

Many refugees arrive at RISSE with little to no education, or with skills that do not easily transfer into new jobs.

"The struggle of refugees to be integrated into American society is outweighed by good things, including education, employment opportunities, as well as feeling safe." -RISSE Operations Director, Francis Sengabo.



RISSE seeks volunteers for daily homework help in our afterschool program, for one on one help in our Adult English Language program and in our office, year round. RISSE also has several internships available. Email info@risse-albany.org or call 518-621-1041 for more information.

We need your help

**Donate.
Volunteer.
Be an Ambassador.**



Your gift of 25\$ provides school supplies for students in need.
Your gift of 50\$ can provide a winter coat, hat and gloves.
Your gift of 100\$ helps provide scholarships for students in our after school program

Give: gently used household items, appliances, clothing, furniture.

Refugee and Immigrant Support Services of Emmaus (RISSE)





Our Story

In 2007, a group of concerned individuals from Emmaus Methodist Church banded together to help address the needs of newly arrived Congolese and Rwandan refugees. The initiative soon grew in size and scope and in 2011 RISSE was created as a 501c3 nonprofit, offering full time adult and youth programming and a range of supportive services. Today, we serve over 200 refugee & immigrant families residing throughout the greater Albany area, representing 22+ countries of origin.

Our mission is to equip refugees and recent immigrants to build sustainable, independent lives by offering language and literacy instruction and support with life skills and integration into the U.S. culture and community.

What do we do?

RISSE is a family-based center supporting newcomers in building sustainable lives in the U.S.

Youth: RISSE runs after school programming from Sept-June for ages 5-15 and a summer intensive program for 7 weeks, serving newly arrived refugee and immigrant youth. RISSE's youth programs are licensed by the Capital Region Child Care Counsel.

Adults: RISSE is the only organization in Albany to provide full time ESL (English as a Second Language) classes to adults. RISSE focuses on Levels 1,2, and 3— serving those with early intermediate, little or no English skills.

Families: RISSE is a “one stop shop” for assistance to individuals & families in: housing, employment, medical, registering for school, childcare, legal, and more. We welcome all.



Our Impact

We are proud of our communities' growth!

In the past 4 years, **nearly 300 individuals have been placed in jobs.**

Each summer, RISSE partners with the City of Albany on a Summer Youth Employment Program, annually placing **20+ youth** in new work-based learning opportunities.

On average, at least 2/3 of our summer youth participants **improve their literacy skills** by one or more grades after just 7 weeks.

Last year, **nearly 600 individuals** were provided with one or more services from RISSE.

Contact Us

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