



Nations Ministry Center

Report on Program Results for FY 2019-2020

While the COVID-19 pandemic dramatically impacted much of our work, we were able to continue to serve families through established programs and through new services.

IMMIGRATION

Nations Ministry Center assisted 434 refugees apply for immigration benefits during the reporting period of 07/01/2019 through 06/30/2020. This total includes 131 citizenship applications, 158 green card applications, 60 certificates of citizenship for children, 40 green card replacements or renewals, as well as 45 applications for travel documents, family visas, or other immigration documents. These totals reflect only the applications filed, not any additional consulting or immigration paperwork assistance.

During this year of reporting (07/01/2019 – 06/30/2020) a total of 259 refugees received the immigration benefit they were seeking. Many of these 259 refugees had applied during previous reporting periods but because the processing time sometimes exceeds three years, only received the requested benefit during this period. Of these 259 refugees, 84 became citizens, 127 received their first green cards, 28 children received their certificates of citizenship, 9 had their green cards replaced or renewed, and 11 others received travel documents or other immigration documents.

Additionally, during this reporting period a great number of refugees who contacted us for immigration assistance in the COVID 19 constricted months of March, April, and May 2020 were delayed in applying for benefits due to our limited availability and in receiving them because of USCIS shutdown of services.

ELDERS

We served 41 Zomi and Nepali elders through enrichment events and classroom education. We fulfilled more than 147 service requests and helped elders acquire more than \$33,000 in resources.

YOUTH

During the regular academic year which ended early because of COVID-19, 126 youth improved their reading ability by, on average, 2.97 Lexia reading levels (the 18 levels correlated to pre-k-5th grade). 90 (or 71%) youth improved their reading ability by at least 2 Lexia reading levels. 72 (or 57%) youth improved their reading ability by at least 1 grade level. 87 youth improved their grade or maintained an A in at least one core academic subject.

(Of course, that data is very incomplete.) 72 youth improved their reading ability during the summer by, on average, 2.18 Lexia reading levels.

67 youth demonstrated an increase in social emotional competency as measured by the DESSA (Devereux Student Strengths Assessment) system in summer 2020.

For children in our recreational therapy program, 83% (29 of 35) children have shown an increase in social and emotional competence (determined by Aperture's 8 SEL Competencies) as measured by DESSA-mini (Devereux Student Strengths Assessment-mini). 83% (24 of 29) students have shown an increase in behavioral and emotional strengths as measured by BERS-2 (Behavioral and Emotional Rating Scale-2).

We enrolled 37 children in the Imagination Library.

For youth, during the shutdown period, we mailed to homes 630 individualized learning packets mailed to homes and 490 books provided by donors through Amazon and Book 'Em. 34 students received packs of school supplies. 115 students received educational materials. Staff provided weekly check-in calls for students. In June and July, we provided seven weeks of in-person tutoring and social-emotional development to help 72 refugee and immigrant children impacted by the closure of schools because of COVID-19.

We also provided case management assistance to 65 families who needed assistance in applying for unemployment benefits, SNAP, TN COVID-19 Cash benefits, federal stimulus payments, and/or job applications.

We helped 73 families apply for Pandemic EBT, are actively monitoring those applications, and helping families activate their EBT cards when they arrive.

Nations Ministry began providing weekly food distribution on April 15 and eventually served 70 people with the weekly distribution providing enough food for the week. We partnered with One Gen Away, Hillcrest United Methodist Food Bank, our donors who provided relief bundles, and we purchased food through a Nashville COVID-19 Response Fund grant from the United Way. For most families we concluded those efforts in August. From the same fund, we provided \$21,000 in mortgage, rent assistance, and utilities assistance.

We provided case management, medical assistance, and prescription drop off and other assistance to Zomi and Nepali elders.