



**Ethiopian Community
Development Council, Inc.**



2015 Annual Report

*Empowering
Refugees and Immigrants since 1983*

Board of Directors

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Our Affiliate Partners

- Acculturation for Justice, Access, and Peace Outreach, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- Alliance for African Assistance, San Diego, California
- Alliance for Multicultural Community Services, Houston, Texas
- Arizona Immigrant and Refugee Services, Phoenix, Arizona
- Coptic Orthodox Charities, Inc., Clearwater/Tampa, Florida
- Della Lamb Community Services, Kansas City, Missouri
- East African Community of Orange County, Anaheim, California
- Ethiopian Community Association of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
- Nashville International Center for Empowerment, Nashville, Tennessee
- North Carolina African Services Coalition, Greensboro, North Carolina
- Pan-African Community Association, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center, Boston/Worcester, Massachusetts
- Refugee Empowerment Center, Omaha, Nebraska

ECDC Branch Offices

Resettle refugees and provide critical social services—translation, immigration counseling, youth leadership and life-skills training, English classes, and employment services.

- African Community Center, Denver, Colorado
- African Community Center, Las Vegas, Nevada
- African Community Center, D.C. Metro Arlington, Virginia, and Silver Spring, Maryland



Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on 2015, ECDC's Board, staff and I have many reasons to celebrate how we met the challenges presented to us during the year and the successes we accomplished.

ECDC's Refugee Resettlement affiliate network, which consists of 13 community-based non-profits and three ECDC branch offices, resettled 4,509 refugees in 2015, including 1,356 from Africa, 1,043 from East Asia, 134 from Latin America, and 1,973 from the Near East/South Asia.

The ECDC Enterprise Development Group (EDG) made 93 loans worth \$2.07 million, the second straight year of exceeding \$2 million, and had 25 tenants in its business incubator program. EDG's tax program assisted 1,009 people with their federal and state income tax returns, and clients received \$932,000 in federal and state refunds and tax credits.

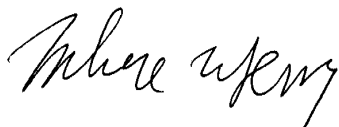
ECDC held its 21st national conference, *Raising A Collective Voice: Newcomers, Partners, and Communities*, and affiliate training April 28-May 1, 2015. It focused on how the experiences of resettlement agencies, refugee newcomers, partners, and communities can form a shared voice to further enhance newcomer support systems and strengthen the connections between these diverse groups, as each plays a vital role in refugee resettlement and integration.

ECDC affiliates also took to Capitol Hill and participated in Advocacy Day, where they had the opportunity to speak about their agencies' work, share refugee success stories, and ask their members of Congress to be a partner and champion for refugees.

The Axumite Heritage Foundation continued its fundraising efforts for the new Axumite Heritage Library, raising over \$20,000 for construction of a new library building. The current library continues to operate six days a week, and is open to members and guests of the City of Axum.

Since 1983, we have relied on the support and friendship of you our dedicated partners.

Thank you for your continued support in creating a brighter future for so many.



Tsehaye Teferra, Ph.D.
President and CEO



ECDC By the Numbers

4,509 individual refugees resettled

Top 3 countries for refugee arrivals: **Burma, Iraq, Somalia**

\$20,000 raised for the new Axumite Heritage Foundation library

Value of small business loans made by the ECDC Enterprise Development Group:

\$2.07 million

3 Distinguished Service Awards presented to:

Eskinder Negash, former Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement; Emira Woods, former co-director of Foreign Policy in Focus at the Institute for Policy Studies; and Gatluak Ter Thach, the president of the Nashville International Center for Empowerment Gatluak.



ECDC African Community Center

The ECDC African Community Center of the D.C. Metro Area (ACC DC Metro), under the leadership of its Managing Director Sarah Zullo, resettled 259 refugees in FY 2015. Matching Grant Program outcomes remained impressive, with 90% of participants reaching self-sufficiency within 120 days, and 95% reaching self-sufficiency in 180 days.

The ACC's Preferred Communities program served 32 members in FY 2015, helping senior and elderly clients complete SSI applications, conducting citizenship-related training and activities, organizing trips to recreation centers, and planning day-time ESL classes. ACC was awarded new funding from the Office of Refugee Resettlement to provide an Ethnic Community Self-Help program devoted to youth after-school tutoring and extended case management.

The ACC's volunteer recruitment was strong, and 4,600 volunteer hours were documented. The office received over \$131,000 in household goods for clients from Bed Bath and Beyond through Good 360, First Book and Toys for Tots.

The ACC's Supplemental Services program served 523 Arlington residents. Services included immigration, employment, housing assistance, translations, and information on health care. The Mambo youth life skills program provided 260 immigrant children in Northern Virginia with anti-tobacco education and self-esteem training, and its contract was extended for an additional three years.

On June 9, 2015, ECDC collaborated with Lutheran Social Services, the American Red Cross, and the Montgomery Office of Community Partnerships to host World Refugee Day at the Silver Spring Civic Center. The ACC DC Metro held its 3rd Annual Refugees' First Thanksgiving Dinner on November 26, 2014, which was attended by nearly 300 guests.



Top: ACC youth clients with new backpacks and school supplies at the beginning of the school year.



Bottom: Youth group trip to Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum in Washington, D.C.

Washington, D.C., Metro Area

ECDC African Community Center



Left: Misael Hernandez, a former client and current staff member at the ECDC ACC Las Vegas, receiving a recognition certificate from Managing Director Redda Mehari. **Bottom:** Case Manager Behailu Tesfaye, left, assists clients at an employment workshop.

Redda Mehari is the Managing Director of the ACC in Las Vegas. During FY 2015, the ACC LV provided the following programs: Reception and Placement, which resettled 396 refugees; the Matching Grant, Preferred Communities, Individual Development Account, and the Wilson/Fish, which includes the W/F Social Service grant and the Targeted Assistance grant.

A long-standing arrangement with the Nevada State College, School of Nursing provides a program that pairs eight senior students with ACC clients, who have medical condition that require follow-up.



Gilead, Inc., which works on the screening and treatment of hepatitis, organized two health events for clients during which over 200 individuals were screened for Hepatitis B, diabetes, high blood pressure, hearing loss, given eye exams, and tested for HIV. HepBFree a local organization that also focuses on detection and control of hepatitis and works closely with Gilead, Inc, followed up by providing vaccinations for those who tested negative and treatment for those who tested positive.

The ACC was accredited by the BIA, which now allows them to provide immigration services. Their Advisory Board members also played a positive role in promoting the agency and our programs throughout the year.

Las Vegas

ECDC African Community Center

The ACC had a busy year under the leadership of director Jennifer Gueddiche.

ACC Denver resettled 572 refugees through the Reception and Placement Program and 281 asylees, parolees, and individuals in cases that were transferred to the agency. An additional 520 refugee clients were served through state-funded programs.

The ACC provided case management and employment services to 737 refugees, including 577 R&P arrivals and 160 Matching Grant clients.

The ACC made 523 employment placements with an average wage of \$10.44/ hour. Eighty-six of those placements were for Matching Grant clients.

More than 110 children registered for school (K-12). In July, over 50 children participated in the R.O.C.K. clothing event, which provided each child with three new outfits, undergarments, toiletries and schools supplies.

During the year, 1,300 refugees received job training and employment readiness training through ACC Denver's numerous training programs.

More than 150 refugee youth attended programming at ACC's International City. Daily programming includes homework help, enrichment activities, music, art, sports, friendship and learning, gardening club, On-Trac college readiness and career counselling.

ACC awarded 10 students with a \$1,000 scholarship to the post-secondary school of their choice. An additional four-year full-ride scholarship was awarded to one refugee young person thanks to the generosity of a local donor.

ACC Denver accomplished substantial outcomes this fiscal year, including increased R&P arrivals, training outcomes, employment placements and resources raised. Involvement in several community events as well as ACC-sponsored outreach events resulted in significant increases in outreach and members of the public receiving education about refugee issues.



Left: As a former interpreter for the U.S. Army, Lateef Taresh arrived in the U.S. through the Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program. He was promoted to a permanent position at HSS Security. **Right:** Two refugees participating in Job Club.

Denver

Axumite Heritage Foundation



The Axumite Heritage Foundation (AHF) continued its fundraising efforts for the new Axumite Heritage Foundation library. In the past year, we raised \$20,000 toward our goal. Dr. Tefferra made two trips to Axum this year to oversee construction of the

library. Stone finishing has been installed on the outside walls, the windows have been installed, and work is continuing on the interior construction.

The AHF has increased its communications presence and stepped up its efforts with social media. AHF has engaged its Facebook followers with more information about the library, and we have also created a Twitter page to reach a wider audience. The AHF also redesigned and launched a new website, keeping the old URL—axumiteheritagefoundation.org.

The AHF also continued its outreach to the wider library development world. We met with David Dewane, the president of Librii, an organization that envisions digitally enhanced, revenue generating libraries throughout Africa.

The current library continues to operate six days a week, 12 hours each day, and is open to all members of the City of Axum. The library is not currently able to check out books to its patrons. One of the library's top needs is a modern cataloguing and borrowing system.



A history book collection on the first floor.



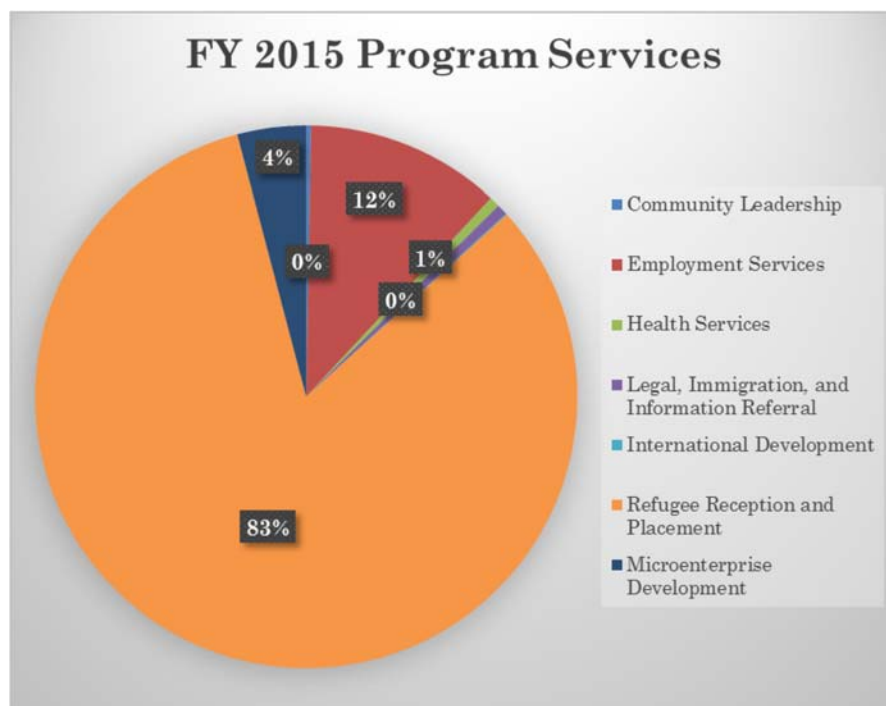
An outside look of the construction of the new library in December 2015.



A sign for the library in the city of Axum.

Financial Information

SUPPORT, REVENUES AND GAINS	2015	2014
Federal, State and Local government grants	\$17,504,776	\$17,384,963
Other Grants and contracts	427,911	512,627
Contributions	437,704	189,300
Fees for services	82,882	114,870
Sales Income	147,931	163,422
Interest Income	304,037	273,846
Rental income	692,085	535,504
Contributed goods and services	134,037	131,753
Other Income	88,151	123,242
TOTAL SUPPORT, REVENUES AND GAINS	\$19,819,514	\$19,429,527
EXPENSES AND LOSSES		
Program Services	15,823,530	16,016,865
General and administrative	2,619,429	2,241,364
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$18,442,959	\$18,258,229
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	1,376,555	1,171,298
DEFERRED INCOME TAX		
NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR AS	11,357,040	10,185,742
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	12,733,595	11,357,040



Our Contributors

ECDC is deeply grateful for the support of the following financial partners:

Alliance for African Assistance
Alliance for Multicultural Community Services
American Red Cross
Anonymous
Arlington County, Virginia
Bank of America
Bed Bath and Beyond
Best Buns Bakery
BJs
Capital One
CASA of Maryland
Catholic Charities
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
City of Alexandria, Virginia
City of Denver, Colorado
Colonial Parking, Inc.
Commonwealth of Virginia
Conrad N. Hilton Foundation
Colorado Refugee Services Program
Dama Bakery
Denver Foundation
Denver Presbyterian Church
Deseret Industries
El Pomar Foundation
Eileen Fisher Foundation
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Grace Ethiopian Church
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HSBC Bank USA
International Rescue Committee
Intuit Financial Freedom
Lincoln Financial Foundation, Inc.
Milestone Plans
Nancy Kearney
Nashville International Center for Empowerment
Philoptochos Ladies Society
RefugePoint
Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church
Segenat Foundation
Sleep Supply, Inc.
Starbucks
State of Colorado
Southern Sudan Community Association
Target
U Street Parking
University of Denver
U.S. Agency for International Development
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement
U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration
U.S. Department of the Treasury
United Way of the National Capital Area
Universal Bus Charter
Virginia W. Hill Foundation
Washington Forrest Foundation
Wells Fargo
Whole Foods
World Relief Corporation

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Veronica A. McCaffrey
Vivian Gettliffe

Join us in changing the lives of newcomers!

- **Give.** Make a contribution. ECDC relies on donations to continue impacting lives.
- ♦ **Volunteer.** Sign up to volunteer at one of our local offices.
- ♦ **Speak up.** Advocate for newcomers. Learn how at our website.



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