

# R E F U G E E L A N S I N G

STORIES OF RESETTLEMENT IN MID-MICHIGAN

## You are invited

**Come see the real faces of local refugees.**

WRAC, the CAL Citizen Scholars Program, the English Language Center and the MSU Library will be hosting an exhibit of the [Refuge Lansing project](#) on October 13th and 16th.

Through this special exhibit created by local writers and photographers working with the Refugee Development Center, we welcome members of the MSU and local communities to learn about and celebrate twelve new residents to the Lansing area. Their experiences as refugees invite dialogue about our perceptions and understanding of the backgrounds, struggles, triumphs, and contributions of those who join our communities from elsewhere. There are now more refugees world-wide than ever before, many fleeing unbearable violence, destruction, and loss. The exhibit itself, and the surrounding events, highlight the positive effects of a more open refugee policy, and of Lansing's commitment to welcoming those who seek the opportunity to create a new life for themselves and their families.

## Opening reception:

Friday October 13, 2017, 12-5 p.m.

2nd floor atrium, Wells Hall.

### Featured speakers:

**Erika Brown-Binion**, Executive Director, Refugee Development Center

**Ruelaine Stokes**, contributing writer, Refuge Lansing project

## Panel, open to the public:

*Join the Conversation: Diversity, Inclusion, and Refugee Experiences*

Monday, October 16, 2017, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

MSU Main Library, Green Room

**Featured speakers: Rod Sanford**, contributing photographer, Refuge Lansing project, retired photojournalist at Lansing State Journal

**Paula Franz**, Executive Director, Global Institute of Lansing

**Suban Nur-Cooley**, Ph.D. candidate, contributing writer, Refuge Lansing project

**Stephanie Nawyn** Associate Professor of Sociology and Co-Director, Center for Gender in Global Context



**Refuge Lansing** is a storytelling project celebrating decades of refugee resettlement in mid-Michigan. These are stories about families who have fled violence and persecution in their home countries and are now an integral part of the Lansing region - buying homes, starting businesses, sending their children to local schools, and adding to the diverse quilt that makes us such a unique, welcoming community.