



The Refugee Sunday Poster displayed on a bulletin board at Trinity Lutheran Church in York, PA

Thank You!

LIRS extends our deepest gratitude to all who are celebrating our 75th anniversary with us. We are especially thankful to Lutheran congregations celebrating Refugee Sunday on June 22nd or anytime in 2014. For worship and education materials, or to learn about upcoming events, visit LIRS.org/Sunday



LIRS.ORG



FORWARD TOGETHER

2013 ANNUAL REPORT



— A Message from the President & CEO —

DEAR FRIENDS,

2013 WAS A YEAR OF DEEP REFLECTION AND FOCUSED PREPARATION.

We reflected with thanksgiving on the lessons learned and the inspiring courage of the more than 500,000 migrants and refugees we've walked alongside for almost 75 years. We also engaged in strategic planning to enhance our focus on the "long welcome" to ensure migrants and refugees are not just protected but also empowered and embraced as valued members of their communities.

Our impact over three-quarters of a century is a testament to the power of collaboration, a defining characteristic since 1939. **Not one of the more than 500,000 lives transformed would have been possible without Lutheran congregations, our network of service partners, and our generous supporters.**

Courage is no less a part of our collective impact. The same courage of Lutheran leaders in the 1930's who started our ministry is evident throughout decades of service and advocacy. As wars and conflicts continue to uproot families all over the world, together we continue to take bold action in support of the most vulnerable.



Linda Hartke, President & CEO

In 2013, we worked boldly and courageously with our network to serve the unprecedented numbers of heroic children fleeing violence and abuse in Central America and searching for safety and family in the United States. We continued to work with Immigration and Customs Enforcement to implement and expand humane alternatives to detention, including a pilot program to free detainees into the care of community-based support.

Courageous advocacy for systemic change has been a hallmark of LIRS's ministry since our first year of operations. Through LIRS, in 2013 former refugees spoke to lawmakers in more than 50 visits on Capitol Hill. Although comprehensive immigration reform did not come to fruition in 2013, we made tenacious and determined efforts in partnership with faith leaders and advocates across the country through op-eds, online actions, grassroots events, and meetings with policy makers.



Working with service partners and faith leaders, we also put forward a bold vision and strategic solutions that reflect our values on long-term integration. One of the most important lessons we've learned in 75 years is the importance of relationships and connections that foster a genuine sense of belonging for migrants and refugees. Safety and self-sufficiency are critical early steps in the "long welcome" but together with our partners we can go beyond first steps with greater focus on mentoring and other empowering relationships for newcomers. Read more about our strategic direction on page 12.

In 2013, we saw the courage of congregations to welcome the sojourner and give hope to those in detention. We witnessed the courage of our grassroots supporters to lift their voice in support for justice and human dignity. And of course, we saw the undaunted courage of migrants and refugees creating a life for themselves in a new country after being uprooted from all they held dear.

Would that our mission were not needed. But until there are no more uprooted people, we look forward to building on the courageous foundation of our first 75 years, to strengthening our network of service and faith partners, and to walking hand-in-hand with migrants and refugees to brighter tomorrows.

Towards the "long welcome" we move forward together!

LINDA HARTKE

PRESIDENT & CEO, LUTHERAN IMMIGRATION & REFUGEE SERVICE

30,126



MIGRANTS & REFUGEES

COME TO THE
UNITED STATES FOR
MANY REASONS.

MANY COME SEEKING SAFETY FROM WAR OR PERSECUTION, and all bring unique stories and assets to U.S. communities. At LIRS, our mission is to stand with and advocate for these new neighbors. The gifts that you contribute to this work and the gifts that migrants and refugees bring ultimately transform communities.



9,746

refugees fleeing persecution welcomed into U.S. communities



857

vulnerable children connected to support services and placed into safe, loving environments



248

detained survivors of torture took first steps to safety and freedom by connecting with a lawyer



3,212

refugees connected to supplementary services and resources that will enhance their opportunities to make a living in the United States



14,631

refugees were provided interest free loans and financial counseling as they work toward establishing good credit and financial stability



8,134

people equipped through training, webinars, or other learning events



1,160

vulnerable children connected to support services and placed into safe, loving environments



16,743

adults provided support services to enable children to be reunited with their families safely and quickly



4,417

advocacy actions taken online

30,464

EQUIP & ENGAGE

IN ORDER TO MAXIMIZE OUR CAPACITY TO PROTECT, EMBRACE, AND EMPOWER migrants and refugees, LIRS and its partners provide learning opportunities and support services to equip people to positively influence communities. We share our technical expertise through avenues ranging from webinars and traditional trainings to innovative formats such as our Community Conversations initiative. Community Conversations brought together diverse groups within communities to learn about welcome and belonging, encourage community change, and transform our organization's service strategies. The deep connections forged through Community Conversations led one participant to comment that they "felt more human" after the event.

* Some people engage with LIRS and our partners in multiple ways and may be reflected in more than one number



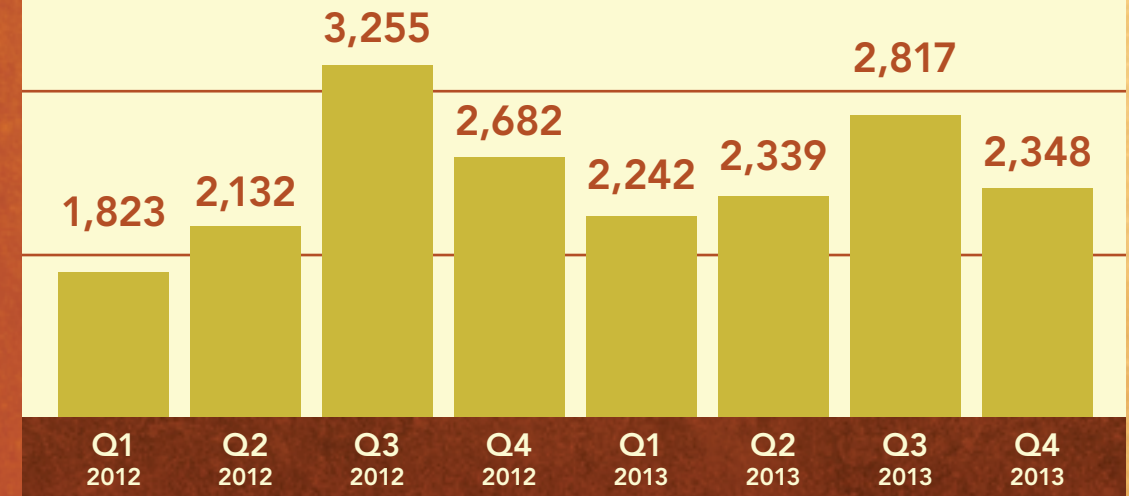


REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

DURING 2013, the largest numbers of refugees came to the United States from Iraq, Burma, Bhutan, and Somalia. The work associated with welcoming different populations varies a great deal, and ranges from treating complex mental health conditions to helping with attaining professional re-certification to gain employment. Service partners, churches, and community groups provide services related to language, housing, education, and employment.

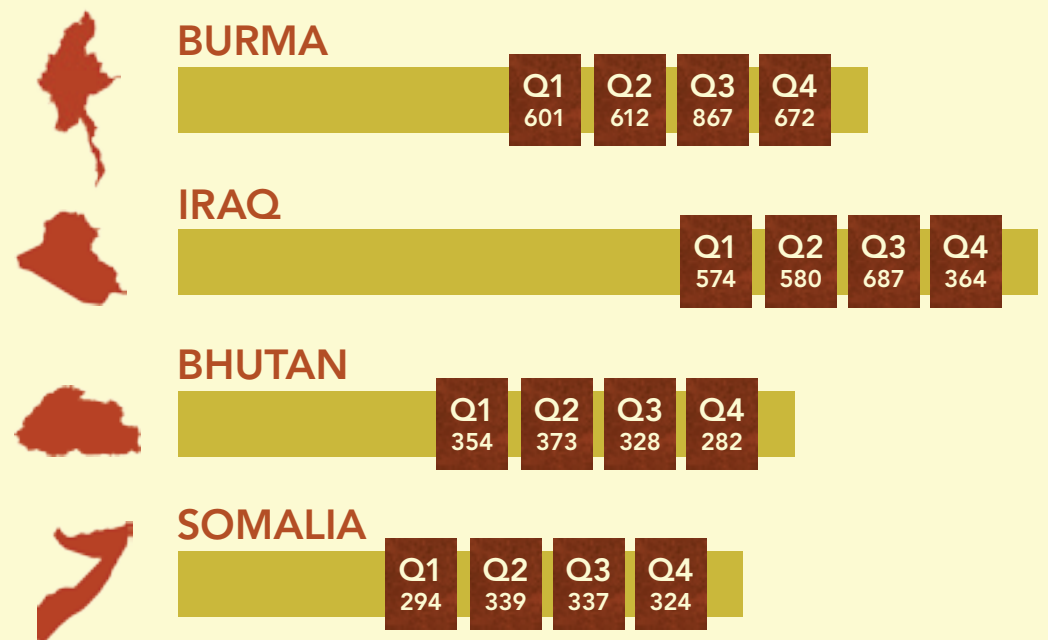
TREND CHART

2012 and 2013, by quarter



BREAKDOWN CHART

Most recent quarters by country or region



3,212



3,212

refugees connected to supplementary services and resources that will enhance their opportunities to make a living in the United States



COMMUNITY INTEGRATION

WHEN REFUGEES ARRIVE IN THE UNITED STATES they immediately begin the process of putting roots down and establishing themselves in their new communities. They enroll their children in school. They learn the local transit system. They sign up for English or computer classes. And they are eager to find employment to be able to provide for themselves and their families. As they work their way to self-sufficiency, refugees prove to be some of the most dependable, hardworking, and committed members of our communities, congregations, and workplaces.



** Some people engage with LIRS and our partners in multiple ways and may be reflected in more than one number*

2,289



CHILDREN'S SERVICES

CHILDREN ARE OFTEN ORPHANED OR TORN FROM THEIR PARENTS as a result of conflict or persecution around the world. Others, desperate to escape violence or poverty, risk everything to go in search of safety and opportunity. When unaccompanied migrant and refugee children are released to a guardian, need an advocate, or would benefit from a loving foster family, LIRS is there to help.



857

children placed in safe, loving foster care environments



1,432

children received expert assistance to gain access to needed services. These services often include placement into a caring environment, legal assistance, language training, or job counseling.





248

detained survivors of torture took first steps to safety and freedom by connecting with a lawyer



6,347

detainees received training on their legal rights



6,595

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

WHEN ASYLUM SEEKERS AND SURVIVORS OF TORTURE flee to the United States in search of protection, they are often imprisoned before they have the opportunity to make their case. LIRS helps migrants impacted by detention by offering critical legal support that can make the difference between beginning a new life and being forced to live in persecution or despair. LIRS embraces migrants impacted by detention by providing legal services, encouraging communities to engage in visitation ministry, and supporting people who are released from detention.



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— 75 YEARS OF — *Courageous Journeys*

COURAGE DEFINES THE MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES LIRS is privileged to walk alongside. And courage defines the moment that inspired our ministry.

As WWII swept through Europe, U.S. Lutherans concerned about displaced Lutherans could not sit idly by. In 1938, Ralph Long, president of the National Lutheran Council, declared in his annual report that the displacement of Lutherans in Europe was a “tragic thing to which we dare not close our eyes or remain indifferent.” As a practical man of faith he continued, “It must be translated into constructive and cooperative assistance.”

And so, in the spirit of cooperative and constructive assistance, began Lutheran efforts to resettle displaced Lutherans. In the first year of operations, 1939, 522 people were helped by Lutheran congregations and volunteers.

By the late 1950s, the displaced persons and refugees from WWII were mostly settled. We could have said a prayer of thanks and closed our doors. But in this world fraught with persecution and strife, wars and rumors of wars, there sadly were more tragic things to which we dared not close our eyes.

And by this time we’d gotten pretty good at helping people rebuild their lives. We’d created networks of ministries to care for people, strong partnerships with the federal government, and robust advocacy. What started out as helping family in a time of crisis actually equipped us for a much bigger mission.

75 years later, the same spirit of courage and constructive, cooperative assistance defines LIRS. Our mission is not only protection and short-term stability. It’s also what we call the “long welcome,” ensuring migrants and refugees are embraced and empowered to become part of the fabric of America.

LIRS
75th
ANNIVERSARY
1939 - 2014



1939

Lutherans formed a ministry to resettle Lutherans displaced by WWII. We had various names over the decades and are best known as LIRS.



1960

LIRS starts helping refugees from any nation (almost 400,000 refugees so far).



1978

LIRS helps the U.S. government start the Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Program, to resettle children on their own in refugee camps. As of 2013, we’ve helped about 7,000 refugee children.



2002

Legal services were desperately needed by asylum seekers and others in immigration detention so LIRS began providing help and working on alternatives to detention. More than 100,000 people helped.



2005

Building on work with unaccompanied migrant children that started in the 1980s, LIRS becomes a partner in a special program for children entering the U.S. on their own. More than 2,000 children helped so far.



2012

To encourage local congregations to visit immigrants in detention, LIRS launches a visitation ministry grant program. Volunteers make more than 500 volunteer visits that year.



2014

Lutherans celebrate 75 years of ministry through LIRS!

4,417 ADVOCACY ACTIONS taken on the LIRS Action Center, more than twice the number of actions taken in 2012

27 FORMER REFUGEES visited 54 Congressional offices on World Refugee Day

35 LUTHERAN LEADERS visited 79 Congressional offices and the White House as part of Lutheran Immigration Leadership Summit

OVER 70 LETTERS, statements, and educational documents contributed to the Senate's successful comprehensive immigration reform bill

MORE THAN 30 OP-EDS on immigration reform were featured in newspapers across the country

3 CRITICAL PROTECTIONS were renewed or extended thanks in part to LIRS advocacy

- The Violence Against Women Act of 2013 (VAWA)
- The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2013 (TVPRA)
- The Special Immigrant Visa program for Iraqis who assisted U.S. troops overseas

LIRS COURAGEOUSLY ADVOCATES FOR LAWS THAT PROTECT, EMBRACE, AND EMPOWER MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES.

Through a dedicated and diverse network of Lutherans, migrant and refugee leaders, and service partners, LIRS is vocal from the White House to the grassroots level on immigration reform and other issues impacting the people we serve. Together we help legislators understand the issues and mobilize communities through prayer vigils, meetings with lawmakers, educational events, and bible studies.

Core to LIRS's advocacy is empowering former refugees. Those who have walked the journey of a new American are important leaders advocating with and for uprooted people. Through advocacy trainings facilitated by LIRS, former refugees share their



courageous stories directly with legislators on Capitol Hill, demonstrating to lawmakers how policies personally affect them.



EMPOWERING & ADVOCATING

"My greatest success has been my ability to encourage and empower fellow refugees to have a voice."

My most memorable moment during last year's World Refugee Day event was meeting with both Senators from my state. I never thought in my life that I would ever have a country to call home, after being expelled from my own country, not to mention sit with a Senator of the United States. I told them that such an opportunity was both fulfilling and important to me. I thanked them for allowing me to thank this great country."

OMAR BAH

WORLD REFUGEE DAY PARTICIPANT,
FORMER REFUGEE FROM THE GAMBIA

FINANCIALS

ASSETS

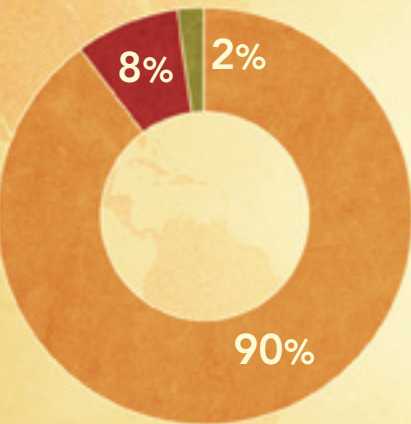
Cash	\$6,605
Investments, at market value	835
Accounts Receivable	
U.S. Government	7,080
Miscellaneous	208
Loans Receivable	8
Prepaid Expenses and Other	205
Investment in Lutheran Center Corporation	3,671
Funds Held by Trustee	350
Furnishings and Improvements, net	271
Total Assets	\$19,233

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$8,611
Long-term Debt, current portion	100
Long-term Debt	2,312
Total Liabilities	\$11,023

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$7,642
Temporarily restricted	568
Total Net Assets	\$8,210
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$19,233



EFFICIENCY RATIO

for year ended December 2012

- Program Expenses
- Management and General Expenses
- Fundraising Expenses

SUPPORT & REVENUE

Contributions	
Participating Church Bodies	\$912
Foundations and Corporations	116
Other Contributions	941
In-kind Contributions	9
Total Contributions	1,978
U.S. Government	46,415
Servicing Fees	1,788
Miscellaneous Revenue	193
Total Support and Revenue	\$50,374

EXPENSES

Program Services	\$44,734
Management and General	4,037
Fundraising	952
Total Operating Expense	\$49,724
Change in Net Assets	\$640
Non-operating Activities - investments	10
Change in Net Assets - all activities	\$650
Net Assets - beginning of year	\$7,559
Ending Net Assets	\$8,210



Note: Full-audited financial statements are available at lirs.org

FUNDING PARTNERS

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration

CHURCH BODIES

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Presbyterian Church (USA)
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society

FOUNDATIONS

The Jacob and Valeria Langeloth Foundation
InFaith Community Foundation
Wheat Ridge Ministries
The John P. and Eleanor R. Yackel Foundation

CORPORATIONS

Association of Lutheran Development Executives
Dunham + Company
ELCA Mission Investment Fund
Mawi, Inc.
Negstad Consulting, Inc.
PORTICO Benefit Services
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

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Nancy Langer, *Interim Vice President for Mission Advancement*

SERVICE PARTNERS

The LIRS network includes more than 60 social and legal service providers across the country. Learn more about our partners by visiting LIRS.org/service.

FORWARD TOGETHER

The LIRS Strategy for 2014 and Beyond

LIRS has developed a strategy designed to move us into the future more powerfully, and meet our mission more effectively. In the spirit of interdependence and collective impact, the strategy was developed through a series of conversations with former migrants and refugees, service and faith partners, and other stakeholders. The strategy has four main components.

1 LONG-TERM INTEGRATION

We have learned that the initial welcome of newcomers is critical and essential. This is work that LIRS has engaged in for decades. But we have also learned that the journey toward mutual integration extends long past the initial welcome. Practices of inclusion must be sustained and sustainable for everyone to know that they belong and contribute to the community. This is what we have come to call the “long welcome.”

2 SOCIAL CAPITAL OF COMMUNITIES

The “long welcome” is built on the practices that have been the hallmark of our work with migrants and refugees for 75 years. People thrive when they are supported by social bonds, and communities thrive when people are engaged. LIRS is committed to ensuring that the human side of the mission—social engagement—gets the attention it deserves. We will be looking for ways in all of our work to bolster social relationships for newcomers such as connections forged by local communities of faith.

3 ROBUST NATIONAL NETWORK

A third part of our strategy relates to our national vision to leverage change. The migrants and refugees who come to America deserve to find themselves in communities of welcome. But today, in many places, America is not a welcoming place. By working through our network partners LIRS seeks to improve not just the quality of the services migrants and refugees receive, but also the communities they join. Knitting together our whole network of partners around the country, we want to work together to accomplish important shared goals. These include everything from making work and education more accessible to migrants and refugees, to changing the community and national discourse around immigration.

4 LEADERSHIP OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

The final part of our strategy focuses on building greater leadership and giving greater voice to migrants and refugees themselves. Together—with our network; with our church partnerships; and with the energy of refugee and migrant leaders—LIRS plans to accomplish even greater things in its next 75 years.

— VISION —

All migrants and refugees are protected, embraced, and empowered in a world of just and welcoming communities.

— MISSION —

Witnessing God's love for all people, we stand with and advocate for migrants and refugees, transforming communities through ministries of service and justice.





— BE PART OF THE —
“Long Welcome”



WALK ALONGSIDE MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES AS A

DONOR: Send a gift using the reply envelope in this report or give online at [LIRS.org/donate](https://lirs.org/donate)

ADVOCATE: Speak out for fair and humane immigration policies at [LIRS.org/action](https://lirs.org/action)

VOLUNTEER: Seek a volunteer opportunity with migrants and refugees in your community at [LIRS.org/act](https://lirs.org/act)

STORYTELLER: Share stories and social media posts to educate and inspire others to act



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