INCREASING INTERACTION BETWEEN REFUGEES & LONG TERM RESIDENTS

Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services

Tewahedo = “Coming Together as One”

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Our Mission

To assist immigrant and refugee families and low income individuals in Central Ohio in improving the quality of their lives, and facilitating integration through education, training, supportive services, and self-development opportunities, and to increase awareness of the culture and heritage of Central Ohio's immigrant and refugee population.

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Our Vision

To be the focal point of integration for immigrant and refugee families, and to assist in developing a healthy, wealthy and self-reliant New American community.

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FAQs

- ETSS has served clients from over 33 countries
- “Tewahedo” in our name means “to become one” in Ge’ez
- The three leaves in our logo symbolize *Faith, Family,* and *Freedom*

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Issues

- Neighborhood safety
- Access to community resources
- Language
- Childcare
- Transportation
- Civic engagement and interaction
- Education (K-12, adult literacy)
- Lifestyle and nutrition
- Self-sufficiency and employment
- Case management
- Prevalence of misinformation

Goals

- To connect refugees to community resources
- To increase interactions between refugees and the larger community
- To increase refugees' knowledge of healthy living
- To increase self-sufficiency
- To increase refugees' knowledge of English, literacy, numeracy, and technology
- To promote access to affordable housing
- To increase neighborhood safety

Social, Economic, and Civic Integration

- Community Garden: West, East, and North planted and maintained by refugees and local residents
- Events: Learning Celebrations, Youth Summit, New American Festival
- Community Service Learning Projects

Social, Economic, and Civic Integration

- Partnerships
- Collaborations
- Articles about impact of refugees
- Portraits of Integration
- Capacity Building Initiative

Social, Economic, and Civic Integration

- Civic Forums
- Educational Forums
- New Americans Initiative
- Conferences
- Immigrant Citizens of Ohio Political Action Committee

Adult Literacy

- ESOL
- Financial Literacy
- Computer Skills
- Citizenship
- Health

Workforce Development

- Basic Employability Skills
- Work Experience Program
- Job Readiness Training
- Placement and Retention
- Self-employment

Youth Programs (5 to 24 years old)

- Afterschool Program
- Teen Leadership
- College Admit
- Summer Camp
- Youth Employment
- Community Service Projects
- Cultural Enrichment

Linking to Services

- Referrals and links to mainstream social service agencies, business and public services such as:
- Healthcare
- Legal
- Education
- Housing
- Social Services
- Employability
- Family Integration
- Transportation

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ETHIOPIAN TEWAHADO SOCIAL SERVICES

Civic Engagement, Cultural Awareness, and Interaction

- Civic Forums
- Learning Celebration
- Annual Youth Summit
- New Americans Celebration

At these events, refugees increase their social support network through networking with each other and the greater Columbus community

Collaborations and Partnerships

Collaborations

- Grassroots Services Coalition
- International Community Leaders Collaborative
- Youth Collaborative Board

Partnerships

- School Districts
- City
- County
- Law Enforcement
- Business Community
- American social service agencies
- Parents

Speaker Series

- Employees of social service agencies, representatives of local residents, businesses, and public services
- Refugees are linked to local schools, health department, police, transportation, libraries, etc.

Empowerment of refugee families

- Capacity building and counseling of small refugee & immigrant based organizations
- Strengthening social clubs, youth organizations
- Establishing parental committees
- Increasing civic participation and the right to vote
- Advocating for domestic violence victims

Questions?

Visit www.ethiotss.org or “like” us on Facebook!