

Sudanese Community & Women's Service Center

Annual Report 2009

SCWC

Services

2009:

- English Classes
- GED Preparation
- Job Readiness & Employment Assistance
- Citizenship Preparation
- Immigration Assistance
- Health Services
- Youth Outreach
- Social Adjustment
- Clothing & Food Distribution
- Food Stamp Education

A Word from the Executive Director



Greater Nashville continues to see an incredible influx of refugees and immigrants from all over the world, and demand for refugee services rises accordingly. In 2009, the SCWC served clients from 43 different nations, at a rate of over 1,000 per month—a 125% increase over 2008. The challenges faced by the SCWC target population are often exacerbated because “mainstream” support systems

often do not account for the steep access problems facing non-native English speakers, the majority of whom are unfamiliar with American culture. I can testify to this myself. While the primary goal of the SCWC remains the empowerment of refugees and immigrants through English literacy, increasing demand for a wider range of services has led to the diversification of SCWC offerings. Current SCWC services include education, employment, social adjustment, and health & youth services. The SCWC also facilitates a peer-led new arrival adjustment effort, conducted primarily by refugees and immigrants who have had success in navigating their new lives and are interested in enabling others to succeed. We are constantly working to

improve our services and make them more accessible. All SCWC classes are free and childcare is provided at no cost. Thanks to a broad community partnership and an extensive, dedicated volunteer base, the SCWC is able to provide a wide array of services with very limited material resources. Among all the reasons that the SCWC is exemplary, the fact that it is able to achieve such incredible results with so little money stands out. For SCWC, 2009 has been a banner year. Thanks to all of you who have helped to shape our success, especially our amazing volunteers. Without them, the SCWC would not exist.

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Gatluak Ter Thach
Executive Director



Inaugural Year for Large-Scale Job Initiative



Shane Dickey
Employment Program
Coordinator

In 2009, the mean poverty rate among Nashville's foreign-born residents reached 18%, and more than 50% of documented, foreign-born families received social assistance such as food stamps, transitional housing, unemployment benefits and/or public health insurance. These figures are uniformly higher than those for otherwise similar, native English-speaking populations. The SCWC recognized these issues and sought funding for a program that would endeavor to address them. In 2009 the Tennessee Office for Refugees awarded the SCWC a Targeted Assistance Grant for the institution of a Refugee Employment Assistance Program (REAP). This initial funding was augmented mid-year by a supplemental TAG grant that provided additional resources for outreach, education and staff.

experienced professionals with advanced degrees. Regardless of their differences, however, REAP clients had at least this in common: they came to the SCWC for help.

In spite of the material limitations it faced, the SCWC REAP grew to encompass a wide range of services formulated to meet the specific and varied needs of its clients. In 2009, the SCWC REAP assisted over 200 clients from 18 countries, and 50 of those assisted found jobs.

SCWC Employment

Program Components:

- Job Mentor Program
- Skills Bank & Assessment
- Job Readiness Training
- PC & Internet Fluency
- Resume Building
- Application Blitzes
- One-on-One Counseling
- Mock Interviews
- Guest Industry Presenters

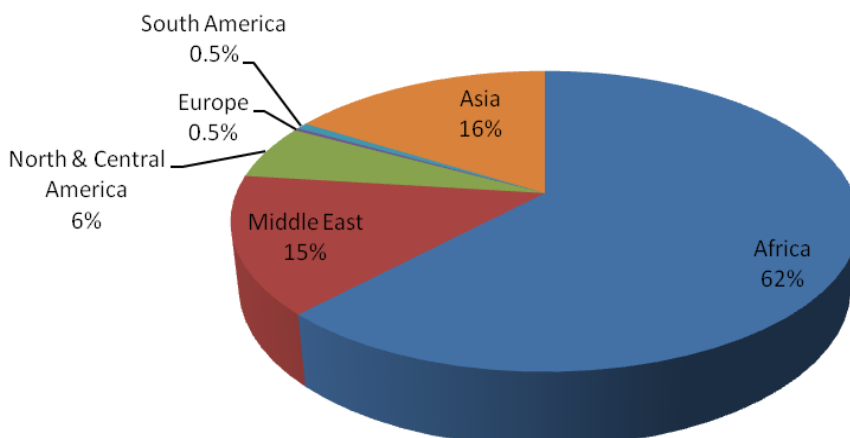


Thana Numan
Employment Program
Assistant Coordinator

Those individuals served by the SCWC REAP can not be narrowly classified; 2009 REAP clients ranged in education and experience from uneducated, monolingual country folk with no "marketable" work experience to metropolitan, multilingual, highly-



2009 Client Breakdown



Fundamental to the mission of the SCWC is the elimination of the root causes of poverty within greater Nashville's refugee and immigrant community, the creation of a new precedent of upward socioeconomic mobility, and the social integration of those it serves. Clients are encouraged, indeed challenged, to think beyond their current circumstance and discuss long-term goals. The SCWC makes every effort to create the foundation necessary for achieving these goals and places clients in educational and employment environments that are conducive to ultimate success.

Demand for Classes Balloons in 2009



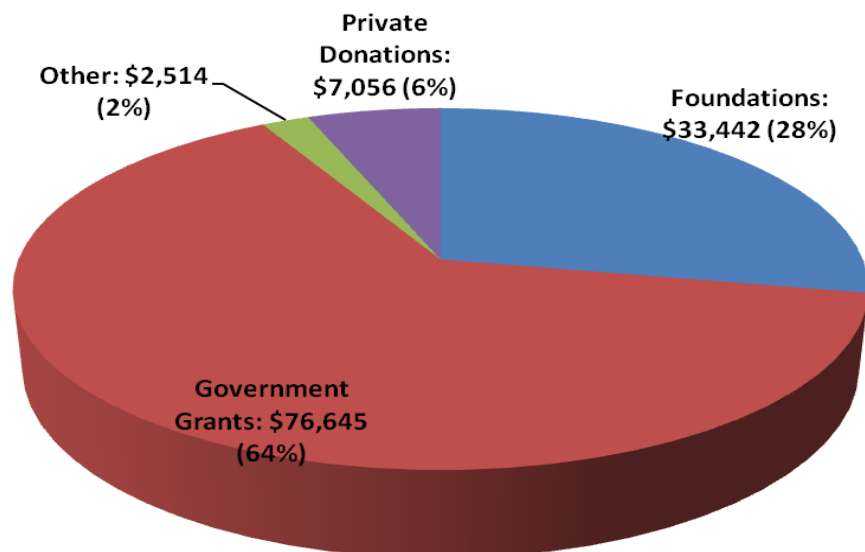
Allison Casteel
Education Program
Coordinator

2009 saw the SCWC Education Program significantly grow and change. In addition to working with the Employment Program to streamline and formalize the SCWC's intake procedure and record keeping system, we introduced a new diagnostic assessment that enables us more thoroughly evaluate each client's speaking, reading, writing, and listening skills, and place him or her in the most appropriate class. In addition, we added a new time slot of classes in the morning to meet the increasing demand for more classes. SCWC ELL classes run three times a day, Monday through Friday, year round.



In 2009:

- 470 students were served by the SCWC education program (an increase of 450% from 2008)
- 85% of ELL students advanced one level of proficiency every six months
- 63 SCWC Citizenship students were naturalized (an increase of over 65% from 2008)
- 5 SCWC GED students earned a diploma



In 2009, the SCWC served over 1,500 clients from 43 nations, with total expenditures of under \$120,000. The SCWC's current annual operating budget is \$150,000, of which 80% is dedicated to program costs and the balance to administration and fundraising.

The SCWC in 2009: A True Community Center



2009 saw the SCWC developing and extending long-standing partnerships with community organizations including:

- Catholic Charities & World Relief
- TN Office for Refugees
- Office of Refugee Resettlement
- Vanderbilt & Belmont Universities
- TN Foreign Language Institute
- Somali Community Center
- United Way
- TN Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition
- The National Council on Aging

New Staff in 2009

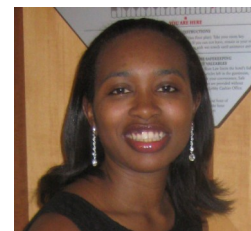
Idah Mathu

Administrative
Assistant



A'isha Garba

Immigration &
Social Adjustment



In 2009, the SCWC:

- Helped 250 clients with emergency services ranging from food and housing to health and legal issues (70% growth over 2008)
- Engaged 76 community youth through its art, sport and music school partnership initiative & grassroots leadership development program
- Helped to reunite 76 families through its immigration assistance program
- Figured prominently in the resounding defeat of the English-only charter amendment
- Involved over 150 children in Wednesday "Art Reach" programs

The SCWC thanks its 2009 Board of Directors:

Andrea M. Ayers

Asrara Babikir

Chuol Both

Koang Chuol

Kathy Edson

Mahmoud Eltighan (Advisory Board)

Kelly Handcock (Advisory Board)

Donna Kumar

Brad Major (Advisory Board)

Jeff Pack

Tony Roberts (Advisory Board)

Natalie Worley



United Way

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**Tennessee Office
for Refugees**

"Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."