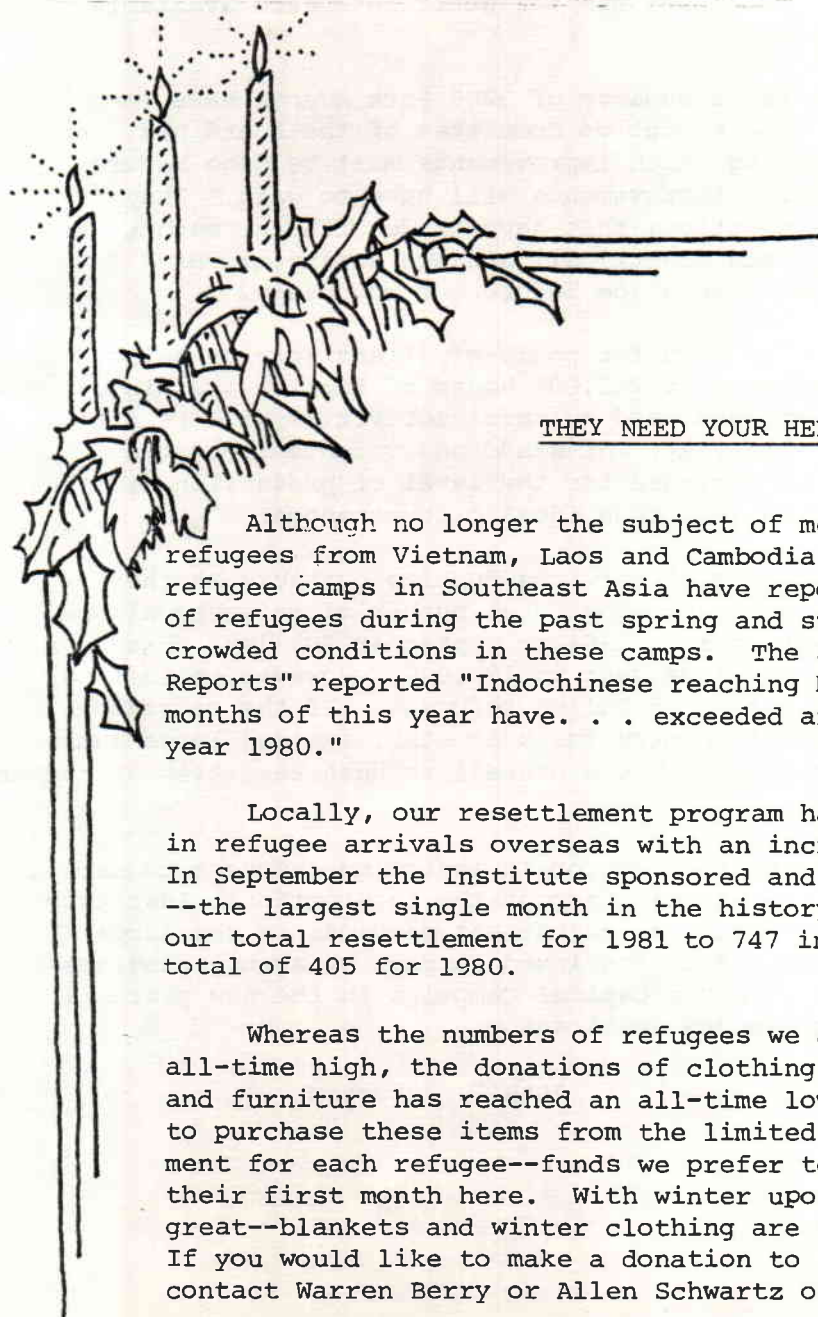


Crossroads International

THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS

4484 WEST PINE BLVD., ST. LOUIS, MO. (314) 535-4880

FALL '81/WINTER '82



THEY NEED YOUR HELP

Although no longer the subject of media coverage--the tide of refugees from Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia continues. Many of the refugee camps in Southeast Asia have reported record-high arrivals of refugees during the past spring and summer--adding to the already crowded conditions in these camps. The September issue of "Malaysia Reports" reported "Indochinese reaching Malaysia during the first nine months of this year have. . . exceeded arrivals for the entire calendar year 1980."

Locally, our resettlement program has reflected the increase in refugee arrivals overseas with an increased resettlement effort. In September the Institute sponsored and helped resettle 99 individuals--the largest single month in the history of our program. This brings our total resettlement for 1981 to 747 individuals--as compared to a total of 405 for 1980.

Whereas the numbers of refugees we are serving has reached an all-time high, the donations of clothing, bedding, household supplies and furniture has reached an all-time low. More and more we are having to purchase these items from the limited funds provided by the government for each refugee--funds we prefer to use to purchase food for their first month here. With winter upon us our needs are especially great--blankets and winter clothing are essential and in short supply. If you would like to make a donation to the refugee program please contact Warren Berry or Allen Schwartz of our Resettlement Department.

Executive Director's Report

The projected date for International Institute services to begin operation at 3800 Park Avenue is March 1, 1982. The staff is looking forward to the move with great anticipation since it will provide much needed staff and client space. In the meantime, we continue to rent four classrooms in an apartment building on Lindell Blvd., and to crowd three or four staff into each available office in the main facility.

Plans for the initial occupancy of 3800 Park Avenue have been extremely complicated. The Executive Committee of the Board has spent many hours determining which improvements must be done before initial occupancy and which improvements will have to wait. They are presently considering options that have to do with the mechanical system (heating, cooling and electrical) and are arranging for necessary improvements to take place before our occupancy.

We are at an all-time high for hours of client service being provided. We estimate that over 243,000 hours of English training, job placement, social services, and cultural activities will be provided to 7,000 clients this year. The staff and volunteers at the agency deserve a round of applause for the level of professionalism that is being exhibited in less than ideal circumstances.

The implications of social services funding cutbacks at the federal level are still unclear. The total number of refugees allowed to enter the U.S. from October 1, 1981, to September 30, 1982, has been cut from 140,000 in the previous year to 120,000. However, this total includes only a limited number of Polish refugees. If the current political situation in that country fails to stabilize and large numbers of Poles seek asylum in the U.S., the overall refugee resettlement numbers could rise again.

Involvement of the private sector in assisting refugees to make a new life is critical. Few agencies except the International Institute will be prepared to offer critical adjustment services to the large numbers of needy refugees. Your continued support of agency programs and particularly of the agency's Capital Campaign in the new year will provide a lifeline to these new Americans.

Anna E. Peterson

THE LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

The Language Department is pleased that Tippy Dean, who has been a dedicated volunteer here for many years, has now joined the Language Staff. We also welcome Sister Jacqueline Toben who joined us when Vicky Mayer left to take a position in ESL at Webster College.

The Adult Basic Education program of the city of St. Louis has once again sponsored the evening language classes at the Institute. The ABE staff consisting of David Franker and Andrew Hofling together with Institute staff person Judy Moore and many devoted volunteers teach more than 100 students. The classes for this session end on December 10. They start again January 10 for a 16-week session.



THE HOMELESS MILLIONS: THE AFRICAN REFUGEES

In the last few years, millions of Africans have been forced to flee their countries by a repressive regime, a civil war or an internal conflict. This turmoil is primarily centered in Ethiopia/Eritrea and Somalia. Estimates place the number of refugees currently in Africa at somewhere between five and six million persons. These refugees are presently taken care of by officials in the countries of first asylum, and international refugee relief organizations. Unfortunately the conditions of the African refugee camps are very poor; there is usually no running water, poor sanitation, a lack of medical care, and great shortages of food.

In general, the plight of the African refugees has been overlooked and ignored; relief is just beginning to find its way to these homeless millions. The International Institute is stretching out its helping hands to assist the African refugees. The Institute is making a commitment to addressing this problem through its newly-created African Resettlement Program. Yet this is only a beginning. There are many more refugees that require everyone's humanitarian consideration.

The Institute is pleased to announce that Sine Buddenhagen, B.S.W., is now working at the Institute as a part-time African caseworker. It is only through the cooperation of the entire community, however, that this program can be successful.

For more information, please contact Jay Brandt or Sine Buddenhagen at the Institute, 535-4880.



STAFF SENT TO S.E. ASIA

Jay Brandt, Director of Refugee Resettlement/Social Services, was selected by ACNS along with two other senior ACNS staff members to work in the Singapore Joint Voluntary Agency (JVA) offices this past summer. The two-month program was planned to give ACNS staff a greater exposure to overseas operations, to share information about domestic resettlement and to assist JVA staff with a particularly heavy work load in processing new refugees for U.S. resettlement. The two other ACNS staff members selected were: Ann Wolczek, International Institute of Bridgeport, Connecticut and Kim Guilfoyle of the San Francisco International Institute.

In addition to studying in-office processes and systems, Mr. Brandt was given the opportunity to visit the refugee camps of Pulau Galang, Indonesia, Hawkins Road, Singapore and Sungei Besi, Malaysia.

Mr. Brandt says "working overseas has helped tie together my past two years experience in the refugee program and has given me a better grasp of what an individual experiences as a refugee prior to arriving in the U.S." ACNS conducted this exchange as a pilot program and plans to send other staff for temporary duty in the overseas program over the coming year.

Mr. Brandt has developed a slide presentation--"The Refugee Experience"--which follows a refugee from rescue at sea through the camps up to boarding a plane for the U.S. If you would be interested in arranging a presentation for your group or organization please contact Mr. Brandt at 535-4880.



THE CUBAN PROGRAM - A REPORT

The Cuban program passed from its initial reception phase into a period promoting social adjustment starting in July. Great efforts were made to improve the housing situation by dispersing the group into more pleasant areas of town. Caseworkers worked above and beyond the call of duty locating inexpensive apartments and moving client's belongings in the van. This has led to great improvements in the Cuban's feelings toward one another and to St. Louis as a new environment. Their greater contentment is reflected in much higher attendance in the English class, their willingness to come to other meetings, and their greater cooperation with staff. Most of our Cubans are very anxious indeed to work and our first priority now must be to find gainful employment for as many as possible.

A highlight of the fall was a visit by Siro Del Castillo and Frank Sharry of ACNS. Mr. Del Castillo was Human Rights Representative at Fort Chaffee and enjoys the greatest respect among our clients. With the help of Rita Navarro and Zoraida Colon of the staff, some of our clients cooked a magnificent dinner for about eight guests who came to hear Siro Del Castillo speak. From his own experience and with his humanitarian wisdom, Mr. Del Castillo Spoke of the specific problems involved in transferring from the Cuban to the United States environment. Our clients shared and enjoyed his understanding of their situation. The staff was greatly cheered by discussions with Frank Sharry who is familiar with Cuban programs all over the country and who commended the efforts of the Institute in sustaining a program known to be notoriously difficult, because of the special circumstances under



which the Cubans entered the country.

The State of Missouri awarded a Cuban services contract to the International Institute beginning October 15th.

We now provide English classes and job placement services to all eligible Cuban applicants in St. Louis. Under the contract we have placed Juan Alvarez and Joe Buenrostro on staff as Cuban State program coordinator and job-placement officer, respectively. Juan Alvarez completed a highly successful practicum with the Institute this summer and will receive his M.S.W. in December. The stalwarts of the Cuban program, Ric Fishgall and Rita Navarro are to be congratulated on their stamina in seeing through all the phases necessary to reach the present adjustment stage. Clients are now provided with comprehensive medical, dental, mental health and social services and every effort is being made to reinforce their socio-cultural adjustment of our community.

Elisabeth Price
Director, Cuban Program





FELIZ NAVIDAD

The staff of the Cuban Program at the Institute have arranged a Christmas party for the Cubans they are now working with.

There have been many contributions for this party from area businesses. Many thanks to them for cooperating in making this a Christmas festival a happy one for the Cubans:

Gale Sobel Company, 102 suits

Mavrakos Candy, chocolates

Curran Printing Company, paper

Hass Bakery, bread, baking goods

Chapman Icecream, icecream

International Hat Company, winter hats

Lithic Printing Company, pens

American Red Cross, gift packages

Glaser Drugs, gift packages

The party was held on December 29, 1981 and many Cubans who were alone for Christmas for the first time in their lives were able to join in the celebration and receive gifts.

Many thanks to the hardworking Cuban staff for providing them this opportunity.

VIETNAMESE CHILDREN'S PARTY

On Sunday, December 20th, from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. the Institute held a Vietnamese Children's party for fifty Vietnamese children and their parents.

Gifts were distributed to the children, which included candies and a magic show which were both compliments of the Institute.

Music was provided during the afternoon by the talented children of Mrs. Hoa Nguyen, secretary, and Ric Fishgall, a caseworker for the Cuban program, played Santa for the Children.

It was a very enjoyable afternoon for all involved.

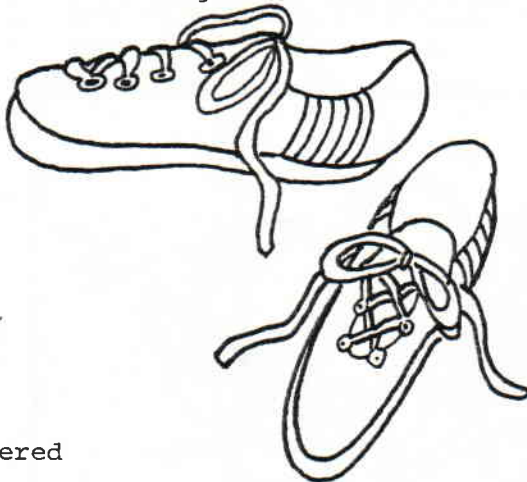


From AUNTS & UNCLES. . .

. . . with strings attached:

In our attempts to help the new Americans coming to St. Louis we must reach out to many groups, agencies and individuals. One very special organization, with a very special director, has always been there when we've needed a hand-- and we want to give thanks to Ms. Rosa Campbell of Aunts and Uncles for once again reSPonding to our need.

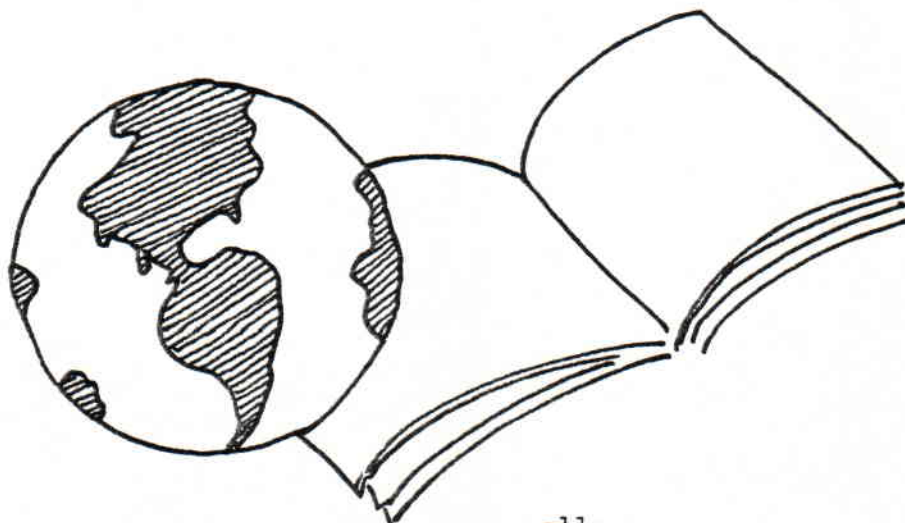
Thanks to Rosa and her Aunts and Uncles organization, 50 refugee children are being provided with new shoes. The shoes are being donated by Venture Stores and Coors to needy children in the St. Louis area. Many refugees are still arriving from the camps wearing only sandals and the Aunts and Uncles' generosity helps us in outfitting these families for winter.



Esperanto Course Offered

For those interested in learning Esperanto--the international language-- a new course is being offered at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. The course begins January 4th and continues through March 17th, 1982, and will meet from 6:30-8:20 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Total cost for the Esperanto course for one quarter is \$129.75.

Those wishing to enroll in this course should contact the Admissions Office, SIUE, Edwardsville, Ill. 62026. Call them at 618-692-2250 as soon as possible!



REFUGEES FIND EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE'S
JOB PLACEMENT DEPARTMENT

Since this summer, the Placement Department has provided these services: registration of 169 refugees; job placement of 126--resulting in placement of 74.55% of those registered. 16 Cubans were placed, 69 Laotians and 49 Vietnamese found employment through the services of this department.

The following companies are hiring these refugees: Glide Away Bed Carriage Manufacturing Company; Genie Toys, Inc., Master Pleating Company, Stuart Raskas Enterprise Ties Company; Empire Cafe; The Learning Center; Carr Lane Manufacturing; Mayfair Hotel; Job Corp Center; Wern Hilton Men's Clothing Store; Saint Louis Charter Meat Company; Meyer Mueller Goodman; University Club; Rose Coffee Company; Ann Groech; Bridal Original Company; Winter Garden Senior Citizen Apartment; Earl of Sandwich; Chase Park Plaza; Perry Landscaping; Freeman Realty; Senoret Chemical Company; Nantucket Cove; Landscaping Private Company; Chromalloy Precoat Metal; Morgan System Company; Plastic Company; Northwestern Bottle Company; Ralph Landscaping; Bouras Mop Manufacturing Company; China Inn; Park Moore Restaurant; Garcia's Residence; Carrous Towing & Repairing; Channel Two Station (ABC); Carl Walz; Light Product Company.

Refugees are working in these positions: assembly line workers, sewing machine operators, piece work trainees, custodians, gardeners, carpenters, housekeepers, dishwashers, cooks, cook's helpers, factory packaging workers, mechanics, book binders, landscapers. . .

Contact Mr. Nguyen Loc Hung, Director, or the Placement Department staff, Mr. Concy Phimpavong (Lao Job Counselor); Mr. George Valdez (Placement Officer) or Mr. Joseph Buenrostro (Cuban Placement Officer) if you know of employment opportunities for refugees. And thank you. . .

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