

From: Wingo, Karen <Karen.Wingo@dss.sc.gov>
To: Symmes, BrianBrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov
CC: Pisarik, HollyHollyPisarik@gov.sc.gov
Date: 11/19/2015 4:44:35 PM
Subject: RE: S.C. refugees

Brian,
Please see the Post & Courier inquiry below. I provided the summary blurb I often provide on refugee resettlement and received the follow-up inquiry. Below in red is my proposed response. Please let me know if you are in agreement with the response. Thanks, Karen

Gavin,
Governor Haley's office has shared with SCDSS the letter she sent to Secretary Kerry and the letter she sent to the South Carolina General Assembly on the refugee resettlement issue. No other direction has recently been provided by Governor Haley directly or indirectly to this Department regarding refugee resettlement.

Karen Luchka Wingo
Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs
South Carolina Department of Social Services
1535 Confederate Avenue
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

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From: Jackson, Gavin [mailto:gjackson@postandcourier.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2015 4:31 PM
To: Wingo, Karen <Karen.Wingo@dss.sc.gov>
Cc: Addison, Dorothy <Dorothy.Addison@dss.sc.gov>
Subject: RE: S.C. refugees

Thank you for your thorough response, Karen.

Has the governor given SCDSS any recent instruction on refugee resettlement efforts in the state?

From: Wingo, Karen [mailto:Karen.Wingo@dss.sc.gov]
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2015 3:23 PM
To: Jackson, Gavin
Cc: Addison, Dorothy

Subject: RE: S.C. refugees

Mr. Jackson,

Thank you for your inquiry. I wanted to provide you some information that may assist with your story.

South Carolina has participated in the Refugee Resettlement Program since 1975. The South Carolina Department of Social Services has been designated by the Governor of South Carolina as the agency responsible for the development and administration of the Refugee Resettlement Program in South Carolina. The Department is not involved in the admittance of refugees. Rather, before any individual is resettled in the United States as a refugee, he or she is vetted by the federal government and only individuals approved by the Department of Homeland Security are admitted into the program. No state funds are used to administer the refugee resettlement program and the administration of the program is 100% federal funded. Through the two resettlement organizations located in South Carolina, Lutheran Services and World Relief, 758 refugees have been resettled in South Carolina between October 2010 and September 2015. Nationalities resettled in the state include: Afghani, Burundi, Bhutanese, Burmese, Congolese, Eritrean, Iraqi, Kenyan, Somali, Nepali, Rwandan, Ukrainian, Syrian, Salvadoran, Guatemalan, and Honduran. It is important to note, however, that no Syrian refugees have been resettled in South Carolina since the recent crisis in Syria began. Finally, while refugee resettlement services are state-wide, the majority of refugees have settled in Richland, Lexington, Greenville, Spartanburg, Dorchester and Charleston counties.

If you have any other questions, please let me know.

All the best,
Karen

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From: Addison, Dorothy
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2015 1:38 PM
To: Jackson, Gavin <gjackson@postandcourier.com>
Cc: Wingo, Karen <Karen.Wingo@dss.sc.gov>
Subject: RE: S.C. refugees

Mr. Jackson,

Your email is being forwarded to our Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs, Ms. Karen Wingo, for a response.

Dorothy

Dorothy A. Addison
SC State Coordinator
Refugee Resettlement and Non Emergency Repatriation Services
P. O. Box 1520
Columbia, SC 29202-1520
Phone: 803-898-0989 Fax: 803-898-7156
Email: dorothy.addison@dss.sc.gov

From: Jackson, Gavin [<mailto:gjackson@postandcourier.com>]
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2015 12:16 PM
To: Addison, Dorothy <Dorothy.Addison@dss.sc.gov>
Subject: S.C. refugees

Ms. Addison,

Hello, this is Gavin Jackson with The Post and Courier, I hope this email finds you well.

I'm working on a story for this weekend about refugees that have resettled in South Carolina.

I'm still waiting to hear from the two organizations that resettle refugees to the state, but I was wondering if you could provide me details on refugees in the state.

Details such as what countries refugees came from, how many have resettled to the state, how many typically come through in a year, demographic breakdowns like religious backgrounds, ages of the refugees (if applicable), where they initially locate in the state and where do they end up moving to.

I'd love to catch up with you this afternoon as you know many people are interested in these details.

Please email me back when you have a chance and we can go from there, thanks!

Gavin

Gavin Jackson
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