

# *REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN WORCESTER*

THE SCHOOL NURSE PERSPECTIVE  
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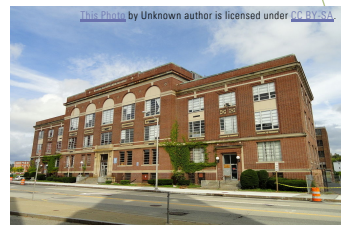


1

## *WPS & REFUGEE AGENCY RESETTLEMENT COLLABORATION*



Worcester Together Afghan  
Resettlement and Response  
Work Group



Refugee Health Work  
Group



Worcester Public  
School Work Group

2

# RIAC

## REFUGEE & IMMIGRANT ASSISTANCE CENTER

- Community-based, non-profit, grassroots human service agency.
- Provides comprehensive services to refugees, asylees, and immigrants - refugee resettlement, asylee case management, counseling, outreach and education, and other social services.
- Began its resettlement program in 2001.
- More than 200 refugees from different countries including Bhutan, Iraq, Congo, Syria, Afghanistan, Burma, Somalia, and Ethiopia resettled annually by RIAC in greater Boston and Worcester.
- RIAC's resettlement is done through its affiliation with Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC).
- ECDC is one of nine national agencies authorized by the Department of State to resettle refugees in the United States.
- RIAC has offices in Boston, Lynn, and Worcester.



3

# ASCENTRIA

## ASCENTRIA CARE ALLIANCE

- Works in conjunction with the U.S. Department of State and the Massachusetts Office of Refugees and Immigrants.
- Is a non-profit to resettle and establish individuals and families fleeing conflict and oppression in their homeland.
- Began its resettlement program in 1997.
- Offer a continuum of community-based programs for refugees and immigrants including immigration legal assistance, assistance with unaccompanied refugee minors, and comprehensive services for new Americans.
- Ascentria has offices in Worcester and West Springfield Massachusetts, and Concord, New Hampshire.



4

## *REFUGEE HEALTH CLINICS*

### **FAMILY HEALTH CENTER**

- A clinic dedicated to comprehensive care of newly arrived refugees, asylees and asylum seekers.
- Initial health assessments as required by the Department of Public Health for newly arrived refugees and persons newly granted asylum.
- A committed team including care coordination, medical assistants, scheduler as well as integrated behavioral health.



### **EDWARD KENNEDY HEALTH**

- A provider of the Refugee Health Assessment Program
- One of only several sites in Massachusetts to conduct refugee health assessments
- Employ staff who speak refugee languages including a community health worker and nurse who speak Swahili, two medical assistants and a medical interpreter who speak Nepali, and a community health worker and medical interpreter who speak Arabic



5



*WORCESTER  
PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS*



Parent Information Center

New Citizen's Center

School Nutrition

Andy's Attic

Breezy's Basement

6



## SCHOOL NURSE ROLE



### Welcome

- Screen for health needs
- Culture and customs - Worcester Together Refugee Response <https://www.wtrefugee.org/learning-community>

### McKinney-Vento / DESE <https://www.doe.mass.edu/news/news.aspx?id=26713>

- Legal rights to free public education without delay\*
- Waived vaccine requirement for school entry if considered homeless

### Receiving agency and Refugee distinction

- Refugees / Humanitarian Parolees
- Undocumented

### Liaison between providers

- SBHC – school based health centers
- Refugee, PCP and other specialty clinics

7

## OTHER WAYS TO HELP

Become Educated

Volunteer

Donate money and/or resources



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**The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.**

Mahatma Gandhi

8



## *RESOURCES*

- Andy's Attic- <https://andysattic.org/what-we-do-1>
- Ansaar - <https://www.ansaarofworchester.org/>
- Ascentria - <https://www.ascentria.org/our-services/refugee-and-immigrant-services>
- Edward Kennedy Health Center - <https://www.kennedychc.org/about-us>
- Family Health Center - <http://www.fhcw.org/en/Home>
- RIAC - <https://www.riacboston.org/>
- WARM - <https://www.doe.mass.edu/news/news.aspx?id=26713>
- Worcester Together - <https://www.wtrefugee.org/>
- WRAP - <https://www.worcesterrefugees.org/>