

Karen in Kern

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KERN COUNTY

- Kern County is found at the southern end of the Central Valley with a population of 800,458.
- Bakersfield, the county seat, has the largest population of 308,392.
- Kern boasts safe, affordable and convenient housing.
- Available jobs are agriculture, manufacturing, oil production, service industries, and the retail industry.

BACKGROUND



- In August 2007, IRC opened a sub-office in Bakersfield.
- Majority of refugees in Kern County are Karen.
- Over 150 refugees arrived in Kern County from 2008 to 2009. They are categorized as free cases.

KERN COUNTY IRC SERVICES



- Reception (from the airport to a home-cooked meal)
- Initial housing, food, clothing and household items
- Orientation and counseling
- Assistance with accessing Social Security, Medi-Cal, Food Stamps and Cash Aid
- Job/School placement, Tutoring
- Arrange transfers to other VOLAGs in case of relocation

INITIAL VISIT



Performed by Public Health Nurse (PHN) during a home visit:

- State Screening Form
- TB skin test and TB history
- O&P and Hemocult
- Consent
- Verify I-94 and collect overseas CXR

SECOND VISIT

- Read TST
- Collect O&P and Hemocult
- Appoint to Public Health Refugee Clinic for initial screening
- Donate clothing, food and household items



REFUGEE CLINIC



- Public Health Clinic
- Medical Examination
- Immunizations
- Hearing/Vision Screening
- Blood Tests
- PHN makes appropriate referrals based on MD evaluation.

ON-SITE CLINIC



- Held every 2 months at the refugee apartment complex to be more accessible
- Immunizations, including flu vaccines
- Fluoride varnishing

REFERRAL PARTNERS

Community Action Partnership of Kern

Services to Adults/ Children:

- WIC office
- Family Planning
- Laboratory
- Immunizations
- Head Start Program



REFERRAL PARTNERS

Optometrist (Dr. McDonald)

Adults/ Children:

- Across the street from the refugees' apartment complex
- Saturday clinics



REFERRAL PARTNERS

Healthy Smiles Dental

Adults/ Children:

- Saturday Clinics
- Block times



COMMUNITY PARTNERS EDUCATION

I. Panama Buena Vista School District



- Tested children for ESL placement during the summer
- PHN collaborated with the local county hospital (KMC) to obtain donated wrist bands to help with identification of the students, and to provide instructions for teachers and bus drivers.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

II. Bakersfield Adult School

Adults enrolled within the first month of arrival.

III. Vocational Colleges (CNA)

- 2 refugees have completed and employed
- 2 other refugees are currently enrolled



CSUB

IV. California State University Bakersfield

One English professor requires each of her students to devote 5 hours of tutoring to the refugees; tutoring occurs 3 days a week at the park located next to the apartment complex.



TUTORING FROM CSUB



EMPLOYMENT



- Chinese Restaurants
- Asian Food Market
- Convalescent Homes
- Goodwill



At least one member of each family is currently employed.

REFUGEE AWARENESS MONTH

- At Kern County Board of Supervisors meeting
- Proclaimed June as Refugee Awareness Month
- Honored our referral/community partners



PHN SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICES

- Backpack Drive
- Christmas Adopt-A-Refugee Family
- Tutoring from Nona and family
- Salon Day
- Generous donations of clothing, household items and furniture
- Bike donations from a local group home