**Question from Stephen Ruffus: Through what agency or agencies do you work with refugees.  In other words, with whom are you partnering as an agent of the college.  About how long have you been doing this work?  Can you give me an idea that can be indicated as an outcome—something general such as “have worked with x number of refugees.”**

**Answers to your questions**

I started working with African refugees in April 2009 the week after we returned from our mission in South Africa. As you can imagine, I was homesick for the life I led in Africa.

Initially I/we volunteered with Salt Lake County personnel to help women develop marketable skills. I showed the African women how to make necklaces out of magazine scraps as I was shown in Uganda. We would have small boutiques to sell them. The Refugee Coalition was born and materials were produced to educate this population. Z (Xio) a refugee herself was the Salt Lake county point of contact. During that time period the Global Artisans and other grant based ideas were initiated.

At this time I/we began serving in the LDS Inner City Project We were assigned to work with Sudanese refugees in Rose Park area under Bishop Vakalati. It was a joyful time! I taught 30 women how to read, and this is one of my most treasured experiences.

We worked closely with 7 families and addressed home, food, shelter, budgeting, child rearing, tutoring, detention, appropriate behavior, how to pay bills, why a parent should attend conferences at school, offenses, intervene with the police about diversity issues, find apartments to rent, call Workforce on their behalf, stop fights in the workplace, seek assistance in discrimination issues, attend court, attend spouse abuse hearings, attend anger management, soothe hurt feelings, and many other challenges faced by new African refugees. Learning to navigate the systems in the United States is very difficult if a person lacks basic education.

We worked in that area for three years and still have many opportunities to help. For example, a young mother must return to South Sudan. She asked us to take care of her 11 year old daughter for one month. Ajak is a beautiful 11 year old who will stay in our home and continue attending middle school while her mother is away.

In the last two years we have been volunteering in Sugarhouse with African refugees, who for the most part, speak Swahili. We began our time interfacing with 30+ young single adults who need direction and structure in their lives. We have taken many to SLCC to learn about college opportunities and we also teach job seeking skills. Many are very motivated and yet some may lack the understanding of the importance of becoming self sufficient.

Roles for men and women are quite different in Africa and relationships teeter. Our branch president Emmanuel D’Mzee who hails from Tanzania asked us to teach the families how to talk and interact with each other. Our current assignment is teaching a course of practical counsel for family members.

We enjoy the opportunities the LDS Inner City Project gives us.

Recently another refugee educational assistance program began. The Boyer Foundation serves about 150 refugees from all parts of the world. My specific Reading 990 course sections are used as a benchmark by the Boyer Foundation. This is a private foundation that underwrites college education for promising refugee students in Utah. I received a letter of appreciation from our newly appointed President Denecce Huftalin for my efforts in teaching Reading 990.

In the six year period I would estimate I/we have interfaced extensively and know very well 300-400 African refugees.