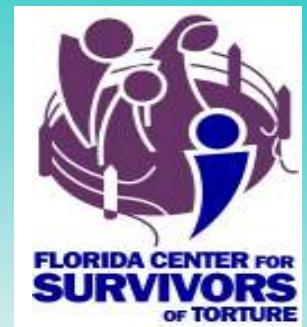


# Without Walls

## FCST COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FCST is a program of Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services



Vol. 1 Ed. 1 July 27, 2007

### New National Training Program Launched

The programs forming the Florida Center for Survivors of Torture continue to grow. This year we were honored to be granted the opportunity to create the National Partnership for Community Training (NPCT) with funding from the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement.

The NPCT is a technical assistance project that assists and supports community providers in states where torture survivors are found but where there are no torture treatment programs. Training and technical assistance is available to service providers who work with refugees, asylum seekers, asylees and other immigrant populations, yet may not have the expertise or training to address the needs of survivors among these populations.

The primary goal of the NPCT is to develop and improve the capacity of local community service providers throughout the nation to identify, refer, assist, effectively serve, and within existing resources, provide appropriate treatment and rehabilitation for torture survivors. A second goal of the project is to advance and disseminate best and promising practices related to treatment and intervention for survivors of torture.

NPCT is a partnership between The Florida Center for Survivors of Torture (FCST), of [Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services](#), the [Harvard Program for Refugee Trauma](#), and the [Marjorie Kovler Center for the Treatment of Survivors of Torture](#). Using promising practices from existing torture treatment programs around the world, NPCT promotes applied and practical techniques to serve torture survivors.

--Michael Bernstein, President/CEO, Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services

For more info on the National Partnership for Community Training visit:  
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/techasst/npct.htm>

As a Center Without Walls, Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services has created a model that has been successful since 2000 in providing comprehensive treatment and support services to torture survivors, refugees, asylees and victims of crime with Limited English Proficiency (LEP). This is accomplished through linking clients to community-based medical, mental health, legal, educational, and social services.



Abigail Alexander, the National Training Director, instructs medical professionals on how to identify and work with survivors of torture at the first conference of the National Partnership for Community Training. The conference was held in Phoenix in May.

## GLOBAL REFUGEE SITUATIONS: **BURMA**



For 50 years, Burmese military atrocities, involving torture and widespread rape against ethnic minorities and brutal suppression of pro-democracy political groups have burdened its neighbors with over half a million refugees. Where are they?

200 – Malaysia  
52,000 – India  
122,000 – Bangladesh  
335,000 – Thailand

Japan, China and S. Korea all host unknown numbers of Burmese refugees. In addition, the conflict has displaced an estimated 1 million people inside the country.

For more info, visit:

<http://www.refugeesinternational.org/content/country/detail/2922/>



Burmese refugees of the Chin ethnic minority. Photo: UNHCR, H Caux.

## FCST HAPPENINGS

June was a busy month for folks at the FCST! We were lucky to host two big events for two very important days. On June 20th, FCST celebrated World Refugee Day with a night of great food and wonderful music for all of our clients, providers and volunteers. The aptly entitled event:

*"A New Home: A New Life"* honored all clients and staff who have recently become U.S. Citizens. FCST also applauded a provider of the year, and presented the 1st Annual Sunshine Award, which recognizes an outstanding refugee family in the FCST program. With almost 200 guests, it was an incredible event celebrating incredible people!



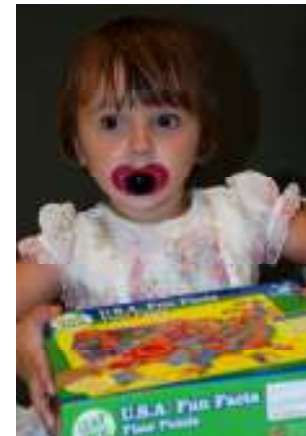
FCST clients and staff who recently received their U.S. citizenship. Approximately 50 clients in the program have become citizens within the past 2 years.



A group of volunteers pause for a photo opp. FCST volunteers have donated over 2000 hours of service during the past year.



Gulf Coast Legal Services received the provider of the year award for their outstanding services provided to asylees and refugees in the FCST program.



Proud to be an American! A young new citizen shows off a U.S.A. jigsaw puzzle.



Dr. Genefke's speech was followed by a panel presentation of three torture survivors currently served by Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services. The panel consisted of a Holocaust Survivor, a Muslim Survivor from Albania and a Christian Survivor from Columbia. The event was hosted in collaboration with the Tampa Bay Chapter of the United Nations Association. *Pictured: (Front L to R): Dr. Behxhet Canhasi, Eugenia Akapo, Kitty Zuchovicki, Dr. Inge Genefke, Penny Barna. (Back L to R): Memhet Feti, Jesus Racines, Michael Bernstein.*

Later the same week, on June 23rd, Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services was proud to welcome **Dr. Inge Genefke, Founder and Ambassador to the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT)**. As the keynote speaker for our "Together Against Torture" event held in Clearwater, Dr. Genefke was introduced by Michael Bernstein, President and CEO of Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services and founder of FCST. Dr. Genefke spoke compellingly to an audience of 125 medical, legal and mental health professionals about the work that must continue internationally to help rehabilitate torture survivors prosecute torturers and influence policy makers to carry out the United Nations mandate against torture. The event was held in recognition of United Nations International Day in Support of Survivors of Torture, which is recognized every year on June 26.

## THE VOICE OF HOPE

*A poem from a 10 year old refugee girl from Bosnia*

### PEACE

Peace is all around you  
So don't forget it.  
Just say it's true  
That peace is with you  
And you'll be with it.

When peace is with you  
The whole day is brighter  
And you know that you  
Couldn't be righter

When peace is around  
There will be no evil or hate  
So you can sing a song  
Or go on a date.

You know it's true that  
Peace is always with  
Me and you.

## THANKS!

Very special thanks goes out to the Children's Board for making it possible for the Volunteer Coordinator to attend a Volunteer Management Certification Program put on by The Non-Profit Leadership Board and United Way! Thank you!



Many thanks also to everyone who donated food, space and services for World Refugee Day! Tucson's Southwest Grill, Tiffany's Family Restaurant, Chick-Fil-A, Outback Steakhouse, The Mirage Restaurant, Balkan Food and Grocery, Valencia Gardens Restaurant, Alessi Bakery, Louis Pappas Restaurant Group, Baklava Queen, Subway, Antonio's Pasta Grill, The Hospice of the Florida Suncoast and The Ronald McDonald/USF Pediatrics Mobile Medical Van!

The Florida Center for Survivors of Torture is funded by the United States Office of Refugee Resettlement; United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture; Florida Department of Children & Families, Office of Refugee Services; City of St. Petersburg; and Pinellas County.

## Professional Development

**Free CEU's available for mental health providers, nurses and attorneys on the following**

### Training Topics

#### Identifying and Working with Survivors of Torture:

Learn how to identify survivors and then work sensitively to effectively meet their unique needs. A tool kit will be provided to provide practical and applied assistance. Participants will develop an understanding of the impact of torture physically, socially, and psychologically for both the primary and secondary victims.

#### New Neighbors: A General Overview of the Refugee Experience:

Provides an overview of the refugee experience and its particular impact on various social groups including children and adolescents, the elderly and women. Learn to articulate the three stages of the triple trauma paradigm and identify the trauma associated with each stage. Define acculturation and acculturative stress, and will be familiar with the 4 phases of refugee adjustment.

#### Bridging the Language Gap: Working with An Interpreter:

An overview of national legislation regarding working with clients/families whose primary language is not English as well as legal and ethical considerations when working with English Language Learners (ELL). This workshop will give participants a cultural competency tool kit and the knowledge to access interpreters in order to work effectively with this growing population.

*We at the Florida Center for Survivors of Torture envision a world in which every person enjoys human rights and every community torn apart by crisis is given the opportunity for healing and hope.*

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United Nations

