

Refuge-Egypt Update

DECEMBER 2010

IN THIS ISSUE: **THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT**



A Look inside Refuge Egypt's Emergency Department

Month at a Glance

In November, Refuge Egypt registered 142 new coming Refugees

In Addition, the Emergency Department distributed:
~ 700 Food Bags
~ 375 Articles of Clothing

How Can You Help?

For LE 50: Buy a blanket for a refugee so he/ she does not go cold this winter.

As winter is approaching, more refugees will need blankets to keep warm. Refuge Egypt will be able to provide more blankets with your donation.

* Please note LE 5.8 = US 1.00

How to give?

Refuge-Egypt accepts all checks and telegraphic transfers from all corners of the world. For specific details on how to give from where you are, please visit our website: www.refuge-egypt.org/

* see "support us"

Refuge Egypt helps to meet the needs of refugees that enter Egypt from Africa's surrounding countries. In addition to its other programs, Refuge Egypt seeks to provide emergency support for these individuals who have nowhere else to go for assistance. Although the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) does provide help and support for the refugees, there is a significant time gap in which the Refugees are given no help from anyone. During this crucial 4 month

gap is where Refuge Egypt steps in.

The goal of the Emergency Department of Refuge Egypt is both physical and emotional support. The interviewers from the Emergency Department sit down with each of the refugee's to hear their stories. This time of listening serves two purposes, it allows the interviewer to determine if the interviewee is indeed a refugee, but more importantly it gives the refugees an opportunity to be heard. This emotional

support is needed for those refugees who have nowhere else to go with the daily struggles of being a refugee in a foreign land. Both the interviewers, George and Eman say that although this is a difficult and emotional part of their jobs, it is assistance which is essential.

After one is declared a refugee, they are then issued a Refuge Egypt card. This card will last the refugee 2 years and allows the refugee or family to receive both clothing and food. The refugees are (cont.)

Mohamed's Story

Refuge Egypt brings HOPE. Forced to leave their homes and often entering Egypt without a working knowledge of Arabic or English, refugees face innumerable difficulties as they try to adjust to life in a new place, take care of themselves and their families, or procure a job and means of stable support.

In August, Refuge Egypt met with a Guinean man named Mohamed, an asylum seeker who had arrived in Egypt nine months ago. Initially, Mohamed was able to share an apartment with another man from Guinea:

however, after two months the man stole all of Mohamed's money and belongings, leaving him with absolutely nothing. After a short time Mohamed was unable to pay the rent fees and was forced to leave. While the doorman offered him a place to sleep if he worked cleaning the building, he was made to leave completely after about five months. Mohamed found himself in the streets without any hope or a way to get the help he needed. He sought assistance from everywhere he could, but he was refused help and even sent to prison for two days without food.

Upon his release, Mohamed was able to contact Refuge Egypt and the Emergency Team Leader met with him the next day, spending time with him and listening to him share about the suffering he had been through during the past nine months in Egypt, and she began working hard to help him.

The Emergency Team was able to provide Mohamed with his first food package (containing essential food, distributed on a regular basis to individuals and families), and give him some money so that he could get a temporary room and have a place to sleep. (cont.)



"Refuge Egypt provides both physical and emotional support. They are able to provide individuals with the bare essentials, along with an individual to listen to them, to hear their pain, their hurt and their praises."



Newsletter produced by Refuge-Egypt volunteers.

Emergency Department (cont. from page 1)

allowed to pick these up on a scheduled basis, which fluctuates depending on whether, the individual is caring for a family, and also takes into consideration the health of the individual.

Clothing is distributed every Thursday for registered refugees. Refuge Egypt distributes mainly used clothing, but attempts to provide children with new clothes. The new clothing for children is purchased with donations made by various volunteers.

The success of the Emergency Department is due to Refuge Egypt's goal of showing compassion to all refugees.

The Emergency Department acknowledges the importance of teaching refugees how to survive in a foreign land. This is why they work closely with the Office of Employment, in order to find jobs for refugees so they are able to support themselves and their families in their new land.

The Emergency Department is just one of the many departments at Refugee Egypt that seeks to provide the needed help and support to Egypt's refugees. The department is made up of a compassionate group of men and women, who

listen, assist and serve the refugees in the hope of enabling them to gain a better life.

Refuge Egypt's Emergency Department is always looking for donations to provide more clothing, blankets and food for the refugees who cannot afford these basic provisions.

Mohamed's Story (cont. from page 1)

Mohamed was also in need of medical assistance so the Emergency Team referred him to Refuge Egypt clinic to see a doctor. After just three days, the Employment Office was able to help Mohamed get a good job, which is an incredibly important part of establishing means of support and starting a new life here in Egypt.

While Refuge Egypt cannot eliminate all of the many challenges facing refugees, the Emergency Department often offers hope that changes lives. Daily they are committed to compassionate listening and working as much as possible to provide assistance to those in need through ministries such as food and clothing distribution, employment and housing help, medical care, and education, among others, and through the generous donations of Refuge Egypt supporters.

