

Teach the Ways of Peace

You can make a difference in the lives of refugees.

Get Involved

- Celebrate World Refugee Day June 20 at your worship service of with an old-fashioned “teach-in.” Ask for an information packet on the United Methodist refugee program by calling toll free, 800-554-8583.
- Consider sponsoring or assisting a refugee family in your area. You’ll join many other United Methodist churches in this ministry.
- Learn about the refugees in your community.
- Volunteer to teach English as a Second Language, tutor a refugee child, or help a head of household find a job.
- Contribute to relief and refugee efforts by UMCOR through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering (every Lent), or through one of the UMCOR Advance projects below.

How to Give

Fund refugee relief through **UMCOR Advance #982540, Global Refugee Response, or #901779, New Hope for Newcomers.** Write the # and name of the project on the memo line of your check.

By Offering For local church and Annual Conference credit, put your gift in the offering plate on Sunday.

By Check Make your check to **UMCOR** and send to UMCOR, 475 Riverside Dr., Room 330, New York, NY 10115.

By Credit Card Call toll-free (800) 554-8583

**UMCOR.
Multiplying
Hope.**

The United Methodist Committee on Relief delivers hope and enhances human dignity through food, shelter, health and peace projects.

UMCOR
475 Riverside Drive
Room 330
New York, NY 10115
www.umcor.org

Date: May 2004

From Isolation to Olympic Training: A Refugee’s Story

“God gives the desolate a home to live in.”—Ps. 68:6



Courtesy Delmar UMC

Thanks to members of the First United Methodist Church in Delmar, NY, Darko Knezevic will soon join the US Olympic soccer training team.

Two years ago, Darko, a high school honor student, and his family arrived in the US after a forced move from their home in Bosnia. The church assisted with jobs and language tutoring. The Knezevic family worked hard.

Reflecting on their isolation, fear, and uncertainty before arrival in Delmar, Darko and his family say now: “We live in a safe place, with good schools. We work hard, but we are happy. We will never forget what the people of the First United Methodist Church have done for us.”

The Road to Refuge

Our present decade has seen more of the world's people than ever before seeking refuge from war, persecution, and disaster.

Who is helping these uprooted people? Ironically developing countries, rather than wealthy countries, bear the challenges of providing for refugees' needs. With grants from UMCOR, workers in many countries are teaching skills, feeding, and providing limited income for displaced persons.

Refugees by the Numbers

- 13,000,000. Total number of refugees and asylum seekers.
- 21,800,000 Internally displaced persons.
- 756,500. Number of refugees in the Americas and the Caribbean.
- 5,289,400 Refugees in the Middle East.

Among the world's hot spots: Afghanistan, Colombia, the United States—all locations where major developments affected refugees and displaced persons.

The USCR states: "Statistics on refugees and other uprooted people are often inexact and controversial...." Often, "refugee status precedes its recognition. Most of the world's refugees do not have formal determinations under the United Nations Refugee Convention." The statistics above represent the USCR's scrutiny of reliable sources, supplemented with their own firsthand observations.

Statistics are from the World Refugee Survey 2003, the US Committee for Refugees,
<http://www.refugees.org/WRS2003.cfm.htm>

Courtesy Gloria Reeves, Central TX missions coordinator

Smiles: A Universal Language

From a refugee camp in Kenya to Dallas, TX, a Somali Bantu family resettled with the help of 30 United Methodist churches.

For Deinabo and Abdullahi Mudey and their five children, introduction to their new home began right in camp, with English classes, culture orientation, and math instruction. Then they experienced a series of firsts: first flight; first new apartment in the US furnished with food, dishes, and handmade quilts, clothing and toys; first job in the new city; first ice cream. They also met their first surrogate grandparents United Methodist retirees who befriended the Mudeys and read to the children.

The Mudey family's smiles at their welcome are the universal language of care and faith.