

National Agency	Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service	Affiliate Code	MILIRS03
Office State	Michigan	Office City	Traverse City
Office Name	Bethany Christian Services of Northern Michigan		
Office Address	1055 Carriage Hill Drive, Traverse City, Michigan 49686		
JOINT SITE		SUB-OFFICE	
If joint site, with which agency or agencies?	USCCB	Sub-office	Traverse City
		Administering affiliate	Grand Rapids

CASELOAD STATISTICS (number of individuals)	FY 2015 Actual Arrivals					N/A
	FY 2016 Acknowledged Capacity					N/A
	FY 2016 Anticipated Arrivals					N/A
	AF	EA	ECA	LAC	NE/SA	Total
PROPOSED FY 2017 ARRIVALS	1	2	3	0	2	12
RECENT/PROPOSED CASELOAD						
Nationalities served FY 2015 – FY 2016	N/A					
Proposed nationalities FY 2017	Afghan, Bhutanese, Burundian, Congolese, Eritrean, Ethiopian, Liberian, Burmese, Pakistani, Rwandan, Sierra Leonean, Somali, Sudanese, Togolese					
Languages available on staff to support the proposed caseload	N/A					
Languages available from within the community of resettlement to support the proposed caseload	Arabic, French					
Other language resources used	Voices for Health, Liaison Linguistics, Associated Language Consultants used for court, therapist, behavior specialist, case managers, medical appointments on an as needed basis, if local interpreters.					

GRIEVANCE AND PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE (PSEA) POLICY	
Indicate whether you have a grievance policy.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _X_ Yes ___No
Indicate whether you have incorporated the IASC’s six core principles for PSEA in your organization’s code of conduct for all staff and volunteers.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _X_ Yes ___No

1. **Site Rationale:** The region of NW Michigan, comprising Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Kalkaska, Benzie, Wexford and Antrim Counties evidences a population of 227,500 people (City-Data.com, 2016). While the region’s main ethnic group is Caucasian, there are representative populations of Native Americans, Ukrainians, Hispanics, African Americans, and a small number of individuals of Middle Eastern descent. The region has welcomed Ukrainian refugees and international adoptees from Asia, Central America, Eastern Europe, and Africa for over 15 years.

The region is home to the Interlochen Academy for the Arts which provides cultural opportunities for its students and the community, and hosts students from 31 different countries around the world including Colombia, Iran, Serbia, United Arab Emirates, Thailand, China, and

the Dominican Republic. The area is also home to several former U.S. Department of State and Peace Corps volunteers that create international awareness and sensitivity within the community to worldwide cultural, political and economic issues through the Traverse City International Affairs Forum.

While area civic groups and the faith community have played an integral part in assisting the immediate needs of new refugee children and families to the area, they have also provided long-term support, in concert with agencies such as Michigan Works, the Traverse City Housing Commission, the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services, and the HelpLink Navigator program in the areas of language training, housing, employment, transportation and access to social service assistance.

Historically, the area has always faced a shortage of teens and young adults available for employment in the local recreation and tourist industry, and many seek youth and young adult employees throughout the year. In addition, there is a growing manufacturing base in NW Michigan that provides creative employment opportunities as well. These opportunities have been provided to immigrants settling in the region of NW Michigan and would be afforded to refugee children as well.

For youth, the area's educational system (grade school – college) provides direct instruction, ESL services and academic counseling/tutoring, while the regional Department of Health and Human Services provides opportunities for medical evaluation, trauma assessment/ counseling, and Transition to Adulthood programming. These services have historically been available to the children of recently settled immigrants and internationally adopted children. Similarly, they would be available to URM's as well.

Along with involvement in the area's Transition to Adulthood program, Bethany intends to prepare youth for independent living by matching youth with a volunteer or paid tutor to provide weekly one-on-one life skills education and mentorship. In addition, youth will be provided with a 10-week Newcomers Orientation upon arrival along with the opportunity to participate in the Traverse City Boys and Girls Club, Rotary's Youth Advisory Counsel and Dr. Michael McGill's Young Peacebuilders Program for international youth who have faced displacement and/or trauma. Dr. McGill is able to provide direct individual and group therapy to youth who desire or need such services via a Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy model (TF-CBT).

Each youth will also have access to financial assistance to pursue a college degree, until the age of 23, through the Education and Training Voucher Program (ETV). College classes could be taken locally at Northern Michigan Community College, the University Center, or the Great Lakes Maritime Academy. Those individuals not choosing a path of higher education will have Vocational training available to them through the local Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District Career Tech Center. Classes and certification are offered in many areas such as Early Childhood Education Manufacturing & Automotive Technology; Culinary Arts; & Construction.

2. Health Care Access and Refugees with Special Needs: At the present time, the Grand Traverse Region is able to accommodate the health care needs of any refugee youth referred to the program, given the services available in the area.

3. **Foster Care:** Foster families are recruited through local churches, informational meetings, events held within the community, and targeted advertising (radio, TV, billboards, and word of mouth). Once recruited, prospective foster families attend two hours of orientation on the Refugee Foster Care program; 21 hours of PRIDE (Parent Resource for Information Development Education); and 6 hours of Trauma-Informed Parenting education. Along with the above-noted training, a home study and background checks are completed per State of Michigan licensing requirements. Licensed foster homes must complete 6 hours of required state training and 2 hours of culturally-specific training each year.

Ongoing training for foster parents will be provided through the Grand Rapids Refugee program and local professionals. Topics will include training in Trauma-Informed Care, the needs of LGBTQ youth, grief and loss, and dealing with youth and disability. Bethany provides family activities, parent support groups and training opportunities each month for its foster families. Moreover, foster families have access to a lending library of written and video resources; a 24-hour crisis hotline/crisis intervention services; and monthly visits by case managers for ongoing support and education. Foster parents are also supported via Family Team Meetings, access to a behavior specialist, and an increased rate based on youth's needs. Foster families are recognized during National Foster Care Month and an annual banquet for their service to the community and to the well-being of children.

4. **Placement Options:** Bethany has a range of placement options for refugee children, including foster homes for small sibling groups, pregnant teens, and adolescent females with children; area host homes for teens and young adults; residential treatment centers; and inpatient psychiatric care if needed.

5. **Physical Presence:** A youth must be present in Grand Traverse County for at least 120 days before they turn 18 years of age for the court process to establish local court wardship.

6. **Minors Close to 18 Years of Age:** Bethany-Traverse City will consult with the local Family Court to determine if the Court would adjudicate minors close to 18 years of age if Traverse City is considered a placement site.

7. **Major/Minor Cases:** Bethany has the capacity to provide services to Major/Minor cases due to its relationship with Bethany Refugee Adult and Family (Church World Service affiliate) and the Lutheran Social Services of Michigan adult resettlement program.