

Bhutanese Community Association of Erie /BCAE/.



DECEMBER 16, 2013

Bhutanese refugees

- Nationality and the refugee life
 - Problem in Bhutan
 - Came to Nepal
 - Life style in the refugee camp
 - Resettlement process (Firs group in 2008)



What is BCAE?

- It's a Community Base Organization /CBO/
- Found by Bhutanese refugees in Erie in 2008



Objectives of BCAE

- Preserve our cultural and religion heritages
 - In collaboration with Erie Art Museum, USCRI, MCRC, St. bens and Erie School district and the local churches such as UUCE.
- Smooth Integration



Objectives Cont.

- Help the community members towards self sufficiency



Achievements

- Obtained 501 C3 Status for the Association
- So far 45 families became home owners
- 4 stores were opened to serve our community
- Number of full time employment is raised up
- Many kids are joining collages
- lots of the community members are attaining GED certificates

Challenges

- Language barriers
- Formal education limitation
 - For example: barriers to obtain employment and Citizenship and parenting reversal
- Crimes and violence
- Transportation
- Culture Shock
 - *Language barrier, Generation gap, Information load, and Technology gap*

Actions have been take to overcome the challenges

- Learn English as a second language /ESL/
- Job Orientation and readiness, citizenship classes
- Meeting with neighborhood crime watches and police department, letters the authorities and create awareness in the community
- Trainings on system of public transportations, encourage community members to obtain driver's license and personal cars to overcome transportation problem

Actions have been take to overcome the challenges cont.

- Organize cultural and religious events and encourage members' engagement



Actions have been take to overcome
the challenges cont.



Conclusion

I hope that I was able to demonstrate that the interaction between the established host communities and the refugee-immigrant communities should be reciprocal. When a welcoming community shows genuine interest in their new neighbors and tries to assist them in integrating into the American society, the lives of the refugees are transformed while creating thriving communities across the country. In this nation of immigrants, we aspire to become productive and responsible citizens for generations to come.

The end

Any questions?