



**2012 TWIN CITIES  
WORLD REFUGEE DAY**  
MANY TRADITIONS, ONE MINNESOTA  
[www.tcworldrefugeeday.org](http://www.tcworldrefugeeday.org)

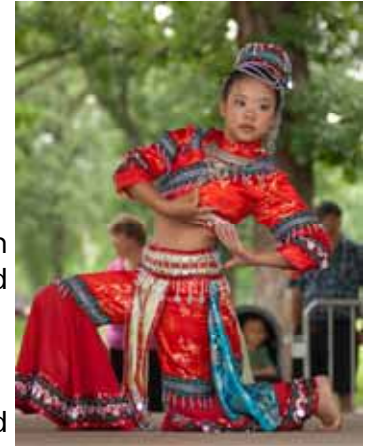
## Press Kit

### 2012 Twin Cities World Refugee Day General Information

**WHEN:** Saturday, June 16  
1:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Minnehaha Park  
Minneapolis, 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 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.

#### 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



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### 2012 Twin Cities World Refugee Day Refugee Facts

#### Refugees around the world

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) states that there are 33.9 million people in need of international protection and assistance worldwide. 10.55 million of these are refugees. The rest are internally displaced people or fall into other categories of migrants.

#### Where do they come from?\*

<u>Host Region</u>	<u>People of Concern</u>
Africa	10.1 million
Asia and Pacific	16.1 million
Americas	4.6 million
Europe	2.9 million
Oceania	.3 million

\*UNHCR 2010 data.

#### Refugee resettlement

The number of refugees resettled represents a tiny fraction of the total number of refugees in the world. A total of **73,000 people** were resettled in 2010 to 28 countries. 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 **100,000 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.



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### 2012 Twin Cities World Refugee Day Event Schedule

#### Performance Schedule

##### *Emcees: IBé and Trong Nguyen*

- |                  |  |  |  |
|------------------|--|--|--|
| <b>1:00-1:30</b> | Emcees Welcome, Introduce Honorary Chairs, Speech from Sponsors  | <b>4:00-4:15</b>   | Nicolette,<br><i>Iraqi Rock Band</i>   |
| <b>1:30-2:20</b> | Hung Vuong Association,<br><i>Vietnamese traditional demonstration</i><br><a href="http://www.hungvuongmn.com">www.hungvuongmn.com</a> | <b>4:15-4:25</b>   | IBé<br><i>Spoken Word</i><br><a href="http://www.AtlanticRock.com">www.AtlanticRock.com</a>      |
| <b>2:25-2:30</b> | Red Hot Peppers,<br><i>Hmong Youth Dancers</i>   | <b>4:25-4:50</b>   | Karen Thunder Band,<br><i>Karen Rock Band</i>  |
| <b>2:35-2:45</b> | Russian Folk Group,<br><i>Dancing</i>  | <b>5:00-6:00</b>   | Tiyumba,<br><i>West African Drumming</i><br><a href="http://www.tiyumba.com">www.tiyumba.com</a> |
| <b>2:45-2:50</b> | Red Hot Peppers,<br><i>Hmong Youth Dancers</i>   | <i>Schedule subject to change—please visit <a href="http://www.tcworldrefugeeday.org/entertainment">www.tcworldrefugeeday.org/entertainment</a> for the most current schedule.</i> |  |
| <b>2:50-3:05</b> | TBD  |  |  |
| <b>3:05-3:20</b> | KCO dancers,<br><i>Karen Youth Dancers</i>   |  |  |
| <b>3:20-3:50</b> | Abdi Phenomenal and Poet Nation,<br><i>Somali Spoken Word</i><br><a href="http://www.thepoetnation.com">www.thepoetnation.com</a>      |  |  |



#### Educational Activities

- Storytelling
- Henna Body Art
- Face painting
- Bouncy Tent



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## 2012 Twin Cities World Refugee Day Tip Sheet for Media

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

### **Performances most visually appealing for video/photography:**

- Hung Vuong Association, **1:30**
- Red Hot Peppers, **2:25 and 2:45**
- Russian Folk Group, **2:35**
- KCO Dancers, **3:05**
- Tiyumba, **5:00**

### **Performances with original sounds for radio:**

- Karen Thunder Band, **4:25**
- Abdi Phenomenal and Poet Nation, **3:20**
- Nicolette, **4:00**
- Tiyumba, **5:00**

### **Speak with event chairs from local refugee communities:**

- **Yisehak Tura**, DSMA EOTC Parish Nursing Program Coordinator
- **Wilhelmina Holder**, Executive Director, Women's Initiative for Self Empowerment
- **Fatuma Elmi**, Employment Counselor, Lutheran Social Service
- **Mohammed Meran**



**Marketing Director:** Laura Doggett | 651-201-5590



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## 2012 Twin Cities World Refugee Day Event Chairs



**Yisehak Tura, RN BSN, PHN**  
**DSMA EOTC Parish Nursing Program Coordinator**

He is the founder of the Debre Selam Medhane Alem Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church Parish Nursing Program. This program provides health screening, health education and referral services for his community members. He leads the program and coordinates volunteers and professionals from the community to provide free services. The program collaborates with Minnesota Department of Health Refugee Health Program and different organizations to provide preventative and public health services. They have held five health fairs in the past five years and hosted three flu shot clinics in the last three seasons. They also have office hours after Sunday church program providing blood pressure, glucose and cholesterol screening and personal health consultation. He was chosen by Metropolitan State University as one of 40 Alumni Who've Made a Difference in 2011.



**Wilhelmina Holder, MD CM, DTPH, MS**  
**Executive Director,**  
**Women's Initiative for Self Empowerment**

Dr. Wilhelmina Holder, an immigrant from Liberia, is a graduate of McGill Medical School, Canada, and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, England. She emigrated to Minnesota, USA, in 1985 through Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program, after suffering severe political prosecution secondary to the Liberian coup d'état in 1980 at which time President of Liberia, William R. Tolbert, her father, was assassinated.

She had international and national experience in program and organizational management and evaluation in Liberia, for eight years, practicing preventive medicine or directing various disease prevention and control programs for women and children. In Minnesota, she obtained a Masters in Epidemiology at the University of Minnesota. Since 1990, she worked in several Twin Cities' community-based non-profit Organizations planning, directing and evaluating educational and health related services targeting the most vulnerable minority populations: youth, prostitutes, drug users, abused children, juvenile delinquents and immigrants/refugees.

Presently, she is the Executive Director of the Women's Initiative for Self Empowerment (WISE), Inc. that empowers immigrant women/girls to succeed in the Twin Cities and Metropolitan Areas. She is a Christian and has been supported by husband of a thirty-eight years and four qualified children (a teacher, a lawyer, a doctor and an artist), with 7 grandchildren.



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**Mohammed Meran**

Born and raised in Iraq, Mohammed lived through multiple wars and hardships. After training and working as an aircraft engineer, Mohammed eventually was forced to flee his country, finding a new home in Minnesota.

[Read Mohammed's Story Here](#)



**Fatuma Elmi**



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## 2012 Twin Cities World Refugee Day **People**

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

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

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

**Planning Committee Chair: Alexis Walstad**

**Marketing/Press:** Laura Doggett

**Community Resource Fair:** Holly Vander Schaaf

**Entertainment:** Stephanie Abbas

**Fundraising:** Alexis Walstad

**Logistics:** Robin Dusterhoft

**Vendors:** Vanessa Milbradt

**Volunteers:** Liana Baidurashvili

**Organizations represented on the 2012 planning committee:**

Asian Women United of Minnesota

CAP

Catholic Charities Migration & Refugee Services

Episcopal Community Services

Hennepin County Libraries

Hennepin County Office of Multicultural Services

International Institute of Minnesota

Karen Organization of Minnesota

Minnesota Department of Health

Minnesota Department of Education

MORE Multicultural School for Empowerment

Northpoint Health & Wellness Center

Project for Pride in Living

St. Paul Public Schools

STEEP

World Relief of Minnesota



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### 2012 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*



**African  
Development  
Center  
of Minnesota**



#### Platinum Sponsors (\$1,000+)

African Development Center  
American Refugee Committee  
CAPI

Metropolitan Regional Arts Council  
Minnesota Department of Health

Planned Parenthood of Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota  
Wellshare International

#### Corporate Sponsors

#### Sponsors (\$500)

Lutheran Social Services  
Statewide Tobacco Education & Engagement Project Southeast Asian Collaborative (STEEP)  
Ucare





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2012 Twin Cities World Refugee Day  
**Resource Fair Participants**

Community-University Health Care  
Center (CUHCC)

**More Information on Resource  
Fair Participants Coming Soon!**