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JEFF FAHEY, GLOBAL AMBASSADOR
Mr. Fahey joins USCRI’s fight to protect the rights of millions of people around the world who have endured war and genocide and now live as refugees for years on end.

Text: Ajla Grozdanic and Zoeann Murphy • Design and Production: Koula Papanicolas • Intern: Jiwon Lee
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Our Mission

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.
American history is largely the history of refugees and immigrants. For the past 100 years, the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) has helped shape that history. Publishing the first book on U.S. citizenship; helping refugees from war-torn places in Europe, Asia, and Africa build new lives in the United States; protecting the rights of unaccompanied child migrants; USCRI has led the way in guiding newcomers toward achieving the American Dream.

Staying true to America’s belief in freedom and opportunity for everyone—even during trying times—builds the character and strength of our nation. Each generation of newcomers has given back by helping to build and defend this country, serving in the armed forces, and swearing allegiance to their new homeland.

Since 1911, USCRI has been serving uprooted people, regardless of their nationality, race, ideology, or social group. Our national network of field offices and partner agencies boasts a multi-lingual, multi-cultural staff and volunteers dedicated to offering language, housing, and career assistance to help newly arrived individuals and families. We continue to provide tools and opportunities for self-sufficiency to those who come to this country with little more than their hopes and aspirations.

But our work is not done. Millions of men, women, and children who have fled their homes for fear of persecution and war languish in refugee camps around the world for years, even decades, without hope. USCRI continues to fight for their right to move about freely, work, provide for their families, and lead a dignified life.

We at USCRI remain true to our mission 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. As we stand on the threshold of our 100th anniversary, it is clear that USCRI’s history is America’s history.
Refugees and immigrants bring a wealth of knowledge, talent, and diversity to the United States. To use these assets to best benefit their families and communities, newcomers often need assistance and guidance.

USCRI provides refugees and immigrants across the United States with the support, services, and opportunities they need to rebuild their lives and enrich their communities.

Our nationwide network of field offices and partner agencies helps newly arrived families and individuals find housing, learn English, enroll their children in school, and become gainfully employed, self-sufficient new Americans.
“We traveled several thousand miles to America and came to this wonderful land we can call home... Here, we can work, wear the clothes of our own choice, read, write, and speak freely.”
Thousands of children migrate alone. They flee persecution, abuse, violence, trafficking, and poverty. Without their parents or resources, these vulnerable children are defenseless.

Our National Center for Refugee and Immigrant Children steps in to help. We provide trained *pro bono* lawyers to protect their rights and case managers to facilitate integration, education, and health services.

Our staff is dedicated to improving the quality of life for these children by advocating for their protection and raising awareness of their plight among local communities and service providers in their countries of origin.
"I don’t know what I would have done without your help. Thank you for reaching out and extending your kindness to a poor kid like me. I appreciate all your support and care and I cannot thank you enough."
USCRI is committed to upholding the rights of refugees. These rights are based on international laws and treaties that call for recognition before the law, freedom of movement, and the ability to become self-reliant through work and educational opportunities.

Our Anti-Warehousing Campaign brings attention to violations of these rights by host countries and the international community. As part of this campaign and as a commitment to international standards, USCRI partners with more than 400 civil society groups around the world to advocate for the rights of displaced people.
We lived under trees, no electricity, not allowed to go out of the camp whenever we wanted, and not allowed to work. Most refugees had to live on one meal per day so the rations would last them until the next distribution day.”
USCRI Albany
During an outbreak of violence in her native Liberia, five-year-old Fatmata got separated from her parents and siblings as they fled to Sierra Leone. When the family was resettled in the United States in 2005—as USCRI Albany’s first case—Fatmata was stuck in Sierra Leone. Immediately upon the parents’ arrival, USCRI initiated the daunting process of getting their daughter to safety. Despite the obstacles of on-going war and bureaucratic delays, neither the family nor USCRI ever gave up hope of reuniting Fatmata (pictured arriving at the airport) with her loved ones. Fatmata’s parents had to wait five long years to hold their daughter in their arms again, but the reunion was worth all the frustrations and hard work.

USCRI Albany has given hope for a brighter future to numerous families whose lives have been disrupted by war and persecution. The multilingual and multicultural staff provides newly arrived refugees with the tools and assistance they need to rebuild their lives. The agency’s Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) accredited Immigration Clinic offers family reunification services for refugees, like Fatmata and her parents, who were separated by war. The Clinic also provides naturalization assistance to help guide newcomers through the process of becoming U.S. citizens.

USCRI Des Moines
On a cold evening in February 2011, the staff and volunteers from USCRI gathered at the airport in Des Moines, eagerly awaiting the arrival of the first refugees to be resettled through the newly opened field office. Four years earlier, Du Lia and his wife, Me Tin, fled violence in Burma and sought shelter in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where their daughter was born. With hundreds of thousands of people having escaped the country’s military junta rule, Burma is one of the world’s largest sources of refugees. Most of those forced to leave their homes seek shelter in nearby Malaysia and Thailand, where they spend years living as refugees without the right to work, move freely, or own property.
USCRI Des Moines staff (pictured waiting at the airport) helped the young family start a new life in America, beginning with finding an apartment and filling it with basic furniture, household items, and food; learning about their new community; and enrolling their child in school. As soon as they arrive in the United States, refugees face an enormous task: to become self-sufficient within months. The resettlement agency’s staff and volunteers are dedicated to making the adjustment process as smooth and easy as possible by tailoring services to meet the specific needs of each individual.

**USCRI Detroit**

Since 2003, many Iraqis fleeing war and sectarian violence in their home country have been resettled in the United States. A great number of these refugees were targeted by insurgents and radicals for being employed by the American government or military offices. One young woman, Basma, was particularly vulnerable since she had no family to protect her in Baghdad. She found safety and opportunity in Michigan, where our office helped her quickly adjust to the American way of life. Shortly after her arrival, Basma started working full time as an administrative assistant while taking night classes in accounting. Like many refugees, Basma (pictured back row, center, with her family in Detroit) is happily juggling work and school in pursuit of her dream of a better life.

In addition to tending to the basic needs of newly arrived refugees, USCRI Detroit guides newcomers along the path to financial independence. The staff and volunteers, most of whom speak fluent English and Arabic, assist refugees by providing career counseling, taking clients to job fairs and interviews, helping them create a resume, and offering pre-employment training. The proof of their success? Even during the current recession, about 70 percent of refugees resettled by USCRI Detroit find a job within three to six months.
By the time Almaz was 15, she experienced more hardships than most people do in a lifetime. She escaped war and violence in her native Ethiopia, spent years living in a refugee camp in Sudan, and entered an arranged marriage. Almaz and her family (pictured left) resettled in Erie, PA with the help of USCRI’s International Institute of Erie (IIE). After her husband abandoned the family, Almaz had no choice but to work three jobs to support her five children. Against all odds, she managed to send all her children to college and buy a modest home. Last year on Mother’s Day, her moving story earned her the title of Good Morning America’s Woman of the Year.

Assisting refugees and immigrants in northwest Pennsylvania since 1919, IIE joined USCRI in 2010 as a field office. In addition to resettlement services, the agency manages a licensed childcare center, which makes it an ideal resettlement site for vulnerable female-headed households, such as Almaz’s. IIE also provides interpretation in over 30 languages and is a safe haven for refugees and immigrants living in the area.

**USCRI North Carolina**

Like many refugees fleeing war and violence, Kesete was separated from his family during an attack on his home in Eritrea in 2004. Alone, he fled to Ethiopia, seeking shelter at Shimelba refugee camp. Not allowed to work and forbidden from

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**International Institute of Erie**

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**USCRI North Carolina**

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leaving the camp, he spent five years barely surviving on meager food rations, missing his family, and trying to make it from one day to the next. In 2009, Kesete (pictured on opposite page, bottom photo far left, with fellow Eritrean refugees) got a chance to rebuild his life in the United States with the help of our office in Raleigh, NC.

Recipient of the 2010 North Carolina Peace Prize awarded by the local chapter of the Peace Corps Association, USCRI North Carolina helps resettled refugees like Kesete become self-sufficient, contributing members of their new community. Grateful for the help he received, Kesete, now a fluent English speaker, is giving back by volunteering as an interpreter for other refugees from Eritrea. He hopes to someday soon be reunited with his family.

**Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program**

Ask a volunteer like Karen to describe her experience helping refugees start over in America, and you will hear words like ‘rewarding,’ ‘eye-opening,’ and, in many cases, ‘life-changing.’ Karen and her husband helped a family from Somalia (whose children are pictured right), resettled through USCRI’s Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program (VRRP), cope with the often challenging process of adjusting to life in the United States. The couple celebrated the family’s three-month anniversary in Vermont by cooking and sharing a meal together.

Karen and her husband are among many local Vermonters participating in VRRP’s highly acclaimed volunteer program. Since its establishment in 1980, VRRP’s services have helped refugees and immigrants from around the world make their dreams of a hopeful future a reality. The only agency of its kind in the state of Vermont, VRRP also offers professional interpreting and translating services in more than 25 languages.
Since 2004, USCRI has led a growing coalition of hundreds of nongovernmental organizations in the campaign to end the “warehousing” of refugees—a practice that deprives millions of refugees worldwide of their rights to work, practice professions, run businesses, own property, move about freely, or choose their place of residence.
Ending Refugee Warehousing

USCRI partners with civil society groups around the globe to defend the rights of displaced people. Together, we advocate for, protect, and provide direct services to persons in forced or voluntary migration worldwide.

The map on the left highlights some of the regions we focus on in the international arena.
Immediately following the earthquake that struck Haiti in January 2010, USCRI partnered with the Support Group for Refugees and Returnees (GARR) to protect the rights of displaced people and enable those in camps to transition to a dignified life.

USCRI was monitoring the relocation of populations from “at-risk” camps to new sites, ensuring that each person’s right to select their place of residence is respected in the process.
In 2010, the USCRI Thailand office became an independent, national organization known as the Thai Committee for Refugees (TCR). TCR focuses on engaging the Thai people in refugee protection and promoting greater freedom for two groups of refugees: those who have been warehoused in camps along the Thailand-Burma border and urban refugees. In partnership with Asylum Access Thailand, TCR identifies rights-based challenges facing refugees. Together, we advocate for the Thai Government to develop new refugee laws and become a signatory of the United Nations Refugee Convention.
Actor Ken Leung accompanied USCRI on a nine-day journey through northern Ethiopia, where tens of thousands of Eritrean refugees live in camps.

Leung witnessed firsthand the conditions in which these men, women, and children—who have fled war and violence in their native country—live for years on end. Many of these refugees are denied their basic rights as human beings, including the right to work, move freely, or pursue a decent life while in exile.

This trip came on the heels of the Ethiopian government’s decision to grant encamped Eritrean refugees freedom of movement. Previously prohibited from leaving the camps, Eritrean refugees will now have the option to choose their place of residence, gain an education, and become active members of a community.
In Morocco, USCRI is assisting Sahrawi returnees, civil society partners, and government officials in providing social and integration services to those returning to the Western Sahara after being warehoused for 34 years in refugee camps in Algeria.
Financial Overview

**REVENUE: FY 2010**

- **89.24%** Government Grants
- **8.93%** Program Services Fees
- **1.03%** Foundations and Contributions
- **.80%** Other Revenue

**TOTAL REVENUE: $31.2 MILLION**

**EXPENSES: FY 2010**

- **1.11%** Other Services
- **0.77%** Fundraising
- **2.05%** National Center for Refugee and Immigrant Children
- **0.29%** Management and General

**TOTAL EXPENSES: $31.7 MILLION**

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**U.S. COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2010**

**ASSETS**

- CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS ............................................................. $2,566,228
- INVESTMENTS ....................................................................................... $1,482,712
- GRANTS RECEIVABLE ........................................................................... $4,160,241
- PREPAID EXPENSES ........................................................................... $57,700
- FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT ................................................................. $330,083

**TOTAL ASSETS** ............................................................................. $8,596,964

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

**LIABILITIES:**

- ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED EXPENSES ......................... $3,023,895
- OTHER CURRENT LIABILITIES .............................................................. $719,167
- NON CURRENT LIABILITIES ................................................................. $480,944

**TOTAL LIABILITIES ....................................................................... $4,224,006**

- UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS ............................................................ $4,372,958

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS ............................................................................. $8,596,964**
Akron, OH International Institute of Akron
Albany, NY USCRI Albany
Binghamton, NY American Civic Association
Boston, MA International Institute of New England
Bowling Green, KY Western Kentucky Refugee Mutual Assistance
Bridgeport, CT International Institute of Connecticut
Buffalo, NY International Institute of Buffalo
Chicago, IL Heartland Alliance of Human Needs & Human Rights
Cleveland, OH The International Services Center
Colchester, VT Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program (VRRP)
Detroit, MI USCRI Detroit
Des Moines, IA USCRI Des Moines
Erie, PA International Institute of Erie
Honolulu, HI Pacific Gateway Center
Houston, TX YMCA of the Greater Houston Area, International Services
Jersey City, NJ International Institute of New Jersey
Kansas City, MO Jewish Vocational Services

Lawrence, MA International Institute of Greater Lawrence
Los Angeles, CA International Institute of Los Angeles
Lowell, MA International Institute of Lowell
Manchester, NH International Institute of New Hampshire
Miami, FL Youth Co-op, Inc.
Milwaukee, WI International Institute of Wisconsin
New York, NY CAMBA
Owensboro, KY Western Kentucky Refugee Mutual Assistance
Palm Springs, FL Youth Co-op, Inc.
Philadelphia, PA Nationalities Service Center
Pittsburgh, PA Northern Area Companies
Providence, RI International Institute of Rhode Island
Raleigh, NC USCRI North Carolina
San Francisco, CA International Institute of the Bay Area
St. Louis, MO International Institute of St. Louis
St. Paul, MN International Institute of Minnesota
Tulsa, OK YWCA Tulsa
Twin Falls, ID College of Southern Idaho Refugee Service Center

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