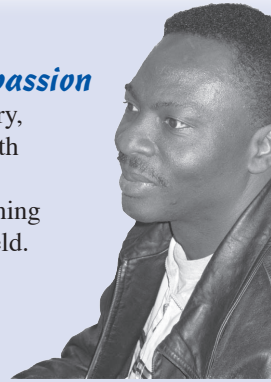


Kossi Amedome always speaks with great passion

about the political situation in Africa and in his native country, Togo, West Africa. But right now he is more preoccupied with passing his state certification and becoming a full-fledged Medical Assistant. Having just completed three years of training at Anoka Technical College, he is eager to get a job in his field. At the same time he was studying at Anoka, he was working part-time as a nursing assistant at a group home and volunteering weekly at both Fairview-Southdale and Abbott-Northwestern hospitals to learn medical protocol.



Kossi began his academic journey in 2006 with a College Readiness for Medical Careers course. He then sought the services of the Medical Career Advancement Program. Coordinator Carol DaBruzzi helped him to identify his specific career interest and provided him with tuition assistance for college.

Once a sociology student in Togo, Kossi wants to use his understanding of human behavior to work with patients at a Twin Cities clinic. "Now I have to convince someone to hire me without the two years of experience as a Medical Assistant that most places prefer," says Kossi. "You have to start somewhere."

Language Links

Interpreter Services, in partnership with the University of Minnesota, trained over 100 interpreters in the ethics, protocol, and practical realities of working in medical, legal, and educational settings. Through a contract with Ramsey County, the Institute also provided interpreters to the Human Services Department, assisting clients with mental health needs, vulnerable adult protection, and services for the disabled.

The Spanish Program offered classes in seven language levels, with an enrollment of 177 students, as well as free one-to-one tutoring services.

The English as Second Language has a reputation for quality instruction at very reasonable cost, which explains its popularity. Nearly 200 students enrolled in classes, and volunteers offered free one-to-one tutoring.

Welcome to the USA

Refugee Resettlement welcomed 116 refugees this year and experienced dramatic changes in the types of cases and in their countries of origin. The first "free" cases arrived: refugees who have no family members in Minnesota. This meant much more staff attention for each case than in the past.

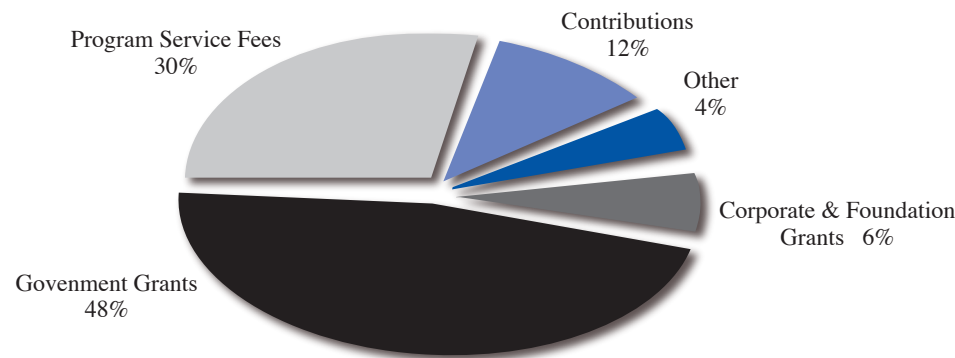
Refugee Cash Assistance facilitated resettlement of over 60 refugees and asylees who took their first steps toward economic self-sufficiency.

Immigration Services now benefits from a new relationship with Loan T. Huynh, Attorney at Law with Fredrikson & Byron, P.A. Ms. Huynh works closely with staff to offer expertise in immigration law to clients seeking permanent residence and citizenship. Immigration Services assisted nearly 1,000 refugee and asylee clients to get permanent residence, citizenship and/or citizenship classes this year.

The new
refugee populations from Bhutan, Burma,
Iraq and Iran resettled by the Institute are changing
the face of resettlement in Minnesota.

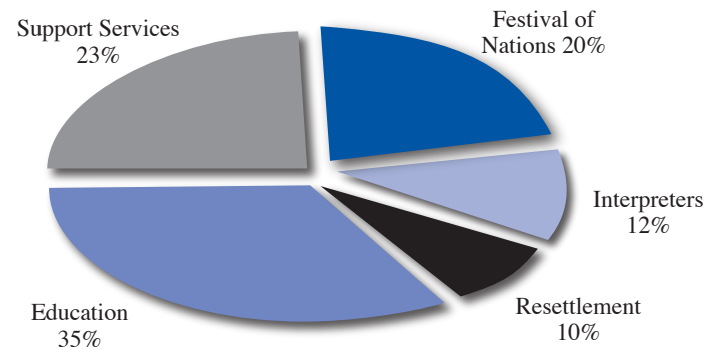
Revenues

Contributions	222,073.00
Program Service Fees	545,168.00
Corporate & Foundation Grants	95,450.00
Government Grants	855,027.00
Other	71,334.00
Total	1,789,052.00



Expenses

Education	671,783.00
Resettlement	187,795.00
Interpreters	229,269.00
Festival of Nations	385,144.00
Support Services	429,838.00
Total	1,903,829.00



Ninety Days ~ Imagine that today you didn't wake up like usual. You weren't in your comfy cotton long johns, or home in bed with your spouse and 1.2 children sleeping in the next room. Instead you woke up in a one-room bamboo thatched house on a hard dirt floor with your five family members lying beside you. Gone are the high-sloped ceilings, KitchenAid appliances and indoor plumbing. Now you have a water tank for your morning shower, a campfire for breakfast and leaves for a roof. You have just woken up in a Thai refugee camp. Now imagine that you have lived here for the past eight years . . .

Being allowed to resettle in another country is an opportunity that less than one percent of the world's 16 million refugees are given . . . In the U.S. refugee resettlement agencies help refugees during their first ninety days in the country to find employment, start learning English, enroll their children in school and begin to acclimate to American society.

But on day ninety-one, the agency has no further obligation to them, and the family is expected to be self-sufficient. Having only ninety days to become self-sufficient seems almost unfathomable, but this year it is estimated that 80,000 refugees will accept this challenge to self-sufficiency.

*This excerpt from the book **Ninety Days** by Inge Kathleen Hooker was reproduced with permission from Bowling Green International Center (a sister agency) in Bowling Green, Kentucky.*



Atsede Berhe and Zewditu Weldemarian are Eritrean women who met in St. Paul after their resettlement by the Institute. They spoke no English when they arrived.

"I cooked my chicken in apple juice," Zewditu said, laughing. "I bought it, thinking it was cooking oil!" In her village in Eritrea, fruit juices don't come in clear plastic bottles. There was one food that was familiar, however: popcorn, which they serve to guests, along with tiny cups of sweet coffee. Zelditu prepares the coffee – not on the stove but on a single-burner heating plate perched on top of a cardboard box in her living room in St. Paul. Among the few personal things that Zewditu brought with her when she left her refugee camp "home" of three years were a clay coffee pot, a set of cups and saucers, spices for cooking, and old clothing.

Their new Ethiopian friend and translator, Ephrem Meheretia, arrived about the same time. He was forced to flee his country because of political problems and journeyed to the U.S. via Uganda and Lebanon, where he joined his wife. Ephrem was resettled by the Institute and is now attending Century College. He aspires toward a career as a Medical Assistant.



Ephrem shares the magic of digital photography with Temesgen & Nejaret.