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ECE[®] Aid Newsletter

A charitable initiative developed to provide free evaluation reports for vulnerable and displaced populations.



ECE[®] Aid Updates

Dear Friends,

Happy National Volunteer Month! Though ECE[®] Aid does not rely on direct, individual volunteers like many other philanthropic initiatives, our success is heavily dependent on the many individuals that work at the nonprofit organizations and higher education institutions sending referrals to ECE[®] Aid. These individuals devote countless hours and dedication to assisting refugees and immigrants, students and professionals, and so many others. Without these many folks, working tirelessly at over 60 diverse organizations, ECE[®] Aid could not exist. Our participant spotlight this month is another illustration showing just how inspirational collaborative efforts can be.

In this issue:

ECE[®] Aid Updates

**Participant
Spotlight:
Integrated Refugee
and Immigrant
Services (IRIS)**

This month I'd like to also acknowledge Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE) and all those who volunteer our own time to community projects. ECE is generous in providing staff with volunteer service time. Over the past year, ECE staff have volunteered at the polls and with voter registration, the American Red Cross, river and neighborhood clean up efforts, health and wellness initiatives, historical societies, and more. We are so fortunate to work for an organization that promotes and supports local volunteer opportunities for all of our staff. We hope you've been able to contribute to your communities over this very difficult past year.

Please enjoy this month's participant spotlight below.



Participant Spotlight

Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS)

This month we take a closer look at one of our longstanding participants, [Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services \(IRIS\)](#), based in New Haven, Connecticut. This interview was conducted with Aniko Szabo, Employment Services Manager at IRIS.



What types of programs does your organization focus on? Who do you serve?

IRIS focuses on assisting refugees and immigrants to integrate into their American communities and ultimately to become self-sufficient. We help them do this initially by providing a furnished home, getting the children registered for school, getting their health needs taken care of, finding them a job, and assisting them with legal services and other case management needs.

IRIS serves refugees, immigrants, asylum seekers and asylees, SIVs (Special Immigrant Visa holders), evacuees, and other migrants. Our organization serves adults and children from war-torn countries like Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Sudan, and Democratic Republic of Congo. We serve other persecuted individuals from countries like Iran, Burma, and China.

How did you hear about ECE® Aid?

I heard about ECE® Aid from my co-workers, who had worked with ECE in the past.

How does ECE® Aid or a credential evaluation benefit those you serve?

ECE® Aid benefits those with very little financial resources to have the ability to get their degrees evaluated and to continue their education. When our clients come to this country, they arrive after having been through some very difficult and dangerous situations, and have had little time to think about anything but their survival. Once they get settled in the U.S. a little, however, they want to start thinking about their professional careers and their education. Those who have a degree from a different country need that reassurance from an American evaluation company that their degrees are valid. ECE does that for our clients.

Tell me something about your organization or your job that you are most proud of. What makes you go into work every day to assist those you serve?

I am proud that I get to serve those who I look up to. These people are parents looking for a better future for their children, soldiers looking for safety, and young dreamers who know they deserve better and go get it. These people are my parents. These people are my clients. These people are refugees and immigrants. I have so much admiration for such brave individuals.

I have been going into work every day for almost 5 years, and I intend to continue going into work every day for more to come because our clients are incredible. They are real-life heroes, each with their own amazing stories and backgrounds. They've made a sacrifice, and I'm honored to assist them in the best way I know how.

Thank you, Aniko, and everyone at IRIS for being such a wonderful organization to work with over these past few years. You continue to inspire us at ECE.

I'm so grateful for our partnership. Thank you so much for all you do at ECE, and to all the donors who make ECE® Aid possible!!!

Please be sure to check out the [IRIS website](#) for more information about their programs and to hear about some of the amazing journeys their clients have endured.



Support ECE® Aid



With gratitude,

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ECE® Aid & Market Research Manager



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