

# Minnesota is now HOME.



**Celebrate the diversity of our home by coming to Twin Cities World Refugee Day.**

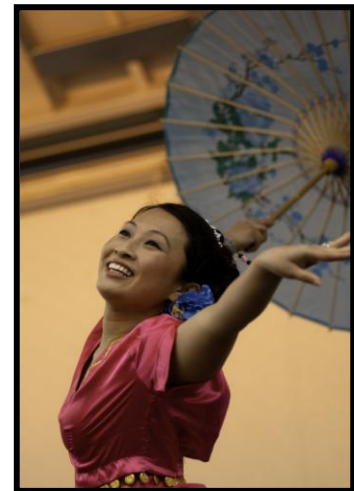
- See what home means to Minnesota refugees in their native countries, in the refugee camps, and here in their new state.
- Welcome home your new neighbors by celebrating the diverse cultures, experiences, and assets they bring to the community.
- Share a fun and vibrant day with your friends and family in the beautiful Minnehaha Park

## General Information

**WHEN:** Saturday, June 25  
12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Minnehaha Park  
4801 South Minnehaha Park Dr.  
Minneapolis, MN 55417

**WHAT:** Free live entertainment, food and artisans from around the world, community resource fair, and interactive educational displays.



## What is World Refugee Day?

In 2000, the United Nations General Assembly established June 20th as World Refugee Day. Since 2001, people around the world have celebrated the day with events that honor the world's more than 16 million refugees and raise awareness around refugee issues.

Twin Cities World Refugee Day is our local event that aims to:

- Recognize the more than 100,000 refugees living in every corner of our state and celebrate the diversity of culture and experiences that they bring to our community.
- Raise awareness around refugee issues, including: international conflicts and violence that create refugee crises, the refugee resettlement process both here and abroad, and the challenges and opportunities faced by refugees after resettling in Minnesota.
- Build a cultural bridge between longtime Minnesota residents and our newest community members.

The festival brings together refugees from more than a dozen ethnic groups and other Minnesotans to celebrate the diverse gifts that refugees bring to our state.

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## Who is a Refugee?

A refugee is someone who "owing to a well-founded fear of persecution on the basis of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country."

## How do Refugees Make Minnesota Their Home?

The UNHCR (United Nations High Commission for Refugees) interviews those who have fled their home countries to decide whether they should be granted refugee status and thus qualify for UNHCR protection. The UNHCR sees three durable solutions to refugee situations:

- voluntary repatriation to the home country;
- integration into the country of asylum, or;
- resettlement in a third country (such as the United States)

The UNHCR prefers to send refugees back to their home countries as soon as that is a safe option. If that is not possible, the second-best solution may be to integrate them into the country of asylum, where social and cultural conditions are generally similar to those of the home country. Only when these two solutions are not possible does the UNHCR consider the solution of resettlement to a third country, such as the United States.

World Refugee Day 2011 is especially important this year because the UNHCR is celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> year of helping refugees and internationally displaced persons find home after civil wars, natural disasters, and other tragic events in their countries.



## When did Minnesota become home for you?

*For these people...*

- Ojibwe arrived in Minnesota – 1650 to 1700
- French explorers- first Europeans to come to Minnesota – 1650
- Swedish Immigrants – 1863-1877 – due to hunger in their country
- Icelandic Colony – 1875
- Jewish Refugees – 1882
  - When 200 Jewish refugees from Russia arrive unexpectedly at the St. Paul train depot, local residents help out by housing them in tents on the city's west side. Many of the new Minnesotans settle there permanently.

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- Mexican migrant workers – 1917-1919 – Due to a labor shortage in Minnesota during the first World War
- Southeast Asian Refugees Arrive – 1975
  - Large numbers of Vietnamese, Cambodians, Lao, and Hmong come to the U.S. and 60,000 make their home in Minnesota after U.S. forces leave their countries
  - By 2000, more than 40,000 Hmong people call Minnesota home
  - 2004- new wave of Hmong immigrants arrive
- Somali Community – 1994
  - By the year 2001, the Twin Cities is home to the largest concentration of Somali refugees in the U.S.
- Various groups – 2011
  - Minnesota resettlement agencies are now helping the following people find a home in our state
    - Bhutanese, refugees from the Former Soviet Union, Iraqis, Karen (from Burma), Liberians, Ethiopians, and Somalis

We've welcomed many immigrants and refugees over the state's long history, but in 2011 Minnesota is home to the most diverse population we have ever seen:

- 2010 census results show minority populations make up 14.6% of Minnesota's entire population (up from 10.6% in 2000)
- 80% of the state's growth in the past ten years is contributed to these diverse populations



**Come to Twin Cities World Refugee Day and  
celebrate our fellow Minnesotans, share in the experience of home,  
and be a part of the diversity that makes our state great!**

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## Schedule of Events - Entertainment

<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>
<b>12:00 pm</b>	Welcome/Introductions from Tou Saiko and Ibe
<b>12:10 pm</b>	Armenian Dance Ensemble
<b>12:30 pm</b>	Mekong River and Snake Dance
<b>12:50 pm</b>	Somali Spoken Word
<b>1:10 pm</b>	Asian Storytellers Alliance
<b>1:40 pm</b>	Karen Dance
<b>2:00 pm</b>	Sansei Yonsei Japanese Dance
<b>2:40 pm</b>	Asian Storytellers Alliance
<b>3:20 pm</b>	Ibe-spoken word
<b>4:00 pm</b>	Peacock Dance
<b>4:20 pm</b>	Stories of Wit and Wisdom
<b>4:50 pm</b>	Nepali Dance
<b>5:10 pm</b>	United Congolese Youth
<b>5:30 pm</b>	Hoang Anh Vietnamese Dance Group
<b>5:40 pm</b>	Jungle Zookeepers
<b>5:50 pm</b>	Sierre Leone Youth Dance Group
<b>6:00 pm</b>	Closing from Tou Saiko and Ibe

## Schedule of Events – Education

<i>Time</i>	<i>Activity</i>
<b>12:00-2:00pm</b>	Fact sheets display and activities for children and adults on the rights of immigrants.
<b>2:00-3:00pm</b>	Carry Water Contest: Water is the most precious and vital need in a refugee camp. Children will practice carrying water in a special carrying case without spilling.
<b>2:00-3:00pm</b>	Tour a replica refugee camp: Visitors will walk into a replica of a refugee camp where they can learn about and imagine what daily life must be like for refugee people.
<b>3:00-4:00pm</b>	Language Learning Activity: Learn survival language phrases and shop at the market speaking your newly acquired language.
<b>4:00-5:00pm</b>	Storigami
<b>All Day Exhibit</b>	Display of Vietnamese refugees photos in Malaysia, Hong Kong and Philippines; Pride of Vietnam Exhibit : 35 Years in Minnesota- a collection of photographs and stories celebrating the achievements of refugees and immigrants during the past 35 years and their impact on the community; Display of refugee artifacts
<b>All Day Exhibit</b>	Multimedia Refugee Exhibit: If my shoes could talk/In footsteps of world refugees- including movies, photos, posters, oral history book display from Minnesota History Center, and Then and Now- a display of refugee achievements.
<b>All Day Exhibit</b>	Center for Hmong Studies: Display of photos from the Ban Vinai refugee camp

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## Honorary Chairs



### **Eh Taw Dwe**

Eh Taw came to the United States in 2004 as a political refugee. In 1996, Eh Taw was hired by Earth Rights International (ERI) to document the human rights abuses by the Burmese military junta. For two years, Eh Taw served as the leader of his village in Burma until being arrested and tortured by the military junta for his ethnicity and human rights work. In 2002, he and his family fled to Thailand where Eh Taw served as an interpreter in the Tham Him refugee camp. Shortly after arriving in Minnesota, Eh Taw was hired by the St. Paul Ramsey County Department of Health, where he is currently employed.

Eh Taw has been a tireless advocate for the Karen people in Minnesota. Soon after arriving in Minnesota, Eh Taw joined the Karen Community of Minnesota (KCM) and served as the Volunteer Youth Committee Chair, later serving as KCM's Health Committee Chair. Eh Taw has been asked to speak before numerous government, civic, and business organizations regarding the Karen people.

In 2008, Eh Taw co-founded the Asian Interpretation and Translation services (ATIS), which specializes in Karen and Burmese languages in the Twin Cities and is currently its marketing director.



### **Pham Thi Hoa**

Hoa has 20 years of experience of managing programs for refugees and immigrants, including overseas relief and development experience in Asia, Africa, and the Balkans. Prior to joining CAPI, Hoa was the Regional Director at the American Refugee Committee where she managed its microfinance and gender-based violence programs in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. She also supported the ARC's work with Burmese refugees in Thailand and the Tsunami relief efforts in Sri Lanka. Previously, Hoa was managing relief and development country programs for refugees and displaced persons in Croatia, Bosnia, and Serbia for the International Rescue Committee, Thailand and Indonesia for Save the Children/US, and Vietnam for the Norwegian Refugee Council.

Hoa holds a Master in Public Policy from Columbia University and a BA from the University of Minnesota with a concentration in journalism and international relations. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Minnesota Council for Nonprofits, MAP for Nonprofits, Center for Victims of Torture, and the MACC Alliance of Connected Communities.

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## **Hussein Samatar**

Hussein Samatar is the Founder and Executive Director of the African Development Center, an entrepreneurial nonprofit organization that works within the African communities in Minnesota to start and sustain businesses, build wealth, and promote community reinvestment. In addition, Mr. Samatar serves on the boards of several development and civic organizations, including the

Minneapolis Foundation, CommonBond Communities, and the Dean's Advisory Board of the Humphrey Institute at the University of Minnesota. He was also recently elected to the Minneapolis School Board.

Mr. Samatar holds an M.B.A. from St. Thomas University and is fluent in five languages. He was selected as a Humphrey Institute Policy Fellow in 2003-2004 and a German Marshall Memorial Fellow in 2007. In 2009, he was recognized for his leadership with ADC and was selected by the Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal as one of the top minority corporate executives of the year.

A Somali native, Hussein came to Minnesota in 1994. His wife, Ubah, is an educational assistant in the Saint Paul city schools. They are the parents of four children and live in the Phillips neighborhood of south Minneapolis.



## **Chong Bee Vang**

Chong B. Vang is the Executive Director at Karen Organization of Minnesota. Prior to his role at KOM he served as Director of the Immigration and Employment Services Program at World Relief. Vang has been involved with the Karen Community for over 6 years. Vang has managed a diverse group of staff from many different backgrounds and cultures throughout his career, including Karen, Hmong, Russians, Africans, Vietnamese, Bhutanese, Latin Americans, and Americans. Chong is fluent in Hmong and English.

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## People

**For media inquiries before and after the event, please contact:**

Tessa Wetjen, Media Chair  
(612)230-3251 | [twetjen@wellshareinternational.org](mailto:twetjen@wellshareinternational.org)

**For media inquiries at the event, see event chairs and planning committee members:**

**Planning Committee Chair:** Alexis Walstad, Twin Cities World Refugee Day  
**Marketing/Press:** Aubrie Eisenhart, Episcopal Community Services; Tessa Wetjen, WellShare International; Danielle Smith, Lutheran Social Service  
**Community Resource Fair:** Linnea Stevens, World Relief  
**Education:** Ruslana Westerlund, MN Department of Education  
**Entertainment:** Gao Vang, City of Minneapolis; Roman Gonzalez, City of Minneapolis  
**Fundraising:** Alexis Walstad, Twin Cities World Refugee Day  
**Logistics:** Maya Rutherford, EMERGE  
**Vendors:** Patrick Kugmeh, Episcopal Community Services  
**Volunteers:** Eleanor Nelson, CAPI

**Organizations represented on the 2011 planning committee:**

American Refugee Committee  
CAPI  
City of Minneapolis – Neighborhood & Community Relations  
Council on Black Minnesotans  
EMERGE  
Episcopal Community Services  
Hennepin County Libraries  
Hennepin County Office of Multicultural Services  
International Institute  
Karen Organization of Minnesota  
Lao Center  
Lutheran Social Service  
Minnesota Council of Churches  
Minnesota Department of Health  
Northpoint Health & Wellness Center  
Project for Pride in Living  
St. Paul Public Schools  
STEEP  
The Family Partnership  
WellShare International  
World Relief

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## 2011 Twin Cities World Refugee Day Sponsors



This activity is funded, in part, by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.

African  
Development  
Center  
of Minnesota



Advocating for Change  
Educating for Prevention  
Choosing for Health

### **Platinum Sponsors (\$1000):**

African Development Center  
American Refugee Committee  
Minnesota Department of Health  
State Council on Black Minnesotans/ MAATEN  
CAPI

### **Sponsors (\$500):**

American Red Cross  
Center for Victims of Torture  
City of Minneapolis- Neighborhood and Community Services  
Hennepin County- Office of Multicultural Services  
Lifetrack Resources  
Minneapolis Public Housing Authority  
Minnesota Council of Churches  
UCare

### **Contributors (\$250):**

EMERGE  
WellShare International

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## Resource Fair Participants

African Development Center  
American Cancer Society  
American Red Cross  
American Refugee Committee  
Arch Language Network  
Catholic Charities  
CAPI  
Center for Victims of Torture  
Child and Teen Check Up- Hennepin County  
Children's Dental Service  
City of Minneapolis- Neighborhood and Community Services  
Echo Minnesota  
EMERGE  
Hennepin County- Immunization Service Unite  
Hennepin County- Office of Multicultural Services  
Housing Link  
International Institute of Minnesota  
Karen Organization of MN  
Lifetrack Resources  
Lutheran Social Service- Refugee and Employment Services  
MHP/ Hennepin County  
Minneapolis Public Housing Authority  
Minneapolis Public Schools  
Minnesota Council of Churches  
Minnesota Department of Health  
Minnesota Department of Revenue  
MN Institute of Public Health  
MN Literacy Council  
Northpoint Health and Wellness Center  
Oromo Community Registration  
Planned Parenthood  
State Council on Black Minnesotans/ MAATEN  
The Family Partnership  
UCare  
WellShare International  
World Relief MN