



## in THIS ISSUE

### In Their Own Words

Yarima Gonzales' firsthand account of her successes in the United States. (page 2)

### "A Place To Call Home"

A look back at World Refugee Day 2004. (page 3)

### KRM Recognized

Mayor Jerry Abramson honors KRM with Mayor's International Award. (page 3)

### Volunteer Profile

Geoff and Sherry Maddock devote themselves to all aspects of refugee resettlement. (page 4)

## Preparing Youth For Success

# School Year Begins For Many Refugee Students

By Sara Payne

Over 40 of our young clients started at Jefferson County Public Schools this fall, a record for Kentucky Refugee Ministries. Our new students come from six different countries and are attending 12 different schools. For many of them, this is their first chance ever to attend school. Our families are facing the new challenges this presents extremely well. The children especially love computer time and are quickly becoming proficient.

With the help of Steve Burton, manager of Meijer's, E.J. Golightly, cofounder of KidsClothes, and volunteers from Highland Presbyterian and St. Luke Episcopal churches, we were able to provide clothing and school supplies for each of the new students. Volunteers from St. Luke Episcopal measured all the children for their new clothes. Meijer's provided a pair of trousers, two shirts, and a belt for each child at a substantial discount. KidsClothes donated dozens of socks, underwear, toothbrushes, and toothpaste for everyone. Highland Presbyterian donated backpacks, filled them with school supplies, and delivered the uniforms and backpacks to each child's home.

This prime example of the "it takes a village" approach is greatly appreciated by the families and by



Thanks to the help of many community groups, Hamiso Musa (left) and Noel Mkandama are well prepared for the start of the school year.

Kentucky Refugee Ministries. Arriving at school with the correct clothing and supplies builds self esteem, which is especially important for those who are experiencing so many adjustments and changes.

The Building Futures Program, which was established last year as a joint effort between Kentucky Refugee Ministries, Jefferson County Public Schools, and the Office for International Affairs, starts again later this month and provides one-on-one English language tutoring for many of our students.

## upCOMING

### Culinary Connections 2004

Highland North (former Parr's Rest), 969 Cherokee Road  
Saturday, Nov. 13  
6:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

\$40 per person  
\$75 per couple

Tickets are currently available at Kentucky Refugee Ministries. They will also be available at Carmichael's Books starting Oct. 15.

### And Remember...

Check out activities on our Web site:  
[www.kyrm.org](http://www.kyrm.org)



On July 31, 2004 the Sudanese living in Louisville conducted a ceremony of appreciation for the 51 students who successfully completed various standards of education. About 33 students got GED or high school diplomas and 17 students got their elementary school certificates to join middle school.

## Proud Achievements Recognized In Special Ceremony

# Sudanese Community Celebrates Graduations

By James M. Kenyi, Secretary of Information, Sudanese Community

One student completed his masters from the University of Louisville.

It is worth noting here that this important occasion was meant to encourage the students to aggressively pursue their educational goals to the best they can despite the multiple challenges they face. In the U.S. going to school and working at the same time requires great sacrifice,

proper use of time, personal determination and self motivation. For this reason we feel it is important to encourage the students and show them we appreciate their efforts by providing both moral and material support. Showing your children you are proud of what they do has a paramount positive impact on their lives.

(continued on page 2)



## A Delicious Evening In The Cherokee Triangle

# Culinary Connections: November 13, 2004

Please join Kentucky Refugee Ministries for a gourmet evening at the newly remodeled Highland North. Sample hors' d'œuvres, appetizers, and desserts from Louisville's best restaurants while you enjoy a complimentary wine bar and entertaining live food preparation demonstrations.

Last year, Culinary Connections showcased the food of over 50 Louisville restaurants, including: **Jack Fry's, Avalon, Jarfi's Bistro, Le Relais, Club Grotto, Cafe Metro, Uptown Cafe, Babylon, 211 Clover Lane, Cafe Fraiche, Lilly's, and Ramsi's Cafe**

**on the World.** The 2004 lineup promises to be every bit as delicious, including some of the city's hottest new dining spots.

While enjoying the fabulous food, shop the silent auction for culinary items large and small—from autographed cookbooks to a food lover's tour of New Orleans.

Tickets are \$40 per person or \$75 per couple and all proceeds benefit Kentucky Refugee Ministries. Tickets are available now at the agency's office on Cherokee Road (on the rear side of Highland North).

## In Their Own Words

### English Is The Door



*This is the story, in her own words, of Yarima Gonzales, 20, who came to the United States in the summer of 2002.*

I came to the United States almost two years ago with my mother. Almost all the time I was sad because I felt lonely and I did not know how to speak English.

One week later I started to study English at Kentucky Refugee Ministries. My teacher was Steve. He taught me a lot of words and how to do big sentences, paragraphs, etc.

Three months after that I began to work in my first job in the Courtyard Marriot Hotel on 2nd Street cleaning rooms. I

worked there for nine months – and let me tell you something – I worked so hard. For that reason I decided to start in Jefferson Community College, studying English as a second language. I did my first and second semester where I got good result in my class. In this moments I feel great. I can understand 90% when someone talk to me and speak 75% more than a year ago.

Since July 2003 I have been working at a new hotel close to my apartment. Five months ago I worked like an inspector but right now I am a supervisor of the house-keeping department. I just want for the next year to speak better than now because I want to get a new position and study something in the future. English is the door in the United States.

*Steve Worful, the teacher mentioned by Yarima above, adds the following about his former student:*

Yarima's words don't give her credit enough! Her immediate supervisor, Ms. Elda Santiago, Executive Housekeeper at the Hilton Garden Inn on Crittenden Dr, was effusive in her praise of Yarima and what she means to the hotel. The two met at Yarima's first job, and when Ms. Santiago moved to her present position she took Yarima with her.

"She is very dedicated, very conscientious about her work," says Ms. Santiago.

She was quickly put in charge of four floors, and now is Ms. Santiago's top assistant. In Ms. Santiago's absence Yarima is now "in charge of everything" – eight floors, 210 rooms, and a remarkably diverse staff of 24. "We have a U.N. here," Ms. Santiago explains. "Americans, Cubans, Mexicans, Bosnians, Albanians, people from African countries – a good mix."

Important in all of this is Yarima's personality. "She gets along with everyone," her supervisor says. "Everyone loves her."

Yarima's ability to work in the English language has been vital as she has moved into more responsible positions. "She's learned a lot of English," according to Ms. Santiago, "and can read and translate anything I give her. I sometimes need her to translate from the many dialects of Spanish to English – or go the other way. And she is always willing to help in any department of the hotel. She has so much patience."

Of course, her pay "has gone up a lot," says Mrs. Santiago, but she realizes her protégé has only begun. "Her future is very bright; she can do anything she wants to do. She's going to college...she knows it's a lot of work and she's giving it her all. We wish her a lot of luck. Her mother must be very proud of her."

And so is KRM.

## Sudanese Community Celebrates Graduations

*(continued from front page)*

These young guys have undoubtable talents that they have initially demonstrated to us. They are our future Sudanese workers.

The graduates, the Chairman of the Sudanese Community, everybody including me are truly indebted to all KRM staff and the director for the tireless advice and support they give us. Everybody present at the graduation party treasures all of Ms. Carol Young's good advice and encouragement. We are so grateful for that and we still need more similar encouragements.

Finally we are glad to be in the United States and able to make use of the advantages of being here. With all the privileges



and support we receive, we will make a good future for our country and ourselves. Honestly we do pray for our land of adoption (the United States) and specifically our host, the metro government, our sponsors, Kentucky Refugee Ministries, Catholic Charities agency and all our friends.

May God bless America.



## World Refugee Day 2004

# Louisville, "A Place to Call Home"

On June 20, over 300 community members celebrated World Refugee Day at Glassworks with the theme, "A Place to Call Home." The afternoon was a celebration of the many refugees who have settled in Louisville and now call it home. Some refugees shared their personal experiences, while others shared through dance and song.

The program included a special performance by local jazz pianist and composer Harry Pickens, accompanied by a community chorus as well as youth from KRM's summer youth program. Included in the musical selection were original compositions by Pickens that truly reflected the day's theme, including "The Welcome Song", "We Are ALL America," and "Let There Be Peace."

June 20 was designated World Refugee Day in 2000 when it was unanimously adopted by the UN General Assembly. It is a day in which we think about the world's refugees, and extend to them our encouragement, support, and respect. U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan said about this day, "I urge you to celebrate the extraordinary courage and contributions of refugees past and present."



KRM youth join Harry Pickens and the community chorus in celebration of World Refugee Day on June 20 at Glassworks.

## KRM Receives Mayor's International Award

Kentucky Refugee Ministries was one of three recipients to receive the first annual Mayor's International Award. Along with the Louisville Free Public Library and ValuMarket, Kentucky Refugee Ministries was honored for its "significant contributions to Louisville's multicultural community through leadership, education, community relations, and workforce diversity." We are extremely grateful for this recognition and we wish to thank the city and Mayor Abramson for this honor.



Omar Ayyash, Director of the the Office for International Affairs (front row, far left), and Mayor Jerry Abramson (back row, second from right), join KRM staff and board members to accept the first annual Mayor's International Award for promoting the city's multicultural community.

## Comings and Goings

Kentucky Refugee Ministries bids a very fond farewell to the following staff persons:

**Elizabeth Kuhn**, Cuban Program Caseworker

**Julie Morison**, Wilson/Fish Case Manager

**Erin Herbert**, Youth Services Coordinator

**Amelia Davis**, Volunteer Coordinator

**Diana Church**, Community Service Coordinator

**Rasim Hajrulahovic**, Donations & Transportation Coordinator

**Karin Soltau**, Mental Health Coordinator

And we heartily welcome:

**Heather Shull**, Refugees of the World Caseworker

**Susan Towsley**, Cuban Program Caseworker

**Semsudin Haseljic**, Wilson/Fish Caseworker

**Sara Payne**, Youth Services Coordinator

**Sara Head**, Volunteer Coordinator

**Muhamed Skopljak**, Donations & Transportation Coordinator

**Alice Broadwater**, Literacy Teacher

**Asmir Terzic**, Intern

We also ecstatically welcome the return of **Pam Ratterman**, Community Services Coordinator, after an extended leave of absence.

## In Memoriam

We mourn the loss of those members of the Kentucky Refugee Ministries family listed below as we also remember and celebrate the courage with which they pursued their dreams for a peaceful life.

**James Mangui (Akeck)**  
Arrived April 2001 from Sudan

**Deniza Kuljancic**  
Arrived January 1999 from Bosnia

**Miguel Govin**, husband of Lilia Periche  
Arrived September 2002 from Cuba

**Gladys Rodriguez**  
Arrived January 2002 from Cuba

**Lucia Adame**  
Arrived December 2003 from Cuba



Kentucky Refugee Ministries  
969 B Cherokee Road  
Louisville, KY 40204  
502-479-9180  
www.kyrm.org

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Louisville, KY  
Permit #332

## MISSION

*Kentucky Refugee Ministries, Inc. (KRM), a non-profit organization, is dedicated to providing resettlement services to refugees through church- and agency-based sponsorship in order to promote self-sufficiency and successful integration into our community. KRM is committed to offering access to community resources and opportunities and to promoting awareness of diversity for the benefit of the whole community.*

## BOARD of DIRECTORS

Lana Al Zoubi  
Kathy Bernson  
Dennis Bricking  
James O. Chatham  
Daniel M. Delen  
Ernest Camp Edwards  
J. Marti Kinny  
Joseph Norris  
Jane Parker  
Djenita Pasic  
Julie Peteet  
Yvette Cabrera-Rojas  
Kathey G. Sanders  
John Schmidt  
Terry Singer  
Jeanie Tan Trudel  
Rev. Stephen Wilson

## Volunteer Spotlight

# Geoff and Sherry Maddock

By Babs Kleine

Our Lexington office is very fortunate to have great church, volunteer, and community support. We depend on the help of our volunteers and interns who consistently provide an excellent resettlement experience for our refugees. In particular, after three and a half years, Geoff and Sherry Maddock are still providing invaluable services to our agency.

Geoff and Sherry became involved with refugees while they were both students at Asbury Seminary. They first learned about our agency by chance when they walked by our office and noticed our sign. They were newlyweds, just back from a trip to Australia, Geoff's home. They expressed an interest in volunteering and were soon helping a young couple from Bosnia. They not only helped, they became close friends and were even with the young Bosnians at the hospital when their first child was born.

After graduation from Seminary, Geoff and Sherry, with the support of others, formed a community of faith in downtown Lexington. They serve their neighbors, immigrants, refugees, the homeless, and others. Even with their busy schedules, Geoff and Sherry remain faithful and hard-working volunteers for our agency. And their commitment is infectious. Many others who worship with them are also now regular volunteers. They help with all aspects of our resettlement program.

This summer, Sherry's home church in Georgia, along with their local church community in Lexington, held a three day camp for our school-age refugee children. They organized crafts, games, and a trip to a museum. The refugee children and the youths from Georgia had a wonderful time getting to know each other.



**Geoff and Sherry Maddock, along with baby Isaac, have made a huge impact in their three and a half years of volunteer work.**

Geoff and Sherry are active members of our Advisory Board. They move furniture, welcome refugees, provide transportation to appointments, help orient refugees to the community, and collect and organize donations. When they are not available, others in their community of faith are willing to help us. How fortunate we are that our small sign caught their attention, and that they decided to pursue their interest in refugees and their passion for helping others.