Founded in 2000 by Somali refugees

We are now a multi-ethnic community-based organization endeavoring to improve the lives of Nashville’s growing refugee and immigrant communities by providing services and programs aimed at fostering integration.

Who We Serve

Refugees and immigrants from over 55 countries who predominantly live in Middle Tennessee

Who Are We

- Tennessee had the fastest growing immigrant population in the country from 2000 to 2011 (Migration Policy Institute).
- In 2012, the graduation rate for LEP students in MNPS was 13.5 percent lower than the average MNPS graduation rate (TN DOE Report Card).
- In Davidson County, the foreign-born were three times more likely to lack a high school diploma than the native-born in 2011 (American Community Survey).
- According to the 2010 Nashville Chamber of Commerce’s “A Community Needs Assessment for Adult Literacy” reporting one out of eight people aged 16 years or older living in Davidson County could not read in 2003.

What We Do

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Annual Impact/Outcomes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Integration</td>
<td>Employment Services</td>
<td>60 gain employment and 90 improve their employment readiness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Integration</td>
<td>Social Adjustment Services</td>
<td>110 gain access to needed services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Integration</td>
<td>English as a Second Language</td>
<td>80% improve their English</td>
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<tr>
<td>Integration</td>
<td>Financial Literacy</td>
<td>100% improve their financial literacy knowledge</td>
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<tr>
<td>RISE</td>
<td>Afterschool program for 60 MNPS students</td>
<td>• Student average daily attendance of 90% or higher</td>
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<td>offered two hours per day Mondays through</td>
<td>• Program quality at all RISE sites improves on at least two scales of the YPQA from</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thursdays throughout the school year</td>
<td>fall to spring</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Students’ DEA scores increase by 50%+ in math and 25%+ in Language Arts throughout</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>year</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Why We Serve

- Refugees and immigrants from over 55 countries who predominantly live in Middle Tennessee.

What We Want to Know

- EVALUATION STUDY: What is the impact of our RISE afterschool program on students?
- Leadership skills
- Socialization/social skills/emotional development
- Literacy levels and academic growth
- Acculturation

EVALUATION STUDY: What is the value added by afterschool programs (i.e. can the impact of such programs be measured in isolation from what is experienced during the school day?)

EVALUATION STUDY: What is the impact of refugee services and programming? Are providers indeed successful in the eyes of our clients (many of us currently measure self-sufficiency by # employed, # attending _ classes, # improving English language comprehension, etc.)

Prospective process: Each refugee provider could connect the academic partner with a random group of clients (to reduce bias) which could be interviewed regarding their experience with the provider, with resettlement, and post-resettlement integration.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT: What agenda must refugee service providers work from collectively in order to be successful in fostering refugee integration? Short-term Goal Define an action agenda.

Prospective process: The following would be discussed with leadership at each agency: What do you struggle with, where do you feel providers/Nashville are successful in fostering refugee integration, where you feel providers/Nashville are failing, etc.)

What We Bring to the Table

- Staff who work closely with a large pool of refugee and immigrant clients and students
- Needed interpreters
- Programs already in place for evaluation
- A history of engaging in academic-community partnerships
- Established networks with other service providers, community organizations, key community figures
- Particularly strong connections with refugees from Burundi, Bhutan, Somalia, and Iraq and immigrants from Egypt.