



Nationalities Service Center

Serving immigrants and refugees since 1921

1216 Arch Street, 4th Floor | Philadelphia, PA 19107

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Philadelphia, PA
Permit # 5634

We invite you to take a role in our mission by donating to NSC.

If you have any questions or wish to learn more about ways to contribute to NSC, please contact Leyla Dursunova, Development and Communications Director at ldursunova@nscphila.org, 215-893-8400, x. 1522.

Next year we will be celebrating our 90th anniversary.

Visit our website to stay tuned about 90th anniversary events.

DREAM Act Represents Hope for Immigrant Youth

Nationalities Service Center has been supporting local students advocating for passage of the DREAM Act, a bill currently pending in Congress. The DREAM Act would provide legal status to youth brought to the U.S. as children who complete two years of college or military service. In the absence of a viable path to citizenship under existing laws, the DREAM Act represents the only hope for these students to pursue a future in the country in which they grew up.

In 2009, local activist Maria Marroquin and NSC's staff attorney David Bennion organized a local group, DreamActivist Pennsylvania, to raise awareness of the issues undocumented youth face in Pennsylvania. Members of the group have sponsored or assisted with events at Temple University, the University of Pennsylvania, and Swarthmore College, organized supporters to travel to Washington, D.C., for rallies and lobbying events, and participated in local events to promote immigration reform. In February, NSC co-sponsored showings of the

film 'Papers', about the DREAM Act, at Arch Street United Methodist Church and Chestnut Hill United Methodist Church. The efforts of the activists and supporters resulted in several Philadelphia area members of Congress agreeing to co-sponsor the DREAM Act,

including Senator Arlen Specter and Representatives Bob Brady, Chakka Fattah, and Joe Sestak.



"DREAM Act organizers Maria and Armando meeting with Senator Casey in September."

NSC sponsored a phone bank at which supporters of the DREAM Act called Senators before the recent Senate vote on the bill. Unfortunately, the Senate voted not to move forward. However, Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL) has announced his intent to bring the DREAM Act up for a vote

after the elections this November. The future of the DREAM Act, and of the undocumented youth who would benefit from it, remains uncertain.

Please contact Nationalities Service Center to learn how you can support these deserving young people in their fight for recognition and equality in the U.S.



Our New Neighbors

The Growth of Philadelphia's Iraqi Sabean Mandaean Community

NSC has been an active advocate for Iraqi resettlement for the last 4 years. As a result, Philadelphia is now home to more than 300 Iraqi families who represent the beauty and diversity of Iraq. They are Shiite, Suni, Chaldean and Mandaean. They were professors, traders, craftsmen and artisans, physicians, mechanics, and chefs. They hailed from Iraq's largest cities and its beautiful villages. Now they are Philadelphians and our new neighbors.

In our work with Iraqi refugees, NSC has developed many new partners who work with us to ensure that all refugees are afforded opportunities for full integration. These partners include groups such as the Arab American Community Development Corporation, Project SHINE, and the Mandaean Society of America.

At the invitation of board members of the Mandaean Society, NSC has joined the international efforts to save the lives and ancient traditions of Iraqi's Madaeans. Philadelphia was home to just two Mandaean families in the early 1990s. NSC resettled our first Mandaean family in 2008 with more arriving in the past few weeks. NSC is

now one of only a few resettlement agencies approved for Mandaean resettlement.

Dr. Saidi, board member of the Mandaean Society of America, reports that the existing Mandaean community "hopes to establish a viable community in Philadelphia that would embrace American culture while keeping Mandaean flavors. We encourage newcomers to work and be productive and look for help in making this a success".



"Mandaean refugees, members of the Dakir family with NSC's Case Manager, Dan O'Brien"

Madaeans, one of Iraq's religious and ethnic minorities have been specifically targeted for violence

in the current war. There are no more than 5,000 Madaeans remaining in Iraq while more than 90% having fled for safety in Syria and other countries. Iraqi's Madaeans were largely well educated professionals, often working as jewelers and goldsmiths.

NSC and the Mandaean community welcome assistance, especially ideas for entry-level employment for this community. Please support us in welcoming our newest neighbors.

NSC Mission

The mission of NSC is to help immigrants and refugees participate fully in American society.

We implement this mission by focusing on four main objectives:

- * **Protecting legal rights**
- * **Strengthening families and promoting self sufficiency**
- * **Eliminating barriers by language and cultural difference**
- * **Promoting public awareness of the benefits of diversity in American society**

Message from the Executive Director



How does NSC make a difference in the lives of immigrants and refugees? I'd like to describe two clients – out of the thousands we help each year – to illustrate the urgency and importance of our work, and the concrete results we achieve with generous support from our donors, funders, volunteers and community partners.

Hakeem was abducted by armed men in Iraq. He suffered terrible trauma, as did his family, who witnessed him being tortured. Upon his arrival in the United States, NSC's Survivor's of Torture Program connected Hakeem to therapy, found employment for his wife, and arranged art therapy for his daughters to help them get over the horrors of the past. Now, father and mother have started a family business using their shared talents, their daughters are in school, and the family is doing well in Philadelphia.

Liberia's long and bloody civil war left Kadidjia, a woman in her 40s, a victim of multiple abductions, torture, and rape, as well as witness to the abduction, suffering and death of her mother and daughter. She was granted asylum in Immigration Court, but later

the decision was reversed by the Board of Immigration Appeals, which found that conditions in Liberia had improved. NSC's Legal Department helped Kadidjia appeal the decision to the Federal Court of Appeals. We argued, and the Court agreed, that Kadidjia's case should be granted under the doctrine of 'humanitarian asylum.' Now, almost five years after she was first granted asylum in Immigration Court, she is finally being given the protection the law promises her, and she can begin to rebuild her life in Philadelphia.

These are but two examples of the work NSC is doing today...and has been doing for almost 90 years. Next year, 2011, we will be celebrating our 90th anniversary. If you believe that NSC's work is important to immigrants and refugees in the Philadelphia region, help to make sure that we are here for another 90 years! Your generous support helps people build new lives and contributes to the vitality and richness of our city and region.

Thank you.

Dennis Mulligan

We accomplish our mission with the generous support of:

AILA Philadelphia Chapter American Dream Fund Baker Creek Herloom Seed Company Bed, Bath, and Beyond, North Wales store (Gifts in Kind) Blank Rome LLP Cradles to Crayons Department of Health and Human Services Department of Justice Department of Public Welfare, Bureau of Employment and Training Programs, State Refugee Coordinator's Office Fels Foundation Fourjay Foundation Global Giving Foundation Henrietta Tower Wurts Memorial Independence Foundation Public Interest Law Fellowship New Century Trust (Willing Hands Award) Non-Profit Finance Fund Office of Supportive Housing, City of Philadelphia Patricia Kind Family Foundation Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Philadelphia Bar Foundation Philadelphia Corporation for Aging Public Interest Projects Richard Steel Fund Rodem Shalom Synagogue Temple University – Beasley School of Law The Coleman Foundation The Glickenhau Foundation The Philadelphia Coca Cola Bottling Co. The Straus-Harris Foundation UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and Trauma United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania University of Pennsylvania Law School –Toll Public Interest Center Philadelphia Fellowship US Conference of Catholic Bishops USCRI Women's Way

And individual donors:

Diamond Sponsor | Margaret Harris and Philip Straus Lynn Straus Grant Palmer Patricia Kind Zerihun Belay

Platinum Sponsor | Donna Sheckler Bradley Wechsler Jane Butcher Nicole Simon Terry Salcedo, Keystone Digital Imaging

Gold Sponsor | Opal Ripley Edward Resovsky Beth Shapiro Vera Tolbert Cecilia Cardesa-Lusardi Mark Sobel Michael and Kimberly Hicks Elizabeth Block and Bruce Kuklick Baumann, SeSeve, and Landau Joan Scheuer Lorle Wolfson

Silver Sponsors | Kevin Burns Dene Bernstein Luis and Marjeanne Blasco Gary Mucciaroni Elizabeth Shapiro and Michael Torrey Alan and Leni Windle Robert Epstein Richard Summers and Merrily Williams Bill and Anne Ewing Laura Gruen Susan Rogers Margot Berg David Gershon Shapiro Michelle Lai Ann and William Birdsall Thomas and Nancy Eshelman Jeffery Braff and Hope Comisky Margaret Fallers Deborah and Stephen Fowlkes Jon Friesen Margaret Grover Winfred Lanoix Badonna Reingold

Friends of NSC | Ruth Olsson in memory of Carl "Stig" Olsson Carol Cook Mailee Walker Robert Krebs Yvonne Collick Josephine Klein Eliza Manigault Hazim Sharhan Stephen Josel Yu Lan Wang Susan Tiernan Althea Sherman Chloe-Mai Howard William and Eva Herion Edith Harris William and Mary Hangley Zeina El-Halabi and Rami Raad David Dix Karen Cox Karen Buck Brook Berger Tanya Anderson Theodore Clattenburg Robert and Roma Dockhorn Hilary and Elizabeth Conner Judy Claude Anna and Henry Bryan Eugene and Virginia Beier Steve and Carol Bowman Reinhard and Sue Kruse Adams Drye Robert Thomas and Nancy Drye Jay Federman and Sylvia Beck Betsy Connor Tex and Alice Freeman Terry Graboyes Rep. Babbette, Josephs Michael Hairston Amy Wing Chang Annette and Mort Levitt Stacey Meadows Fay Judith Mittleman Lynn Marks and Clifford Pearlman Paul and Mary Richards Mirriam and Howard Rosen Dr. Gary Emmett and Dr. Marianne Ruby Richard and Laura Steel

Lisa Shulock Steven and Barbara Coffee Wolf Ann Northrup Alfred and Aurelia Curtis Amanda Bergson-Shilcock Danielle DiLeo and Patrick Kim Ted and Dianne Reed Lawrence and Carol Nichols Paulette Thold Lenda Thompson David and Ellen Scolnic Andrew and Nancy Schoerke Elmer and Marionette Phillips Sonya Mouzon and Leo Carey Louise Eastman Monica Koenig Caphart Robert and Ingrid Brown Rongnei Bai Georgia Kioukis Megan Doherty Bernadette Montemayor Leonard and Helen Evelev Bill and Toni Culleton Robert Smith and Lorene Cary Russ Alexander, III Aryanna Abouzari Marie Koehler Will and Janet Fox Carl and Alice Wathne Nancy and Robert Megley Debbie Douglas and Dave Yager Rosalie Jacobs Judith Farling Ngiraklsong Lauren Twist David and Diana Jenson Kathleen and Richard Hauser John and Barbara McGrath Orea and Charlotte Wright Roberta Williams Jenny Smith Fatima Parsons Margaret Lonsetta Khoi and Molly Dang Ruth Daugherty Peter Baumann and Mary Butler Linda and Alan Bernstein Dolores Aversa Martha Ankeny Susan Landau Fred and Patricia Manuel Ida Morris and Khadijah Shaid Jordan and Debbie Sandke Len and Joyce Wilson Ellouise Knowlden Matthew Lister *And many of other individuals supporting us with in-kind donations*

Our Partners:

Arab American Community Development Corporation (AACDC) Belmont Center for Comprehensive Treatment Blank Rome LLP Delaware Valley Community Health, Fairmount Primary Care Center Department of Family and Community Medicine, Thomas Jefferson University Drexel University College of Medicine, Women's Care Center EDSI Encore Volunteer Managers Fleisher Art Memorial HIAS and Council International Institute of Boston International Institute of New Jersey International Institute of Metropolitan St. Louis International Institute of the Bay Area Jewish Vocational Service - Kansas City Local Universities: Arcadia, Bryn Mawr, Drexel, LaSalle, Rutgers, Temple, UPenn, Villanova Lutheran Children and Family Service Main Line Unitarian Church Mayor's Commission on Literacy Migrant Education Program National Immigrant Family Violence Institute National Partnership for Community Training Nemours Pediatrics, Philadelphia New World Association Our Lady of Hope Church Penn Center for Public Health Initiatives Philadelphia Center Philadelphia City Health Centers #2 and #10 Philadelphia Health Corps Philadelphia Horticultural Society Philadelphia School District Southeast Asian Mutual Assistance Associations (SEAMAAC) Temple University Intergenerational Center, Project Shine The Health Federation of Philadelphia

Executive Director

DENNIS MULLIGAN Esq.

Board of Trustees

Dr. VERA TOLBERT PhD | Chair KATHY OCHROCH Esq. | 1st Vice Chair BETH SHAPIRO Esq. | 2ND Vice Chair NICOLE SIMON Esq. | Secretary TENDAI MUTSINZE FCCA, CIA | Treasurer

Marc Jay Altshuler, MD Malik Boyd Karen Buck, Esq. Jose Campos, JD, MA, MS Cecilia Cardesa-Lusardi Zeina El-Halabi Sue Jacqueline Kushinga V. Makamba, Esq. Stanley Straughter Sozi Tulante, Esq. Melody L. Wong

ESL Students Know Their Rights to Access Public Services

Recently NSC's Education Department staff received a call from an emergency room regarding a patient who couldn't speak English. The patient, Antonio Garcia, was an ESL student who received one-on-one tutoring at NSC, since he could not learn in a classroom environment due to the trauma he experienced in his native country of El Salvador. The hospital staff had problems communicating with Antonio, who speaks a dialect of Spanish that is difficult for most interpreters to understand. Daniela Romero and Ellen Polsky, NSC's Education Department staff, helped with communication at the hospital, but this experience and many others in which our students turn to our staff for information and advice on healthcare access, childcare, academic advancement, accessing information for their school-age children, and domestic violence prevention led to us organizing workshops that focus on access to education and health care for Philadelphia's immigrant community.

On August 25th and September 15th, the Education Department's summer intern, Julia Federico, organized workshops on "Your Children in Philadelphia Public Schools" and "Access to Health Care for All Immigrants." Participants at the sessions received language access cards, a list of community health resources, and information regarding full participation in Philadelphia schools and public health services.



The presenters brought together years of expertise. Our thanks go to Ludy Soderman, from the School District's Multilingual Family Support Office, Jafar Abdulayev from the ARC of Philadelphia, Natasha Kelemen, Refugee Health Coordinator at NSC, Mayla Henderson Jackson, Outreach Specialist with the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, and Loraine Iglesias from Public Citizens for Children and Youth. Workshop information was translated into Indonesian, Spanish, French, Haitian Creole, and Mandarin Chinese. The Indonesian newspaper Kabar Kilat featured the workshop. Generous donations were also made by Longman Publishing Company and the ARC of Philadelphia.

Bryn Mawr students developed material to provide three additional workshops on health care access this fall. One of the workshops will be on prevention and wellness, one will be on specialty care, and the third workshop will be on access to children's care. ActionAids and PPCCY (Public Citizen's for Children and Youth) will be presenting.

"With NSC's help I am not only learning how to read, write and speak English, but I am also gaining self-confidence about my own abilities" - Antonio, ESL student.

NSC's Senior Center Garden is a Huge Success!

Saran Meas, like many other seniors served by NSC, used to farm in her native country of Cambodia and wanted to use that knowledge to grow food and teach others new skills. The staff at our Senior Center, for their part, had long thought that starting a garden at the Center would be a great addition to the programs we are able to offer members and would be a source of fresh produce for the meals prepared for Center members. So we are very pleased that earlier this year NSC was awarded a grant through the PA Department of Aging and the Philadelphia Corporation for Aging to create a community garden. Within eight weeks of receiving the grant, and in time for this summer's growing season, we built a garden that fulfilled our seniors' desires to grow fresh produce and created a wonderful new program at the Senior Center.

On July 15th we celebrated the grand opening of our Senior Center garden, which is located on the grounds of Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church on north Broad Street. Special guests included Ray Prushnok, the Deputy Secretary for the Department of Aging, and Holly Lange, Senior Vice President of Philadelphia Corporation for Aging. Over 70 guests toured the garden and enjoyed fresh produce graciously provided by Weaver's Way Farm.



Photo credit: Philadelphia Corporation of Aging.

Our thanks go to Philadelphia Green/City Harvest, Baker's Creek Seeds, and Primex Garden Center of Glenside for helping us with plants, salt hay, raised beds, seeds, tools, and funds to continue the project. Over 1000 volunteer hours were put into building the raised beds, which allow anyone, regardless of physical ability, to work in the garden. Our AmeriCorp and Bridging the Gap members are creating a nutrition/garden curriculum for this winter. NSC's garden has a mix of plants, herbs, and vegetables from all over Southeast Asia, China, Korea, and Eastern Europe, in addition to native plants from the Southern U.S., and Pennsylvania.

Participants made sure to plant native flora around the garden to attract birds and insects and improve the local environment. To reduce our "footprint" and to engage the Center's members in recycling, we use rain barrels, compost bins, as well as "green" and "brown" plant material. Our produce doesn't travel miles to reach our congregational meal kitchen. Our food is being grown without chemicals and does not pollute local water sources.

The garden project is still in its infancy, but we believe that the possibilities for collaborations and innovative projects are limitless. If you would like to tour the gardens or hear more about our project, please feel free to contact us at NSC, or at tarasl@nscphila.org.