

LSS REFUGEE SERVICES

Fall 2018



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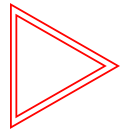
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"LSS Refugee Services offers hope and a helping hand to refugees as they start anew in Minnesota. After years of fleeing from persecution and waiting in refugee camps, LSS Refugee Services helps individuals and families rebuild their lives."

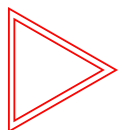


**Lutheran
Social Service**
of Minnesota

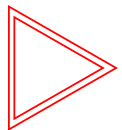
Facts: US Refugee Resettlement



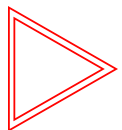
Since 1980, when the federal refugee resettlement program began, over 3 million people with refugee status have been resettled in the United States.



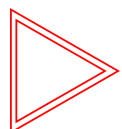
Each Fiscal Year, the president sets a maximum number - or "ceiling" - of people with refugee status admitted for resettlement in the United States.



In Fiscal Year 2018, President Trump set the ceiling at 45,000 individuals, the lowest in program history.



In Fiscal Year 2018, only 22,491 people with refugee status were resettled in the United States, less than half of the ceiling. 671 of these individuals were resettled in the Twin Cities metro.



For Fiscal Year 2019, the ceiling has been decreased to 30,000 individuals.

Spotlight: "Forced from Home"



In September, LSS Refugee Services staff visited the Doctors Without Borders exhibit on the refugee experience: "Forced from Home."

The one-hour tour attempted to portray the experiences of refugees through videos, boat simulations, and common items found in refugee camps. The exhibit guides used their own stories and experiences to explain the work that Doctors Without Borders does to care for displaced families around the world.

"Though it is impossible for me to ever

fully understand what it is like to be a refugee, this exhibit gave me a more realistic view of the abundance of hardships that displaced people endure before even arriving in a host country," LSS Refugee Resettlement Case Manager Maya Lehmann said.

During the tour, staff from LSS Refugee Services shared their own stories of life in refugee camps, and their journey to the United States. Refugee Resettlement Supervisor Sarah Bluhm said these stories were especially influential for her.

"It was impactful to hear stories and see images from places that not just our participants have come from but where some of our staff have spent time as well" Sarah said.

If you missed the exhibit, you can still learn more about the global refugee crisis through the Doctors Without Borders online virtual reality videos! Check it out at:

<https://www.forcedfromhome.com/360-videos/>

Day in the Life: Hannah Schmit, LVC



Hannah is currently serving with our office for her year as a Lutheran Volunteer Corps (LVC) member. LVC'ers spend a year living in intentional community and serving at a social justice nonprofit.

Hannah graduated from Augsburg University in May 2017, with degrees in Sociology and Religion. During her time at Augsburg, Hannah studied abroad in Nepal, India, and El Salvador where she studied communities that have gone through social upheaval, or are living in refuge or exile. After graduating, Hannah

spent a year teaching English in the Czech Republic as a Fulbright scholar. After these experiences, she wanted to learn more about immigration policy and law.

"Working in immigration felt like the next logical step," Hannah said.

Hannah began her work as Family Reunification Coordinator for LSS Refugee Services, Immigration Department in August 2018. Hannah helps individuals and families apply for visas, green cards, and citizenship. She also assists with family reunification applications. She helps families navigate the complicated immigration process.

"Every day I learn something new," Hannah said. "I won't see quick results, but knowing that I am a tool to help people navigate this difficult system brings me joy."

Afghani Bolani Recipe

Afghani Bolani, also known as "Perakai," is a stuffed flatbread usually made with potato, spinach, or lamb fillings. It is a delicious appetizer that is cooked for special occasions such as parties or holidays.



Ingredients:

For Afghani Bolani Bread:

2 cups plain flour
3/4 cup water
a pinch salt
1/4 cup olive oil for frying (2 tablespoons for each bread piece)

For Potato Filling:

4 medium potatoes, boiled, peeled
Salt and pepper to taste
A handful coriander leaves
1 green chilli pepper, chopped

Fills 2 Bolani breads

Preparation:

1. Combine flour and salt in a bowl.
2. Add water slowly and knead by hand until dough is smooth.
3. Cover and set aside for 30 minutes.
4. Mix the ingredients for potato filling.
5. Flour the counter and divide dough into four portions.
6. Make balls with dough portions then roll out with rolling pin into oval shaped, thin flat bread.
7. Spread filling on half of the rolled out bread, leaving a margin near the edge.
8. Fold the other half of the bread over the filling half. Seal the edges by pressing together.
9. Heat oil in frying pan.
10. Fry the bread till golden on one side, flip and repeat with the other side.
11. Repeat with the rest of the dough and enjoy!

Upcoming Events: Winter 2018



Karen Culture Presentation

Learn about Karen history, culture, and resettlement!

When: December 7th, 2018, 3:30-5

Where: Karen Organization of MN
2353 Rice Street, Suite 240,
Roseville, MN

Cost: FREE, Register on event brite, limited to 25 people



"The Somali World & Minnesota"

Learn about the history of the Somali diaspora and how Somali people have navigated challenges and opportunities in Minnesota.

Led by Dr. Cawo Abdi from UMN.

When: December 4th, 2018, 7-8pm

Where: History Lounge, Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd, St. Paul, (651) 259-3015

Cost: FREE

Twin Cities PBS Originals: "I am a Refugee"

"I am a Refugee" is a poem written by Ifrah Mansour and performed at Twin Cities Refugee Day in 2017. She wrote the poem in an effort to capture the resilience of refugees while being honest about the difficulties that they endure. Check it out at the TPT Originals website! (Credit: Ifrah Mansour, Kate McDonald, Twin Cities PBS)

<https://www.tptoriginals.org/what-it-means-to-be-a-refugee/>