



## The Vision of a New City Multicultural and Vibrant

*“City Heights is well along in its transformation to a vibrant community of immigrants and refugees.”*

These are the words of a feature article in the October 29, 2011 issue of the San Diego Union Tribune Page A3

We at the Episcopal Refugee Network know that refugees arrive in our midst tired and poor: “Your huddled masses yearning to be free”, as Emma Lazarus wrote so long ago. They need help to find jobs in a modern city; they need affordable shelter and food. The hopes of these people are pinned on their acceptance into our Southern California society.

Many of you have played a major part in supporting the Network and its loyal band of board members and community supporters. The devotion of our staff of former refugees is key. Majur Malou and Nadia Agory from Sudan; Abdelhalim Mohamed from Darfur; and Hilda Ro and Moo Thaw from the Karen tribes in the mountains of Burma, are all supported by the donations you give.

The Union-Tribune article spoke of food and diet as important topics in City Heights “for residents and community organizations as they struggle to balance a desire for traditional meals that use fresh ingredients

with the lure of inexpensive fast food.” The reports are provided by Speak City Heights, a nonprofit media collaboration that aims to amplify the voices of City Heights residents.

The Episcopal Refugee Network of San Diego is committed, as it has been for more than 15 years, to meet this vital need. Did you know that staff deliver 1,500 pounds of fresh food each week to our refugee population? The food is collected by our staff from The Food Bank and Feeding America and is driven to refugees’ apartments. These refugees have no cars to take them to food collection points far from their low-rent apartments. They cannot take their supplies onto buses or walk through derisive streets carrying bags of potatoes, onions, rice, fresh fruit and vegetables.



Photograph by Jennifer Palmer

There has to be enough food for average families of five or extended families (up to 12 people) including the elderly. Food is delivered every Tuesday and Thursday to different gatherings of our clients, rain or shine. Your donations help us to ensure the

health of the lively youngsters we serve and to help them grow into productive citizens.

John McLevie

## Spotlight on a Volunteer



Deborah Dorn, Marilyn Nahas, Das Say, Donmienne Leung

As a scientist, Donmienne has a very demanding career researching cancer and autoimmune diseases. However, for the past year, she has been part of our tutoring program every Thursday at 3:30 p.m., committed to making a difference in the lives of these children who truly need it.

Donmienne has been struck by how appreciative the students in the program are as well as their dedication to their studies. Even though their learning curve is steep, the students continue to work hard, diligently completing their homework and showing up week after week to be tutored.

**Donmienne is a very compassionate person to whom the refugee children are able to relate, and perhaps more importantly, the children have someone to look up to and respect as a mentor.**

The commitment Donmienne has shown is incredibly touching to the students in the tutoring program and to the Episcopal Refugee Network as a whole. We are hopeful our programs are able to continue to attract and retain talented, compassionate individuals who are willing to make a difference in the lives of others.

For the past four years, Applied Molecular Evolution (AME), a wholly owned subsidiary of Eli Lilly and Company have sponsored a companywide Day of Service whereby a number of their employees participate in volunteering for the Episcopal Refugee Network. The group of five to 10 employees joins the Network as we load trucks with food and goods to distribute to the refugee families. A few volunteers also have participated in the afternoon tutoring program. We feel fortunate to have the support of AME, their volunteers and donations they continue to provide.

The Episcopal Refugee Network has gained a very generous tutoring volunteer from AME. Donmienne Leung, Ph.D., a Hong Kong native whose first language is Cantonese, graduated from the University of Queensland, Australia with a Ph.D. in Chemistry. Having the background of being an immigrant to Australia and later the U.S., she knows all too well how difficult it can be to adjust to life in another country.

We are pleased to announce

## The Refugee Network 2012 Gala

**When: May 5, 2012**

**Where: the Maritime Museum of San Diego on Harbor Drive**

Many of you were able to join us for our inaugural fundraising gala in April of this year at Good Samaritan in UTC. Just as we did last year, we will keep you posted as tickets go on sale. Please visit our Website, [episcopalrefugeenetwork.org](http://episcopalrefugeenetwork.org), for updates on tickets and entertainment for this event.

SAVE the DATE

## Angelo Chol

### University of Arizona Basketball Player and Sudanese Refugee

A wonderful example of growing up in the refugee community of City Heights is Angelo Chol. We came to know Angelo, as well as his father, Achieng Chol, when they escaped persecution after Achieng's imprisonment in Khartoum as an activist for the South.

The Episcopal Refugee Network knew Angelo and Achieng as part of our family outreach program. Angelo soon became a regular member of the tutoring program that Becky Moores and Molly Moores provided for the Sudanese children. He was around 11-years-old when he arrived with a tropical illness and very tall and gaunt. A leader from the tutoring group took Angelo to her doctor as he seemed weak and listless. The African-bred parasites were soon discovered and he was treated and cured.

Now Angelo is 6' 9" and has entered his basketball career playing center with NCAA Division I powerhouse - the University of Arizona. You can catch him on TV and wearing jersey #30. He is not a starter (yet) in his first year but he will be a standout

athlete, just as he was at Hoover High School. We are so pleased that Angelo grew up as one of the children served by the tutoring program and was watched over by the ladies who cared for those kids.



**Go Angelo - we are so proud of you! And take the hopes of all our refugees with you.**



## Give Big

### Comes to San Diego for the First Time

The San Diego Foundation has offered the opportunity to the Refugee Network to be included in "Give Big Day" on December 14, 2011. Better Giving is the arm of

the San Diego Foundation that helps bring together approved San Diego nonprofit organizations and local donors. Better Giving has already built a pool of matching funds for the event, which had grown to \$15,000 as of November 16, and will continue to grow until "Give Big Day." For further information, check out the details on how it works at [GiveBIGSanDiego.org](http://GiveBIGSanDiego.org) or you can reach it through our Web site, [episcopalrefugeenetwork.org](http://episcopalrefugeenetwork.org). Channel 10 and San Diego Magazine will feature Give Big Day.

The Episcopal Refugee Network needs YOU to let your friends, neighbors and colleagues know about Give Big Day. You can spread the news by word of mouth, by Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and any other social medium. A gift from those who know about us on that day via Better Giving will encourage those who are reading about us for the first time on December 14 to join in supporting us. It also will enable us to help



the increasing number of refugees who live in San Diego, and who are in great danger of falling through the gaps in the social services safety net, to become contributing members of the society.

# A Note of Thanks from Dr. John McLevie

Dear Friends of the Episcopal Refugee Network:

Many thanks to the board members, staff, volunteers and supporters of the Refugee Network for your loyal dedication and the friendship that I have received from you and from those who were on the board previously. I have enjoyed a full-term of six years as president of your board and now it is time to hand over the baton. It is an exciting race to help our refugees to master a new life in the U.S. and to become productive citizens. In the next year, we anticipate more refugees from Darfur, Myanmar and Bhutan as they are brought from their United Nations refugee camps.

One of my joys has been to see our six staff members who are refugees from Sudan, Darfur and from the hill country of Myanmar, develop into a dedicated and capable group of men and women who are able to offer culturally appropriate assistance in their own languages. Special thanks goes to Majur Malou for serving as your executive director.

I hope to keep in contact and to be able to serve the Network from outside the board. It is reassuring to have Dr. Joyce Justus agree to assume the position of board president at this time. Joyce is available to our supporters via telephone at (510) 502-7805.

May you all continue to serve the new refugees from cultures so different from ours in the U.S. and may you support them through the personal traumas which they bring with them.

May God bless you all!

Sincerely,

*John McLevie*



*John McLevie tutoring a refugee student*

***We are located at 4305 University Ave, Suite 630, San Diego, CA 92105  
Please be sure to visit our Website to see what we do as a charitable organization:  
[episcopalrefugeenetwork.org](http://episcopalrefugeenetwork.org)***

## I Want to Support The Episcopal Refugee Network

I am enclosing \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for this needful cause.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

The Network has its own 501(C) 3 tax exempt status.

***To donate, please include this form with a check and send to:***

***The Episcopal Refugee Network, 4305 University Ave, Suite 630, San Diego, CA 92105***

***Or you can donate by credit card online, through our Website [episcopalrefugeenetwork.org](http://episcopalrefugeenetwork.org)***