



2013 TWIN CITIES WORLD REFUGEE DAY

"IF MY SHOES COULD TALK"

SATURDAY, JUNE 15 FROM 12-5 PM • WELLSTONE CENTER, ST. PAUL

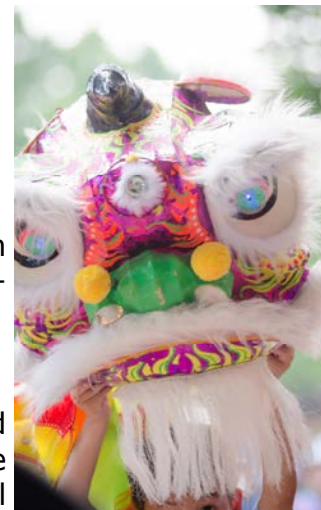
2013 Twin Cities World Refugee Day

Press Kit

WHEN: Saturday, June 15
12:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

WHERE: The Wellstone Center (179 Robie St. East)
St. Paul, MN

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



What is World Refugee Day?

In 2000, as an expression of solidarity with Africa, the United Nations General Assembly established June 20 as World Refugee Day to coincide with Africa Refugee Day. Since 2001, people all over the world have celebrated World Refugee Day with events that honor the world's more than 15 million refugees and raise awareness about their continued plight.

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

- Recognize the more than 95,000 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.

Who is a refugee?

A person outside of his or her country of origin who seeks protection on the grounds that he or she fears persecution in his or her homeland.

To attain refugee status, the person must prove that he or she has a "well-founded fear of persecution" on the basis of at least one of five specifically recognized grounds. These grounds include the person's:

- Race
- Religion
- Membership in a social group
- Political opinion
- National origin

www.tcworldrefugeeday.org



2013 Twin Cities World Refugee Day Refugee Facts

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Refugees around the world

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) states in 2011 there were 42.5 million people in need of international protection and assistance worldwide. 15.2 million were refugees. The rest are internally displaced people or fall into other categories of migrants.

Refugee resettlement

The number of refugees resettled represents a tiny fraction of the total number of refugees in the world. A total of **79,784 people** were resettled in 2011 to a third country like the United States. This is **less than one percent** of all refugees.

The United States

The U.S. government sets a cap for refugee resettlement each fiscal year. The actual number of refugees resettled is often lower. In 2011 the U.S. set its ceiling at 80,000 and received 56,419 refugees, of which 1,840 were resettled in Minnesota. The ceiling for FY 2012 is also 80,000 refugees.

Minnesota

Since 1979, nearly **95,000 refugees** from around the world have been resettled in Minnesota, and many others resettled in other states have moved to Minnesota to reunite with family members, find jobs and join communities with roots in the state.

Minnesota resettles more refugees than most other states and also has one of the highest secondary migration rates, meaning refugees resettled elsewhere in the U.S. move to Minnesota more often than to almost any other state. Minnesota's largest refugee communities include the Somali, Hmong, Karen and Liberian in addition to others from Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe. Some of the newest arrivals to Minnesota are from Bhutan and Iraq.



2013 Twin Cities World Refugee Day Event Schedule

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Performance Schedule

**Emcees: Anne Sumangil and
Brother Simon-Hòa Phan**

- 12:30-1:00** Welcome and
Introductions
- 1:00-1:30** Hung Vuong Association,
*Vietnamese traditional
demonstration*
- 1:35-1:45** Diversity Street,
Russian Folk Dance
- 1:45-1:55** Abdi Phenomenal,
Somali Spoken Word Artist
- 1:55-2:05** Diversity Street,
Ukrainian, Jewish Dance
- 2:10-2:30** KCO dancers,
Karen Youth Dancers
- 2:35-2:55** Red Hot Peppers,
Hmong Dance Group
- 2:55-3:05** Zumba Dance
- 3:05-3:20** Togo Dance Group
- 3:25-3:40** Oromo Dance Group
- 3:45-4:00** Diversity Street
- 4:00-4:30** Tiyumba,
West African Drumming
- 4:30-4:45** Zumba and Closing Remarks by
Emcees

*Schedule subject to change—please visit
www.tcworldrefugeeday.org/entertainment*

Educational Activities

**Multimedia Refugee Exhibit:
If My Shoes Could Talk**

Asian Storytellers Alliance

Hands-on Activities:

- Display books
- World Dress Up & Photo Op
- Refugee Open Market
- Arts & Crafts: Snake bracelets and belts to celebrate the Year of the Snake
- Face Painting, Henna Tattoo
- Tile Stories



Games:

- Lao Ball Game
- Vietnamese hacky sack
- Hula Hoop Contest
- Sorting beans



2013 Twin Cities World Refugee Day Tip Sheet for Media

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Please visit the information tent throughout the day if you need assistance.

Performances most visually appealing for video/photography:

- Hung Vuong Association, **1:00**
- Diversity Street, **1:35, 1:55, 3:45**
- KCO Dancers, **2:10**
- Red Hot Peppers, **2:35**
- Togo Dance Group, **3:05**
- Oromo Dance Group, **3:25**
- Tiyumba, **4:00**

Performances with original sounds for radio:

- Abdi Phenomenal and Poet Nation, **1:45**
- Tiyumba, **4:00**

Speak with event chairs from local refugee communities:

- Angelique Cooper-Liberty
- Amina Saleh
- Chay Douangphouxay
- Khadra Abdi
- Susan Mezum Lien

Marketing Director: Laura Doggett | 651-201-5590





2013 Twin Cities World Refugee Day
Event Chairs

Press Kit



Mrs. Susan Mezum Lien

Susan came to the United States from Vietnam in 1979 with her husband Hue Van Lien and first daughter. They first came to Iowa, then moved to Minnesota in 1980. In 1983, she graduated from Saint Paul Technical Institute as a computer programmer. Since then, Susan and her husband have raised four successful daughters and become grandparents to two boys, with two more grandchildren on the way this year.

She loves volunteering for various charities in Minnesota and beyond. Susan and her husband, the owner of Modern Manufacturing & Engineering, Inc., have on-going efforts to support disadvantaged youth in Vietnam and Friends of the Poor, an organization that helps provide education, training and other resources to soon-to-be mothers. She has travelled to Vietnam with Project Health International, an organization that performs cataract surgeries for those who cannot otherwise afford to correct their vision problems.



Chay Douangphouxay

Chay Douangphouxay is an award winning Lao-Khmer American artist/activist from Minneapolis, Minnesota. She uses her art to educate and inspire others to advocate for their communities. Her work has been recognized by the Minnesota Humanities Center and Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans. Her first solo chapbook, *Remission: Finding Light In the Midst of Social Darkness* was released as part of the 2012 Legacy Fellowship Grant and has been widely utilized as a national educational tool on issues of class, gender, and race.

Chay received her undergraduate degree in English from Metropolitan State University. She is the Co-Founder and Co-Chair of the Twin Cities Chapter of NAPAWF, a national organization working to forge a grass-roots progressive movement to advance social justice and human rights for API women and girl.



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Amina Saleh – An Immigrant from Somalia, Amina has been an active resident of Minnesota for over 10 Years. Currently a bi-lingual Community organizer at The Family Partnership (formerly known as the Family & Children’s Services) where she is the lead of Somali Youth Violence Prevention Committee in MOVE (Mobilizing Organizing for Victory & Empowerment), a board member of Somali Action Alliance, New American Academy, Police Multicultural Advisory Committee and Secretary at Cedar Riverside NRP Housing, Economic Development & Infrastructure Committee. She is a trained art of hosting facilitator & practitioner for events. Amina brings her knowledge of Immigrant communities, as a tenant organizer work with ACORN and education organizer with Somali Action Alliance to numerous neighborhood groups and initiatives in Twin Cities including the first ever Somali culturally specific Leadership Class in the Country. She is a co-founder of Native American Somali Friendship Committee and The Khadra Project. Amina holds a degree in Business Administration from Lafole University in Somalia & a CPA 1 from Universal Collage in Nairobi Kenya.



Khadra Abdi: An Immigrant from Somalia graduated from Mayo High School in Rochester and Rochester Community College. She is currently a Manager at Surad interpreting services and has been a community activist in Somali community for the past seven years and continues to build strong partnerships with the government, the judicial system, community police and diverse grassroots nonprofit organizations within the Somali and immigrant communities as well as the mainstream community within the Twin Cities. Also she is a co-founder of The Khadra Project.



Angelique Cooper-Liberty

Angelique H. Cooper-Liberty was born in Liberia, West Africa. She is a wife, mother and human service administrator. She is also the Founder and Executive Director of Angel Eyes Foundation located in Brooklyn Park, MN. Angel Eyes Foundation is a register 501c3 organization in the state of Minnesota that seeks to create awareness on the danger of drugs and alcohol abuse within the African immigrant community.

www.angeleyesfound.org

She lives in Champlin, MN with her husband of ten years Tellek E. Liberty and her Daughter Elise and son Ethan. Angelique holds an undergraduate degree in Human Resource Management and Master’s degree in Health and Human Service Administration.

www.tcworldrefugeeday.org



2013 Twin Cities World Refugee Day People

Press Kit

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

Laura Doggett, Marketing Committee Chair
(651)201-5590 | marketing.tcworldrefugeeday@gmail.com

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

Marketing/Press: Laura Doggett
Entertainment: Zahra Abdirizak
Fundraising & Community Resource Fair: Alexis Walstad
Logistics: Saymoukda Vongsay
Vendors: Jilian Clearman
Volunteers: Mohammed Dukuly

Organizations represented on the 2013 planning committee:

African & American Friendship Association for Cooperation & Development
Angel Eyes Foundation
CAPI
Diversity Street
Earle Brown Elementary IB World School
Episcopal Community Services
Healtheast Care System
Hennepin County Libraries
Hennepin County Office of Multicultural Services
International Institute of Minnesota
Karen Organization of Minnesota
Lifetrack Resources
Minnesota Department of Health Refugee Health Program
MORE Multicultural School for Empowerment
Organization of Liberians in Minnesota
United Cambodian Association of Minnesota
WellShare International
World Relief of Minnesota



2013 Twin Cities World Refugee Day

Sponsors



This activity is funded, in part, by appropriations from the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the State's general fund, and its arts and cultural heritage fund that was created by a vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.



Press Kit

African Development Center
of Minnesota



Platinum Sponsors (\$1,000+)

African Development Center
CAPI
Metropolitan Regional Arts Council
Minnesota Department of Health

Sponsors (\$500)

American Refugee Committee: I AM A STAR
Minnesota Council of Churches
Red Cross
UCare



2013 Twin Cities World Refugee Day
Resource Fair Participants

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African Development Center of Minnesota
 American Relief Agency for the Horn of Africa
 Arch Language Network

City of Minneapolis Neighborhood &
 Community Relations

ECHO

Guadalupe Alternative Programs

Hennepin Co. Office of Multicultural Services

Immigrant Law Center of MN

International Institute of Minnesota

Karen Organization of MN

Lutheran Social Services

Minneapolis Public Schools

Minnesota Department of Health

Minnesota Council of Churches

Minnesota Revenue

Minnesota State Services for the Blind

MORE Empowerment School

Neighborhood House

North Hennepin Community College

People's Health Services

Planned Parenthood

Red Cross

Ucare

Volunteers of America

World Relief



CAPI

Catholic Charities

Center for International Health-
 Health Partners

Center for Victims of Torture

Children's Dental Services