WHO ARE WE?
ABOUT THE U.S. COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS

OUR MISSION
USCRI’s mission is to protect the rights and address the needs of persons in forced or voluntary migration worldwide by advancing fair and humane public policy, facilitating and providing direct professional services, and promoting the full participation of migrants in community life.

USCRI has been serving uprooted people, regardless of their nationality, race, religion, ideology, or social group, for almost a century.
OUR HISTORY

USCRI traces its ancestry back to 1911, with the founding of the early International Institutes and Travelers Aid societies. These organizations welcomed the immigrants of the early 20th century, when, in the twenty years between 1900 and 1920, 15 million people entered the US – the highest level since the birth of the republic.

By 1925 there were 55 International Institutes who, in 1939, formed a Common Council for American Unity. This organization was to help create among the American people the unity and mutual understanding that result from a common citizenship and a common belief in democracy and the ideals of liberty for all citizens, whatever their national or racial origins.

In 1959 President Eisenhower called for the formation of a US committee to represent the American people during the first World Refugee Year. Its mission was to raise awareness of problems and conditions besetting refugees worldwide, unrestricted by special interests or political affiliation. The United States Committee for Refugees (USCR) formed, printing the first World Refugee Survey, a non-sectarian source of reliable information for policy makers, in 1960-61.

In 1981, the coalition of International Institutes (the one-time Common Council for American Unity) and USCR merged to form the current organization, USCRI. Most of the original International Institutes remain as partner agencies.

Since 1981, USCRI has resettled over a quarter of a million people. It has published the World Refugee Survey for nearly 50 years!
Our programs fall into several areas.

**International Protection**
This program defends the rights of refugees and asylum seekers worldwide. USCRI identifies gaps between the treatment of the displaced persons and the international standards specified in the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. It then brings these issues to the attention of media, policymakers, and citizens worldwide.

**Public Advocacy**
USCRI, cooperating with dozens of human rights groups in host countries, advocates at the national and international level.

- It briefs US and foreign officials, the United Nations and humanitarian agencies, the media, relief groups, and the public
- It presents testimony to Congress
- It issues domestic and international press releases
- It makes presentations at briefings, seminars, policy forums, and other events, including the annual meeting of the UNHCR (UN High Commissioner for Refugees) Executive Committee in Geneva

It has mobilized over 500 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and individuals to endorse the “Statement Calling for Solutions to End the Warehousing of Refugees” and to take action on refugee rights.
End Refugee Warehousing Campaign
Since 2004, USCRI has led a growing coalition of hundreds of NGOs to end refugee warehousing. This practice confines refugees in remote camps, or otherwise deprives them of their rights to work, to move about freely, to choose their place of residence, and to receive the same services as nationals.

World Refugee Survey and website
USCRI also published the World Refugee Survey, an authoritative report on refugees worldwide, through 2009. The interactive wiki, worldrefugeesurvey.org, has replaced the printed report. USCRI’s website features a country-by-country index of reports, statistics, field notes, and articles. The e-mail Bulletin reaches thousands around the world.

Promoting Refugee Rights in Thailand
In 2006, with seed funding through the UNHCR, USCRI began a pilot project to advance refugees’ rights in Thailand. USCRI is working with Thai civil society groups to:

• Advocate for refugees’ rights to work, practice professions, run businesses, own property, move about freely, and choose their place of residence
• Build awareness, solidarity, and advocacy among Thais

National Center for Refugee & Immigrant Children (NCRIC)
Each year about 8,000 undocumented immigrant children arrive in the U.S. without a parent or adult guardian. These children (primarily from Central and South America, but also from China and Africa) are often fleeing domestic abuse, gang violence, trafficking, or poverty. Some may be seeking asylum, others may simply want to reunite with family members or seek opportunities not available in their home countries. They are detained by immigration authorities and placed in deportation proceedings. Many are sent back without ever speaking to an attorney or receiving basic health or social services.

With the support of Angelina Jolie and the American Immigration Lawyers Association, USCRI launched the National Center for Refugee & Immigrant Children to meet the legal and social needs of these children. The Center recruits and trains pro bono attorneys who provide free legal services to these children and guide them through the immigration court system.

Since 2005, the Center has recruited and trained over 1,900 lawyers, provided over 3,000 children with free legal services, placed over 980 children with attorneys nationwide, and referred over 130 to free health and social service providers.
**National Programs**

These programs work through a network of 28 affiliate agencies and five field offices to assist refugees, asylees, Cuban and Haitian entrants, and immigrants living in the United States. Our field offices, in Colchester, Vermont; Albany, New York; Erie, Pennsylvania; Raleigh, North Carolina; and Dearborn, Michigan, provide direct resettlement and integration services.

- **Reception and Placement** provides newly arrived refugees with the essential services and support they need to rebuild their lives and take steps towards becoming U.S. citizens.

- **Matching Grant** assists refugees, asylees, Cuban and Haitian entrants, and victims of trafficking to attain economic self-sufficiency shortly after arrival by providing employment counseling, English language training, and other case management services.

- **Preferred Communities** provides newcomer family services to refugees in smaller cities, which offer more affordable housing and a welcoming community.

- **The Refugee Healthy Marriage program (RHMP)** strengthens families. Refugees, who have often been traumatized by persecution, war, torture, and displacement, must adjust to an American culture that differs dramatically from their own. RHMP teaches techniques that help to resolve the inevitable conflicts and strains.

- **Banking on the Future**, a financial literacy program, helps refugees (whose home countries typically have very different systems) understand and navigate mainstream financial services in the United States.

- **Refugee Emergency Housing Assistance** ensures that the most vulnerable refugees resettled through the USCRI network are able to pay rent and other housing costs during their initial resettlement period.

- **Community Connections** generates and sustains extraordinary community support, allowing recently-arrived refugees to integrate successfully into their new communities.

- **The Burundian Refugees program** supports Burundian refugees, resettlement agencies, and receiving communities, helping this challenged population to become integrated and self-sufficient.
The USCRI network resettles about 10 percent of the total refugees admitted and assists almost a million immigrants each year. The network has sponsored and provided full refugee resettlement services to more than 275,000 refugees since 1975.
OUR PEOPLE

USCRI and its network staff are multi-cultural and multilingual, representing more than 65 languages. Staff members have experience in working sensitively with refugees of diverse ethnicities and cultures.

Lavinia Limón, President and CEO
Lavinia Limón has more than 30 years of experience working on behalf of refugees and immigrants.

Prior to joining USCRI in August of 2001, Ms. Limon was Director of the Center for the New American Community, a project of the National Immigration Forum. During the Clinton Administration, Ms. Limón served as the Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement, Department of Health and Human Services. In this position, she designed and implemented programs to assist newly arriving refugees in achieving economic and social self-sufficiency. She served simultaneously as the Director of the Office of Family Assistance for four years, helping to devise policies and strategies for implementing national welfare reform. Ms. Limón was previously the Executive Director of the International Institute of Los Angeles.

Lee Williams, Vice President & Chief Financial Officer
Lee Williams joined USCRI as Vice President and Chief Financial Officer in August 2009. Prior to joining, Mr. Williams was the Executive Director of the International Institute of Akron (Ohio), a USCRI partner agency, for two years. Mr. Williams's early career was in client services and international banking. He was Vice President of the Morgan Stanley Trust Company, Vice President of the Deutsche Bank Global Institutional Services and Managing Principal of Capco, a capital markets company. Mr. Williams holds a Graduate Certificate of Non-Profit Management from Case Western Reserve University, a Master's degree in International Management from the Thunderbird School of Global Management and a B.S. in International Relations, French, and African Studies from Gordon College.

Sarah Petrin Williamson, Advisor for International Program Development
Ms. Williamson rejoins USCRI to focus on the development of new international programs. She previously served as USCRI's Director of Government Relations and Spokesperson from 2004 to 2007. During the 2008 presidential election, she served as an advisor to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the United Nations Foundation. Sarah has an operational background managing humanitarian programs in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. She holds a Master's in Refugee Studies from Oxford and a Bachelor's in International Relations, French, and African Studies from Gordon College.
OUR FINANCES

If you are thinking of donating to USCRI, you have the right to know where our money comes from and how we spend it.

This pie chart shows what we spend on fundraising and administration versus what we spend on services to refugees:

**HOW WE SPEND YOUR MONEY**

- Administration, 6%
- Fundraising, 1%
- Programs, 93%

Resources and Accountability

The pie charts attached show more detail. The USCRI network resettles about 10 percent of the total refugees admitted and assists almost a million immigrants each year. The network has sponsored and provided full refugee resettlement services to more than 275,000 refugees since 1975.
U.S. COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
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<td>Investments</td>
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<td>Grants Receivable</td>
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<td>Prepaid Expenses</td>
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<td>Furniture and Equipment</td>
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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
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LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

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<td>Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses</td>
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<td><strong>Total Current Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td>Net Assets:</td>
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<td>Unrestricted</td>
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<td>Temporarily Restricted</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
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