refugee Social Services Program (RSSP)

RSSP provides services to refugees; asylees; Cuban and Haitian Entrants; certified Trafficking Victims and certain family members of certified trafficking victims; certain Amerasian immigrants; parolees admitted as refugees or asylees; and Iraqis and Afghans granted Special Immigrant Status, during their first 60 months of eligibility in the United States. RSSP provides **employment preparation and placements, and transitional supports to help with any impediments to employment and self-sufficiency.**

Repatriation

The U.S. Repatriate Program provides **temporary assistance to U.S. citizens and their dependents that have become destitute, ill, incapacitated, or incarcerated in a foreign country and are without the necessary resources to repatriate.** The program assists them upon return to the United States to resume their lives as quickly as possible.

Response to Human Trafficking Program (RHTP)

Victims of human trafficking who are certified by the Office of Refugee Resettlement are a displaced population with similarities to other groups served by the bureau, such as Refugees, Asylees, Entrants, and certain Amerasian immigrants. Service needs include **health screening, health care and follow-up medical assistance, job training, job placement, and basic food, clothing and shelter.** Additionally, certified trafficking victims require protection from alleged perpetrators and a strict adherence to confidentiality by those who are assisting them.

Victims of human trafficking who are confirmed by NYS DCJS in collaboration with NYS OTDA, and whose immigration status is unknown, are eligible to receive stated funded services including shelter, food, medical care, protection and legal assistance. These confirmed victims who are U.S. citizens and/or children are assisted with accessing Public Assistance Benefits.

Targeted Assistance (TAG)

TAG provides services to refugees; asylees; Cuban and Haitian Entrants; certified Trafficking Victims and certain family members of certified trafficking victims; certain Amerasian immigrants; parolees admitted as refugees or asylees; and Iraqis and Afghans granted Special Immigrant Status, during their first 60 months of eligibility in the United States. **TAG provides job training and placements and services directed toward assisting eligible refugees to reach self-sufficiency.**

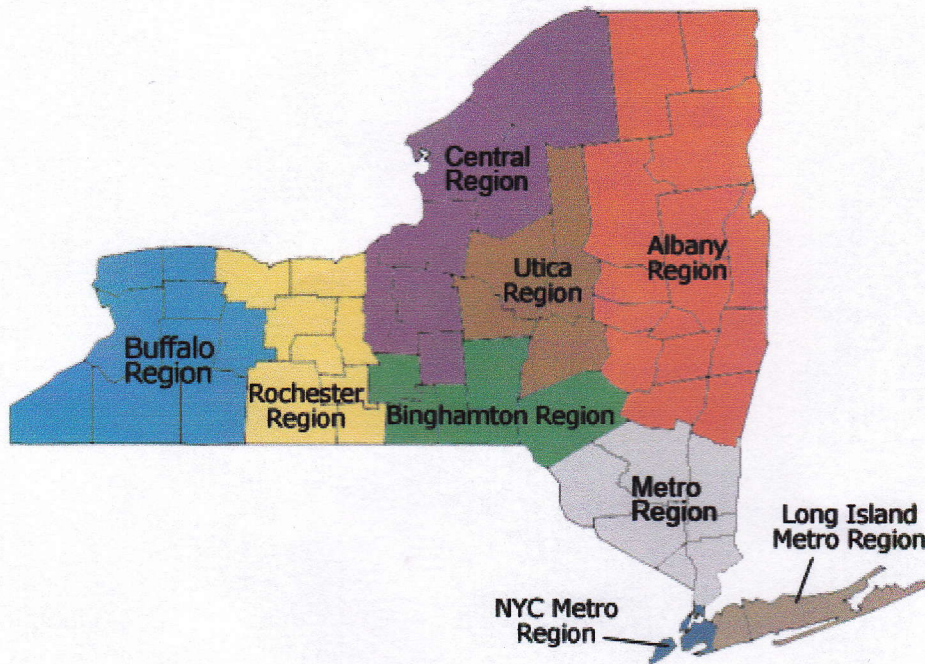
Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program (URM)

The United States Department of State identifies refugee children overseas who are eligible for resettlement in the U.S., but do not have a parent or guardian. Upon arrival in the U.S., these **refugee children are placed into the URM program and they receive refugee foster care and other services and benefits.** In addition, Trafficking Victims identified here in the U.S. are accepted into the program as well as Unaccompanied Alien Children who have adjusted to an asylee or special immigrant juvenile status. In New York State the Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Program providers are located in two counties: Onondaga County and Monroe County.

BRIA Provider Directory

Find providers by region:

On the map of New York State below, click on a region to learn more about BRIA-related programs in that area, and to see the list of providers for that region: (or click on the name of the region in the list below the map)



[Albany](#) | [Binghamton](#) | [Buffalo](#) | [Central](#) | [Long Island](#) | [Metro](#) | [NYC Metro](#) | [Rochester](#) | [Utica](#)

Find providers by program:

- [New York State Citizenship Initiative \(NYSCI\)](#)
- [New York State Intensive Employment Program \(NYSIEP\) for Refugees Living with Disabilities](#)
- [New York State Refugee Resettlement Assistance Program \(NYSRRAP\)](#)
- [Refugee Health Screening \(RHS\)](#)
- [Refugee School Impact Grant \(RSIG\)](#)
- [Refugee Social Services Program \(RSSP\)](#)
- [Response to Human Trafficking Program \(RHTP\)](#)
- [Targeted Assistance \(TAG\)](#)
- [Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program \(URM\)](#)

Rochester Region BRIA Program Providers

Catholic Family Center

Supported Program: New York State Refugee Resettlement Assistance Program (NYSRRAP)

Executive Director: Ms. Carolyn Portanova

Program Contact: Mr. Jim Morris

87 North Clinton Avenue

Rochester, NY 14604

Phone: 585-546-7220, Ext. 4624

Email: jmorris@cfcrochester.org

Catholic Family Center

Supported Program: Targeted Assistant Grant (TAG); Refugee Social Services Program (RSSP)

Executive Director: Ms. Carolyn Portanova

Program Contact: Ms. Cindy Craner

87 North Clinton Avenue

Rochester, NY 14604

Phone: 585-546-7220, Ext. 4612

Email: ccraner@cfcrochester.org

Catholic Family Center

Supported Program: Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM)

Executive Director: Ms. Carolyn Portanova

Program Contact: Ms. Anne Eichas

87 North Clinton Avenue

Rochester, NY 14604

Phone: 585-262-7100, Ext. 4800

Email: aeichas@cfcrochester.org

Rochester City School District

Supported Program: Refugee School Impact Grant (RSIG)

Superintendent: Mr. Jean-Claude Brizard

Program Contact: Ms. Miriam Ehtesham-Cating

30 Hart Street

Rochester, NY 14605

Phone: 585-262-8270

Email: Miriam.Ehtesham-cating@rcsdk12.org