



Highlights of 2005 – A Year of Homecoming

Offering a Warm Welcome

2005 has been an unprecedented year for Interfaith Refugee Ministry and those we serve.

IRM has built on its history of welcoming displaced refugee families by extending many of the same services, especially housing, to the evacuees fleeing the destruction of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.



IRM has expanded its services to offer increasingly responsive and useful assistance. IRM's Job Coordinator Roberto, Health Care Coordinator, Kelly, and Case Manager Linda help refugee and evacuee families become self-sufficient and contributing members of their communities.

We plan to build on our successes and continue to pursue our mission of welcoming and settling newcomers in need to Connecticut – both international refugees and American evacuees – in the years ahead.

Our mission is to save lives, pursue justice and alleviate international homelessness by offering resettlement and support services to refugees in Connecticut.

To fulfill our mission, we offer a variety of essential services for refugees' well-being and independence:

- **Welcome and orientation** during their first days in Connecticut
- Locating and furnishing **safe homes** – within a refugee's limited budget
- Offering **English language training** in culturally appropriate settings
- Promoting job readiness through **cultural orientation, job training and referrals**
- Coordinating **medical and dental care**, including vaccinations and school physicals for children
- Registering children for **school**, many for the first time in their lives
- Arranging **tutoring** as well as **after-school or summer programs** to ensure success in school
- Connecting refugees with churches or other community groups for **sponsorship or support**



Local Partnerships

More than 200 foreign refugees and American evacuees received assistance from IRM this year. The support of their new neighbors in Connecticut – **volunteers, sponsors, donors, and partners** – is essential to the work of IRM.

The students and faculty of **Quinnipiac University**, in coordination with IRM, raised funds and collected furniture to resettle a family that lost its home in Hurricane Katrina.

In New Haven, IRM joined dozens of **city agencies and other nonprofits** to form a coalition of groups welcoming and assisting evacuees from the Gulf Coast.