



**Catholic  
Charities**  
of Dallas, Inc.

## **Refugee Family & Marriage Strengthening Program**

Refugee & Empowerment Services  
9850 Kingsley Rd., Suite 228  
Dallas, TX 75238  
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### **Administering Organization**

The Refugee Family & Marriage Program is offered through Catholic Charities of Dallas, Refugee & Empowerment Services, working closely with Catholic Charities of Fort Worth, DFW Healthy Family Initiative, St. Patricks Church, Ethiopian Mutual Assistance Association, and International Rescue Committee. Volunteers and other local social service organizations that are involved with refugee and immigrant communities in the area also support the program.

### **Program Objectives**

The Refugee Family & Marriage Strengthening Program aims to promote healthy family functioning among refugee communities. The program provides refugee clients with an opportunity to develop skills in communication, conflict resolution, and financial management.

### **Program Description**

The Refugee Family & Marriage Strengthening Program provides educational and skill-based workshops based on the Power of Two Relationship Enhancement model. The curriculum consists of four parts (Effective Communication, Conflict Resolution, Healthy Families, and Family Financial Management) and is taught in a four-hour workshop to various groups of refugees. The program offers culturally and linguistically appropriate workshops designed to establish healthy family relationships.

### **Groups Served by Program**

The Refugee Family & Marriage Program serves all refugee populations, including Sudanese, Ethiopian, Liberian, Somali, Somali Bantu, and Bosnian couples and families in Dallas. Workshops for a youth program will be developed in 2005.

### **Training Model Explanation**

The Power of Two is a family enrichment model, designed to educate clients on the benefits of healthy families and marriages, to promote and strengthen families, and to encourage better communication. This model teaches practical relationship skills to help people from different cultures have good marriages and strong family units. The model has been culturally adjusted for refugees and is currently being used successfully in other programs. In addition to the Power of Two, components from the Family Wellness, ARC, and BRYCS curriculums are used to supplement the chosen model.

### **Program Staff**

Twenty-seven trainers have been trained to facilitate the four-hour workshop. The trainers are culturally and linguistically diverse. We currently offer translation and interpretation assistance in the following languages: English, Arabic, Bosnian, Somali, Sudanese, Amharic, Vietnamese, Swahili, Spanish, Dinka, Nuba, Mai Mai, et al. Besides the workshops, the trained staff mentors couples based on curriculum content.

### **Defining Program Success**

The Refugee Family and Marriage Program is successful if participants are able to enhance their skills in communication, conflict resolutions, family/couple decision-making, and family financial management. Open forums will be held throughout the year to obtain feedback from clients who have attended the Family Strengthening workshops.

### **Program Outcomes**

- ❖ To provide skills training sessions to 150 refugee clients in FY 2005-2006.
- ❖ To strengthen refugee families and couples through skill-based workshops.
- ❖ To enhance community awareness of the refugee population through outreach and networking.
- ❖ To increase number of collaborating partners in the Strengthening Refugee Families and Marriages coalition and participate in the larger Community Healthy Marriage Initiative.
- ❖ To develop youth programs.

### **Program Contact**

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### **Program Dates**

The Refugee Family & Marriage Strengthening Program in Dallas began in 2003; it continues to operate successfully.