

# Flights in Freedom



A Cuban Refugee

Resettlement Program



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## The Cuban Refugee Problem

Over 100,000 of our Cuban neighbors have fled from their home island only 90 miles from Florida into the Miami area. The President of the United States has extended a warm hand of friendship and welcome to the Cuban people. By his direction, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare has established a Cuban Refugee Center in Miami which, in cooperation with the State of Florida, provides registration, material support, medical, educational and resettlement facilities to Cuban refugees.

Since the Miami area cannot absorb all of these Cuban neighbors, interstate resettlement is essential. Working in closest cooperation with our governmental authorities, Church World Service, the National Catholic Welfare Conference, the United Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society and the International Rescue Committee are seeking resettlement opportunities across the country for Cuban refugees.

Despite the best energies of the voluntary agencies in resettling 500 Cuban refugees per week, the influx of more than 1,500 per week continues. Four refugees enter Florida each week for every one resettled.

## A Dramatic Appeal

Your city can play a significant role in meeting the interstate resettlement challenge. If one thousand American cities and towns would ac-



cept responsibility for a thousand special charter flights of Cuban refugees, the resettlement job could be accomplished. Each city would be asked to receive one charter flight of about 25 refugee families.

All of these refugees, officially registered at the Federal Refugee Center in Miami, will have received medical health clearance and will be entitled to undertake residence and employment in your community.

A dramatic series of special Cuban refugee charter flights can solve the Cuban refugee problem. There is an unparalleled opportunity for an American community to extend a hand of friendship to desperate refugees who have sought sanctuary on our shores.

The Cuban refugee is a distinguished neighbor of education, sensitivity, accomplishment and potential. Understandably there is shyness and reserve about accepting the challenges of interstate resettlement. The charter flight provides the possibility for friends and inter-related families to move together and to avoid the fear of loneliness.

## How Does the Charter System Work?

The most important step in the Cuban refugee charter flight system is the formation of a civic Cuban Refugee Resettlement Committee. The Committee, hopefully securing the cooperation of the mayor as chairman or honorary

chairman, should include representatives from the major religious faiths, civic welfare agencies and private citizens.

Such a committee could be formed in close cooperation with an International Institute, service club, religious agency or other public-spirited organization. This Committee would be responsible for planning the reception of the charter flight and securing individual sponsors for the refugees.

## Sponsorship Responsibilities

These responsibilities are best met if the individual sponsor secures the co-sponsorship of a church, synagogue, or local agency.

(1) *Housing*—It will probably be necessary for each family to live in some sort of temporary quarters for a short time. After meeting the family, the sponsor should help to obtain suitable permanent housing. It may be necessary for the sponsor to pay some rent until the wage earner in the Cuban family receives the first pay check. Sponsors should help in furnishing the apartment, making rent arrangements clear, etc.

(2) *Employment*—All possible contacts should be utilized to help the Cuban man and/or woman obtain a job. While Cuban refugees, in their eagerness to become self-sufficient, will accept virtually any type of employment, the sponsor should undertake special care to



place the wage earner in employment commensurate with his training and abilities.

(3) *Language Training*—Cuban refugees will feel at home sooner if they learn English rapidly. The sponsor should offer guidance in enrolling for English classes. Also, help with English phrases used in shopping and transportation is a small matter which can be very important.

(4) *Special Care*—There may be times when the sponsor can offer outstanding service in directing their Cuban friends to medical or spiritual aid at a time of need. The greatest value of the individual sponsor is the friendship and interest he invests in the Cuban refugee's successful future.

The sponsor should not hesitate to avail himself of the energy and resources available to him through the local Cuban Refugee Resettlement Committee.

## Our Challenge to You

**YOU ARE THE LINK!** You can be the one to take the initiative in your city in forming a civic Cuban Refugee Resettlement Committee. You can be the catalyst in bringing together all the necessary and interested individuals and groups to make possible a Cuban Refugee Charter Flight. This would be good for the Cubans and for your city.

The success of this project depends on the cooperation of individuals, families, churches, synagogues, welfare and social service organiza-

tions, various civic interest groups, national agencies working with refugees and immigrants, and the Federal Government. American energies and resources are unlimited.

There are those who are highly skilled in working with refugees, whose services would be available on an advisory basis. There are also people in your local community who are experienced in working with people in need. They would be willing to cooperate at any time they are needed after the plane arrives in your city.

# WILL YOU HELP?



## **For Further Information Please Contact:**

Church World Service  
Immigration Services  
475 Riverside Drive  
New York 27, New York

National Catholic Welfare Conference  
350 Fifth Avenue  
New York 1, New York

United HIAS Service  
425 Lafayette Street  
New York 3, New York

International Rescue Committee  
255 Park Avenue South  
New York 10, New York

Cuban Refugee Center  
501 N.E. First Avenue  
Miami 32, Florida