



RefugeeNet

An Episcopal Outreach in San Diego



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A PUBLICATION OF THE EPISCOPAL REFUGEE NETWORK OF SAN DIEGO

THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO FILLED THIS SUMMER WITH FUN AND LEARNING

SWIMMING AND KAYAKING

For the second summer, the San Diego Canoe Kayak Team hosted our refugee children on Fiesta Island. Twenty-five teens had the chance to learn the basics of paddle boarding and kayaking. Two of our tutoring students have joined the kayaking team and are attending weekly practice sessions.

Twenty-five students aged 8 to 10 received six swimming lessons weekly at City Heights Swim Center. San Diego Surf and Lifesaving Association provided funding for the lessons.

SUMMER CULTURAL EXCHANGE WITH BISHOP'S SCHOOL

For the fourth year, middle and high school students from RefugeeNet's tutoring program and Bishop's School spent a week together, making new friends, learning about each other and participating in creative activities: visual arts and dance. This program culminated in



a performance by all the team participants for the Karen Association's seniors. A team of students from both participating groups assisted in the planning process. David Moseley and Marcus Chang from the Global Initiative Program at Bishop's School, led this exchange. [See more of our Summer Fun & Learning list inside...](#)

SAVE  DATE

SATURDAY, MAY 20 2016

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR

Amazing Journey Gala

AT LIBERTY STATION

SUMMER TUTORING AND READING

To help prevent what teachers call 'the summer slide,' the tutoring program was again extended through July. We also distributed over 400 books to students at the end of the school year. The book drive was spearheaded by long-time tutor Liz Mahon and St. Bartholomew's Church.

Many students in the tutoring program participated in the San Diego Public Library's Summer Read program. A visiting librarian came to tutoring sessions, to invite students to participate, promising prizes for each child who completed 10 books. Nineteen of our students completed their lists before our fieldtrip in July to the new Central Library. Twenty-two students and four tutors participated. Many children rode escalators for the very first time. Everyone gasped at the extraordinary views from the 9th floor, saw the 3D printer in action, and enjoyed a docent tour of the building and personal welcome to the children's section.



CAMP STEVENS AND CAMP MARSTON

Camp Stevens hosted 47 refugee teens who were supported by RefugeeNet this summer. For the first time, we had two at the counselor training session at the beginning of the summer, and one chose to serve as a counselor at a regular session later in the series. Several teens have expressed an interest in following that path next year.

In addition, Joy Knight and the people of St. Alban's Church applied for scholarships and sent four El Cajon children to the YMCA's Camp Marston for a week. This promises to be a means to have even more refugee children experience summer camp.



MEET NEW EMPLOYEE FAROUG ALI

Please welcome our newest staff member, Faroug Ali. Faroug joined us in August as a part time employee to assist primarily with food distribution.



Faroug and his family arrived in San Diego in 2015, after entering the United States in New York. He was born 36 years ago in Khartoum, Sudan. When Faroug was 25, escalation of attacks in North Sudan, against those of Nuban descent caused the family to flee to Cairo, where they registered with the United Nations. After interviews and investigation they received the paperwork designating them as official refugees. Then after 10 years of waiting under United Nations supervision in Cairo, and interviews there by representatives of U.S. Immigration Services and Homeland Security, they were approved for resettlement in the U.S. while in Cairo. Faroug worked primarily as a truck driver.

He is married with four children as this is being written, but his fifth child is due any day now! He has a son in high school, a daughter in middle school, and two daughters in elementary school.

Besides helping RefugeeNet part time, he is employed by a north county hotel and is studying English at the Mid-City Campus. We enjoy his hard work and personable smile, and look forward to helping with his English skills and his orientation to San Diego.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The summer list in this newsletter is a glimpse of some of the many individuals and organizations that go out of their way to support RefugeeNet over the course of each year. From lifting heavy boxes of produce; to sitting quietly with a refugee who needs to talk through a problem and hear some of the ways to think about solutions; to stuffing envelopes; or underwriting any of our activities; every minute of volunteer time offered, makes a huge difference to our collective achievement. We can offer all sorts of ways in which you can be involved. Also, we are open to discussing things you would like to offer to do, that might help us serve our refugee clients even better.

Try us! You'll like us!

Elaine McLevie

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

RefugeeNet, 4265 Fairmount Avenue, Suite 130, San Diego, CA 92105

Or you can donate by credit card online, through our website refugee-net.org

To contact us by phone: RefugeeNet office - 619-283-1337

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