

VOLUNTEER VOICES

June 1, 2015

World Refugee Day: June 20, 2015 by Vincent Paul Monteroso

World Refugee Day is observed to raise awareness of the condition of refugees all over the world. This observance day was adopted by UN General Assembly in 2000 to mark the 50th anniversary of the *1951 Refugee Convention*; the date was chosen to coincide with Africa Refugee Day. The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) is tasked with hosting World Refugee Day events amongst communities throughout the world.

43.3 million people are estimated by UNHCR to be forcibly displaced due to conflict and persecution by the end of 2011, children constitute 46% of this population. Now, more than ever, this event remains relevant as we continue to witness the plight of too many families torn apart by war and instability. Many families, including those of Syria and the Rohingya people are still searching for a new place to call home. All entities and civic organizations are encouraged to support the cause of this event. Indeed, as the 2015 theme puts it: "With courage let us all combine." For more information, visit: <http://www.un.org/en/events/refugeeday/>.



Kosovar refugees fleeing their homeland on 01 March 1999
UN Photo/UNHCR/R LeMoyne

CCIS and Refugee Settlement

CCIS was incorporated in 1981 to provide settlement support to refugee clients. Three decades later, CCIS remains closely tied to this cause and acts as the first point of contact for hundreds of refugees arriving in Calgary per year. We offer a range of programs from short term support at Margaret Chisholm Resettlement Centre to long term follow up by our Settlement Counselors. We understand that each immigrant's journey is unique and aims to always be the best at what we do. Programs are constantly evaluated and developed to better suit the current need of clients, such as our new Enhancing Refugee Employment workshop. Many of these programs would not be possible without the support of our volunteers, especially those who act as language interpreters. They allow CCIS and the community to continuously support those who are in need, and are much appreciated.

UPCOMING EVENT!

Volunteer Day of Learning // June 13, 2015

CCIS will be hosting a resource day for our volunteers. If you have received an invitation, please remember to RSVP!

FEATURE VOLUNTEER: Zoyee

Zoyee comes from beautiful tropical Myanmar, formerly known as Burma. Her B.A. in English led to a career as a news collector, and the opportunity to connect with and learn from people of various ethnic groups. After moving to Malaysia, her impressive language skills and caring personality allowed her to obtain employment at a Resettlement Support Centre, where refugees were prepared for migration to the US. Ultimately, Zoyee was recommended by UNHCR to come to Canada. Upon her arrival, Zoyee saw snow for the first time and was excited to start a new life. Currently, Zoyee is attending upgrading classes in pursuit of a career in nursing, while volunteering at CCIS to assist other immigrants. We are very glad to have Zoyee on our team and look forward to working with her.

