



Best Practices for Welcoming Refugees: Utilizing Parish Resources and Growing Community Will

catholic  charities
OF NORTHEAST KANSAS

What is a Refugee?



- Refugees are forced to leave their countries because of war or persecution due to their nationality, race, religion, political opinion or membership in a group.

Facts

- 51.2 million forcibly displaced people
- 16.7 million refugees from over 60 countries worldwide
- Less than 1% of them have the chance to resettle in a 3rd country like the U.S.

Coming to America

- Flee
- Seek legal refugee status
- Seek resettlement
- Referral to US Program
- Match to US VOLAG
- Pre-arrival process
- Arrival in America



Unique Challenges

- Long life in camps (average 18 years worldwide)
- Limited access to English language classes
- New Culture
- Limited formal education and work history for adults.
- Experiences of trauma and war
- Poor nutrition and healthcare

Resettlement in Kansas City, KS

(2010-2014)



Top 5 Refugee Groups

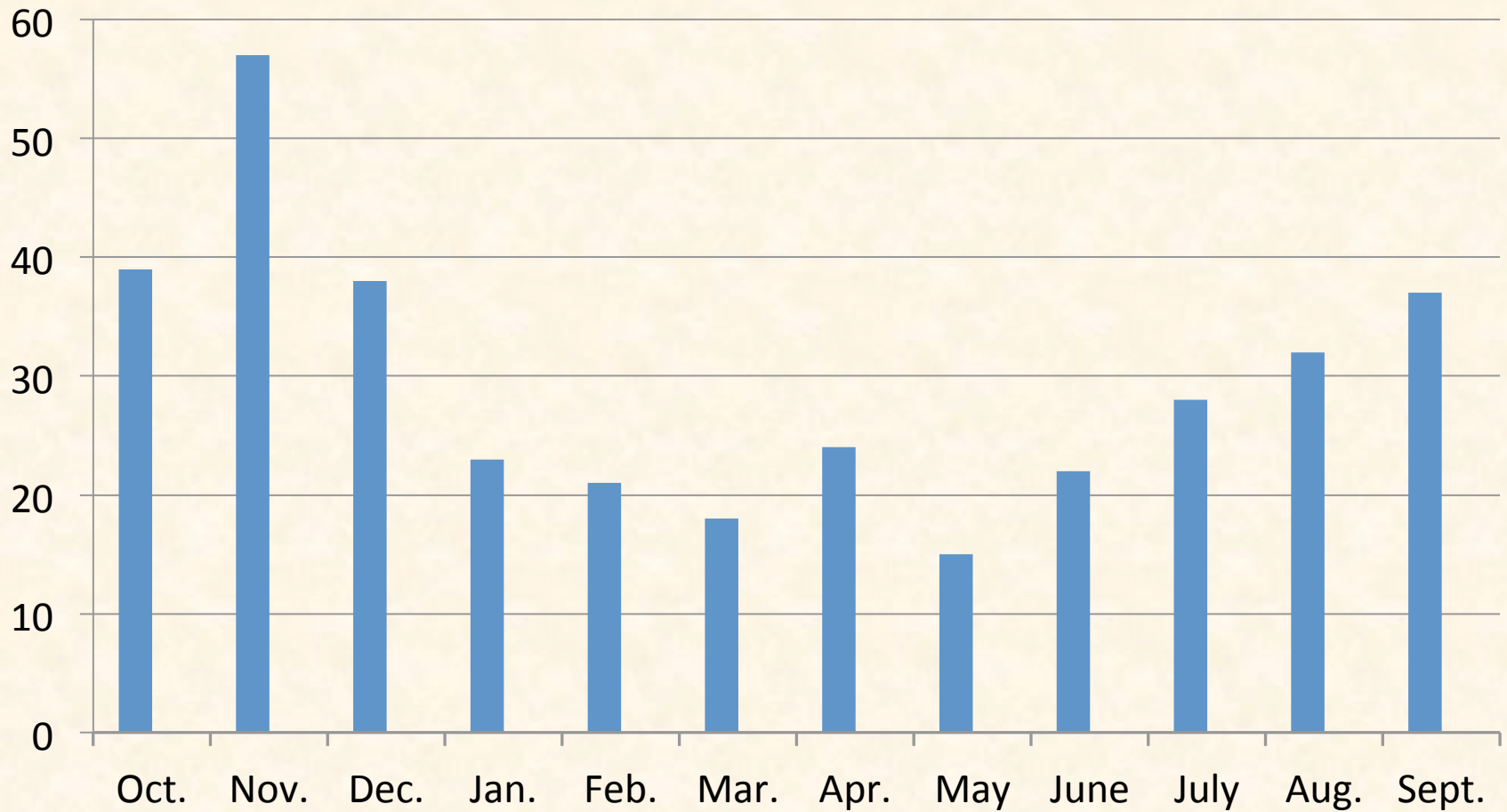
Chin (of Myanmar)	975
Bhutanese	583
Karen (of Myanmar)	258
Karenni (of Myanmar)	231
Iraqi	122



FY15

- Set ceiling at 200 through community process
- Will resettle 405 by the end
 - Mostly Chin
 - Some Bhutanese and Iraqi
- National Bulge, busy September
- Largely due to all US Tie Cases
- Set ceiling at 250 for FY16

Challenges in Resettlement



Resettlement Site's Role for New Arrivals

- Services provided
 - Case Management
 - Housing
 - Medical Care
 - Enroll in School and ELL
 - Home Visits
 - Orientations
 - Employment
 - Connect to Local Resources

Goal: For refugees to reach self-sufficiency economically and culturally.

Programs Offered by CCNEK

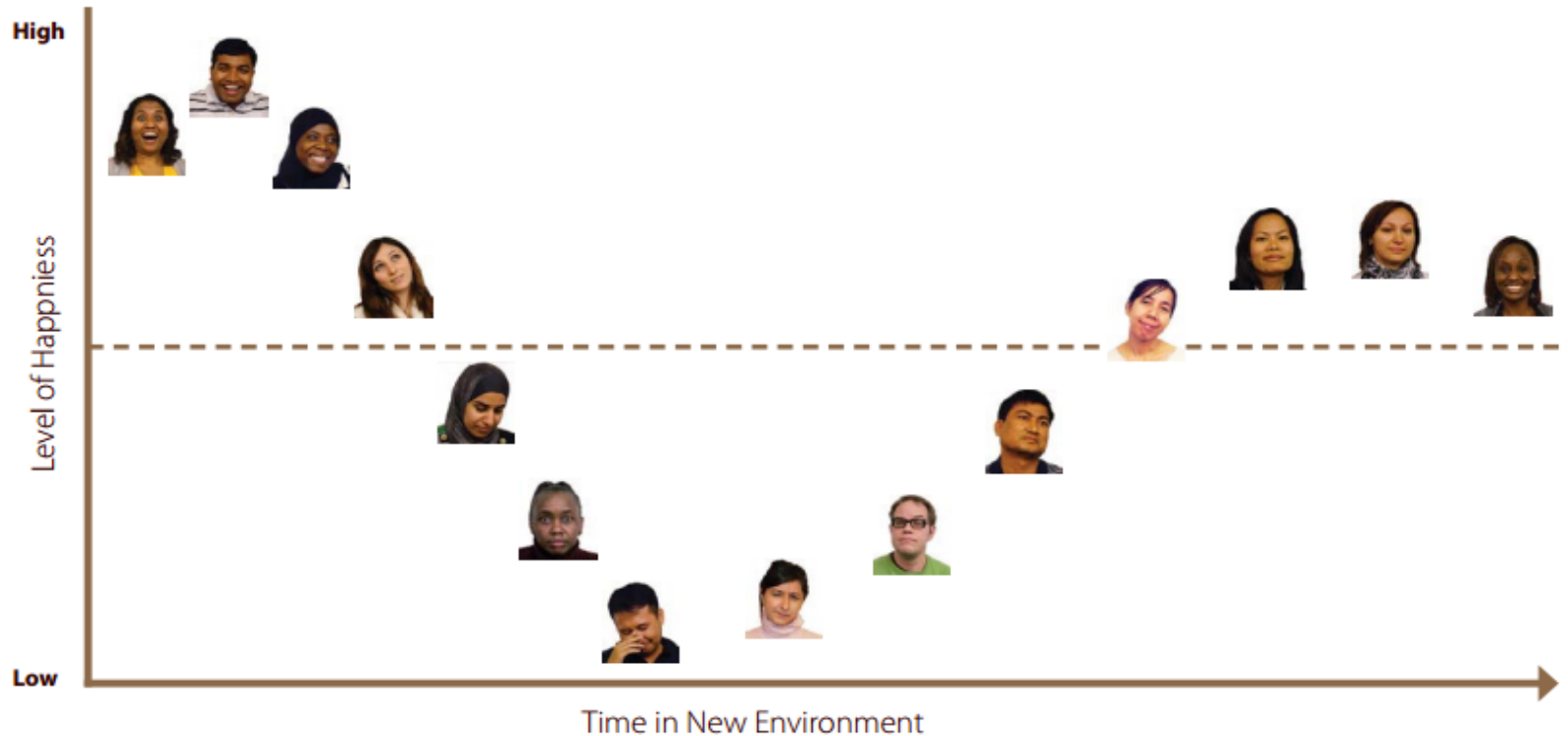
- Reception and Placement (0-90 days)
- Match Grant (31-180 days)
- Targeted Assistance Grant (90 days-5 years)
- Refugee Social Services (90 days – 5 years)
- Employment Services/Job Day (0-5 years)
- Cultural Orientation
- English Classes
- Citizenship Classes



La Luz
Immigration
Clinic



Cultural Adjustment



Honeymoon phase

Feelings of excitement and happiness, when everything is new and exciting and good. This often occurs soon after arrival in a new place.

Culture shock phase

Feelings of worry, confusion, and anger as the newcomer tries to function in an unfamiliar and often strange place.

Adjustment phase

Feelings settle down as the newcomer comes out of culture shock and starts to feel more comfortable and confident in the new place.

Mastery phase

A feeling of comfort with the new life and culture, although there are still difficult periods sometimes.

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Helpful Resources

- U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) www.refugees.org
- Bridging Refugee Youth (BRYCS): www.brycs.org
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) - www.unhcr.org
- Cultural Orientation Resource Center - culturalorientation.net

Hope Story

