




**Refugee Development Center**

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**Cultural Competency**

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**History and Mission:**

The Refugee Development Center started in 2002 with the mission of providing the educational and social support refugees need to become self-sufficient members of society.

Since 2002, the RDC has grown from a part time staff member, a handful of volunteers and the ability to serve about 100 clients--- to a staff of 11, approximately 300 volunteers annually, and, in 2015, direct service with almost 1,700 newcomers.


**Who is a Refugee?**



Someone found outside his/her home country who has a “well founded fear of persecution” because of his/her:

- Race, religion, nationality, social group membership or political opinion

1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees.



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**Fast Facts:**

- 20 million
- 17 years
- Less than 1%
- 70,000
- 4<sup>th</sup>
- 600-700

**Cultural Competency**

Cultural competence implies lifelong learning of all these concepts with the added component of effectively operating in various cultural contexts.

- **Lifelong learning**
- **Open-mindedness**
- **Humility**
- **Curiosity**
- **Empathy**

(Source: [globaltb.njms.rutgers.edu/.../Newsletter-7.pdf](http://globaltb.njms.rutgers.edu/.../Newsletter-7.pdf))

**Steps toward Competence**

- Involve immigrants in their own health care
- Learn more about culture, starting with our own
- Speak the language, or use a trained interpreter
- Ask the right questions and look for answers
- Find resources and form partnerships

(Source: Recommendations from the Minnesota Public Health Association's Immigrant Health Task Force: <https://www.ucare.org/providers/documents/6stepsulturalcompetence.pdf>.)

**Michigan refugees are from...**

**In 2015, 630 refugees arrived in Lansing**

What is the Pathway Out?

**Education  
Support  
&  
Opportunity**

**RDC Programs**

- SOAR after-school tutoring and mentoring
- Newcomers Soccer Program
- GLOBE Camp
- Girls Group
- ESOL Classes
- Home Visits
- Nutrition Education
- Parent Nights
- Parent/Teacher Conference Support
- PALS
- Women's Sewing Circle

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North Elementary School After-School Tutoring

**Refugee Development Center**

**Connect with RDC**

- Visit [www.refugeedevelopmentcenter.org](http://www.refugeedevelopmentcenter.org)
- Make a Donation
- Sign up for our monthly newsletter
- Follow us on Twitter
- Friend us on Facebook
- Become a volunteer!

*Thank you for supporting Newcomers!*