

Join us to
Celebrate

REFUGEE

A w a r e n e s s

M O N T H

WHO ARE REFUGEES?

REFUGEES ARE INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE UNABLE TO RETURN TO THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN BECAUSE OF PERSECUTION OR A WELL-FOUNDED FEAR OF PERSECUTION ON ACCOUNT OF RACE, RELIGION, NATIONALITY, MEMBERSHIP IN A PARTICULAR SOCIAL GROUP, OR POLITICAL OPINION.



During the month of June, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) celebrates the achievements, contributions and plight made by refugees to California. We, as a State, are enriched by the diversity, strengths, and courage brought by these newcomers.

2014 marks the 34th years since the Refugee Act of 1980 – a historic legislation championed by Senator Edward M. Kennedy – which created the current Federal Refugee Resettlement Program and codified into law the right to asylum for refugees. Through the Refugee Act and continued humanitarian aid, California's relief efforts in defense of human rights has helped expand protections for countless refugees, Cuban/Haitian entrants, asylees, certified human trafficking victims and their family members, Special Immigrant Visa holders, and certain Amerasians from Vietnam to successfully resettle in California.