



## Arrupe Partnerships for Community-based Learning

500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, CA 95053 – Phone: (408) 554-6917 - Fax: (408) 554-4564 – [www.scu.edu/ignatiancenter](http://www.scu.edu/ignatiancenter)

# REFUGEE SERVICES - CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Contacts: Reza Odabae, Director, Refugee Program  
Carol Fitch, ESL Instructor (408) 325-5104

Main Ofc Phone: (408) 468-0100	E-Mail: Reza@ catholiccharitiesscc.org	Website: <a href="http://www.catholiccharitiesscc.org/services/services_immigration.htm">www.catholiccharitiesscc.org/services/services_immigration.htm</a>
-----------------------------------	--	--

### **Organizational Profile**

Catholic Charities' Refugee Services assists refugees from all over the world to re-establish their lives in the United States. In concrete terms, this means reuniting families, arranging sponsorships, greeting refugees at the airport, intensive case management, social and cultural orientation, finding and furnishing housing, introducing refugees to their new community, providing English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction, registering children in schools, employment counseling, and job training and placement.

CC's Refugee Services Program is part of the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops/Migration & Refugee Services (USCCB/MRS) network. Nationally, USCCB/MRS resettles nearly one-fourth of all refugees admitted to the U.S. each year. This happens through a concerted effort of program support and assistance to a network of over 100 diocesan refugee resettlement offices (most of which are part of the Catholic Charities agencies) and collaboration with other national resettlement and governmental agencies.

### **SCU Student's Role**

Catholic Charities involves SCU students as aides in the classroom to help newly arrived refugees learn English while being acculturated to American life. The refugees learn life skills (i.e. how to use modern appliances), social skills appropriate to being in the U.S., as well as employment preparation skills. SCU students will work with small groups and may get to know clients from all over the world, including Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Sudan, Somalia, and Burma. The clients vary widely in their English skills and educational background – ranging from pre-literate to college-educated. An experienced ESL instructor will guide SCU students.

### **To Do Before Orientation**

- Visit the website listed above to learn more about your placement or the umbrella organization with which it is affiliated.
- Read your course syllabus and be prepared to discuss your learning goals with your placement supervisor at orientation.