Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc.
2016 Annual Report
About ECDC

ECDC was established in 1983 as a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization with a mission to resettle refugees; promote cultural, educational and socio-economic development programs in the immigrant and refugee community in the United States; and to conduct humanitarian and socio-economic development programs in the Horn of Africa. ECDC, organized to respond initially to the needs of a growing Ethiopian Community in the Washington, D.C., area and across the country, quickly expanded its reach nationally and internationally, becoming a multi-service provider to multicultural communities.

ECDC has developed and provided programs and services that respond to the needs of clients from diverse cultural backgrounds while focusing on the African newcomer community. ECDC branch offices in Arlington, Virginia, Denver, Colorado, Silver Spring, Maryland, and Las Vegas, Nevada, all offer educational, skills building, and an array of social service programs that help newcomers become self-sufficient, contributing members of their new homeland. Denver, Silver Spring, and Las Vegas offices also resettle refugees. Cultural and ethnic diversity is ECDC’s proud hallmark as its multi-cultural staff speak over 30 languages.

Support for ECDC comes from individual contributions, in-kind donations, corporations, foundations, faith-based organizations and contracts/grants from federal, state, and local government agencies.

Board of Directors

Gebre-Selaassie Gebre-Mariam, Chairman
Henning W. Leidecker, Jr., Ph.D., Vice Chairman
Bereket Woldu
Tsehay Teferra, Ph.D., President
Allene F. Wright, Secretary
Bereket Woldu, Member

Join us in changing the lives of newcomers!

• Give. Make a contribution. ECDC relies on donations to continue impacting lives.

• Volunteer. Sign up to volunteer at one of our local offices.

• Speak up. Advocate for newcomers. Learn how at the ECDC website: ecdcus.org

Front cover photos, left to right: Top photos—families celebrating at ECDC’s Refugees First Thanksgiving in Arlington, Virginia. Bottom photos—the Kanda family shows off their Christmas gifts with Rushdy Sabah Hanooody, an Assistant Case Manager at the Alliance for African Assistance in San Diego, California; and a group of Burmese dancers perform at an Alliance for Multicultural Community Services event;
Dear Friends,

For ECDC’s Board, staff, and me, 2016 was a busy and successful year. I am pleased to report that our programs, services, and special events made a difference for 5,011 refugees and immigrants during the year at ECDC’s branch offices in Denver, Colo., Arlington, Va., Silver Spring Md., and Las Vegas, Nev.

Our Refugee Resettlement program, conducted through a network of 13 affiliated community-based organizations and three branch offices located in 18 cities across the United States, resettled 1,971 cases, which totaled 5,616 refugees. The top six nationalities resettled included 1,162 Congolese, 902 Syrians, 872 Iraqis, 742 Afghans, 495 Burmese, and 360 Bhutanese. Our Matching Grant program achieved success in placing clients in jobs leading to early self-sufficiency with a 120-day network average of 80%, and a 180-day network average of 93% self-sufficiency. For the second reporting period, April through September, 96% of individuals were self-sufficient at 180 days.

In 2016 EDG made 113 business loans worth $2,541,770 and another 25 car loans totaling $150,284. EDG’s business incubator had 25 tenants renting 27 offices. At the end of the fiscal year, the current VIDA cycle had an enrollment of 95 clients and graduated 23 with seven of them taking their matched withdrawals during the year. The EDG Income Tax program assisted 1,116 people with their federal and state income tax returns. Clients received $1.88 million in federal and state refunds and tax credits.

ECDC held its 22nd national conference, Beyond Shelter for Refugees and Immigrants: Moving from Protection to Integration, and affiliate training April 26-29, 2016. It focused on the continuing challenges facing refugees and Internally Displaced persons on the African continent and the increasing burdens placed on agencies and humanitarian workers charged with providing protection and assistance. ECDC affiliate directors participated in Advocacy Day by going to Capitol Hill, where they had the opportunity to speak about their respective agencies’ work, share refugee success stories, and ask their members of Congress to be a partner and champion for refugees.

The Axumite Heritage Foundation began the internal finishing of the new Axumite Heritage Foundation library, which included electrical and plumbing work, tiling, flooring, and installing the windows and doors. The current library, housed in the ‘Inda Nebri’id, is closed, as the historic building undergoes renovations. Once the renovations are completed, the library will continue to operate six days a week, 12 hours each day, and will be open to all members of the public.

For the past 33 years, ECDC has benefitted from the support of our federal, local, and state partners in the work we do to assist and support newcomer refugees to America. We are also grateful of the many individuals who support our branch offices, our programs, and the agency overall to ensure brighter futures for our clients.

Tsehaye Teferra, Ph.D.
President and CEO

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The Year in Review

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Programs

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM. For FY 2016, the U.S. refugee admissions ceiling was 85,000 refugees. The Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) projected 7,000 SIV (Special Immigrant Visa holder) arrivals. However, more than 12,000 arrived during the year. ECDC resettled 5,606 refugees. The top three nationalities that the U.S. overall resettled in 2016 were Burmese, Congolese (Democratic Republic of the Congo), and Syrians. The top six nationalities that ECDC resettled included 1,162 Congolese, 902 Syrians, 872 Iraqis, 742 Afghans, 495 Burmese, and 360 Bhutanese.

MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM. In 2016 the Matching Grant Program enrolled 1,251 clients. Throughout the year, ECDC’s affiliate network demonstrated a high level of success in placing clients in jobs leading to early self-sufficiency with a 120-day network average of 80%, and a 180-day network average of 93% self-sufficiency for individuals. Program outcomes are reported semi-annually. For the first Program Progress Report, 180-day outcomes were 89%. For the second reporting period, 96% of individuals were self-sufficient at 180 days. From October 1, 2015, to September 30, 2016, ECDC affiliates matched the program with $590,791.68 in cash and $599,442.12 worth of in-kind contributions for a total of $1,190,233.80. Because the FY16 matching period carries over until March 2017, the remaining match of $185,866.20 will be met by then.

PREFERRED COMMUNITIES PROGRAM. For 2016, the Preferred Communities Program enrolled 528 special needs clients. This program recruited and trained 98 volunteers. In addition, affiliates partnered with 71 public and private agencies. Clients received medical and mental health services. Children received after school tutoring and/or summer program support. Programs referred adults to ESL or ESOL classes, provided employment services such as job training, job readiness and resume building, assisted people access Supplemental Security Income, Medicaid, emergency financial assistance and senior housing. Others received extended cultural orientation on how to navigate U.S. systems. PC affiliates also hosted 56 events and workshops, including Thanksgiving celebrations, workshops on mental health, preventing domestic violence, health screening and World Refugee Day with participation from hundreds of refugees and community members.

AXUMITE HERITAGE FOUNDATION. The AHF continued construction on the new Axumite Heritage Foundation Library. The basic structure is completed, the roof installed, and much of internal framing and plastering on all three levels has been finished. The external cladding was completed by expert stone masons from the local area. We have begun the internal finishing, which includes electrical and plumbing work, tiling, flooring, and installing the windows and doors. Once completed, we will work on landscaping, installing a septic tank, a water conservation system, and solar panels. The current library, housed in the ‘Inda Nebri’id, is currently closed, as the historic building undergoes renovations.
Branch Office Updates

ACC/ARLINGTON AND SILVER SPRING. The ECDC African Community Center—D.C. Metro (ACC DC Metro), under the leadership of its Managing Director, Sarah Zullo, had a busy year in 2016. The ACC DC Metro has 17 staff members, seven in Arlington and 10 in Silver Spring. The agency also had 82 interns and volunteers. The ACC DC Metro was approved to resettle 325 individuals in FY16 and ultimately resettled 347 refugees by the end of the year.

ACC’s AmeriCorps program began in FY 2016 to enhance the Preferred Communities program. The Refugee AmeriCorps member runs supplemental ESL sessions, plans and provides health workshops, and assists with accessing self-sufficiency resources. The Ethnic Community Self-Help program offers youth after-school tutoring and extended case management. In the second year of programming, ACC worked with 65 refugee youth during the year.

ACC’s volunteer recruitment grew over the past year with 7,175 volunteer hours documented in FY 2016 at a value of $163,374. In-kind donations to the ACC remained strong. They received over $223,820 in household goods for clients from Bed Bath and Beyond through Good 360 and partnered with local churches, professional organizations, and volunteer networks to gather uniforms and school supplies, toys, and winter clothing for refugee clients.

Arlington’s Supplemental Services continued to be in high demand with 370 Arlington residents receiving 433 services. Immigration assistance was the most requested service, followed by employment, housing assistance, translation, and information about health care. ACC DC Metro also provided referrals for healthcare, housing, domestic violence, and legal services.

The ACC DC Metro was awarded a continuation grant beginning July 2016 to provide employment and supportive services to Fairfax County, Virginia, residents. The Mambo youth life skills program provided 303 immigrant children in Northern Virginia with anti-tobacco education and self-esteem training. ACC DC Metro also received a $10,000 award from the Forrest Foundation, which helps cover salary expenses for case managers and provides transportation assistance to clients.

On November 22, 2015, the ACC DC Metro held its 4th Annual Refugees’ First Thanksgiving Dinner, which nearly 250 guests attended. Community organizations, businesses, and private donors graciously contributed toward transportation and food, and 74 volunteers gave 296 hours of service to assist with preparing food, serving guests, and cleaning up after the event. On June 18, 2016, ECDC collaborated with the International Rescue Committee and the University of Maryland Extension Center to host World Refugee Day. An estimated 150 guests attended the event, which included music, international food, crafts and activities, and a mini-marketplace.
ACC/DENVER. Since the end of March, the ACC had a busy year under the leadership of Managing Director Melissa Theesen. ACC Denver proposed the resettlement of 590 refugees for the fiscal year as well as 150 additional asylees and secondary migrants through the Wilson-Fish Program. An additional 1,300 refugees within the five-year population were also proposed to be served.

The ACC registered more than 200 children for school (K-12). In July, 150 children were the recipients of the R.O.C.K. clothing event, which provided each child with three new outfits, undergarments, toiletries and school supplies. During the year, more than 1,300 refugees received job training and employment readiness training through ACC Denver’s numerous training programs. In addition, 275 refugee youth attended youth programming at ACC’s International City. Daily programs included homework help, enrichment activities, music, art, sports, friendship and learning. On-Trac college readiness and career counselling are also offered adults. Youth 4 Youth, a mentorship program between younger and older refugee students, was added as an activity for youth.

The ACC also awarded each of nine students a $1,000 scholarship to the post-secondary school of their choice. An additional four-year scholarship was awarded to one refugee young person thanks to the generosity of a local donor. ACC Denver accomplished many substantial outcomes this fiscal year, including increased R&P arrivals, training outcomes, employment placements and resources raised. Involvement in several community events as well as ACC-sponsored outreach events resulted in significant increases in outreach and members of the public receiving education about refugee issues.

The agency’s held its 15th Anniversary Gala and One Shared Dream Youth Fundraiser. More over 200 guests attended the gala, and more than 150 attended the youth fundraiser. Together, the events raised $60,000.

AFRICAN COMMUNITY CENTER—LAS VEGAS (ACC/LV). In 2016, ACC/LV resettled 510 refugees from 19 nations. Projected arrivals for FY16 were 400. The ACC currently has 17 employees who fulfill its mandate of assisting refugees to be self-sufficient in the shortest time possible. Three AARP volunteers help in a variety of ways and together contribute 12 hours a day. ACC/LV became a BIA-accredited immigration services program starting in FY 2016. Two staff members were trained to provide various immigration services from completing applications for Permanent Resident Alien status to citizenship and applying for asylum. With active community outreach, this service will grow fast.

To make resettlement a success, ACC/LV has built links with community resources to supplement grant-supported services. The ACC/LV has a MOU with Nevada State College, School of Nursing, and Arizona College, School of Nursing. The Arizona College was a new addition in 2016. Both schools provide nursing students led and supervised by an instructor every other week. Each semester 5–9 nursing students come to our site on Thursdays and Fridays. The schools alternate by semester. These nurses are paired with clients who require medical follow-up after arrival. Gilead Sciences, Inc., a national organization, is another organization that closely works with the ACC/LV. It supports ACC/LV to organize two health fairs for member of the refugee and the immigrant community and plans to conduct additional sessions. HepBFree is a local organization that is also focused on detection and control of hepatitis and works closely with Gilead. After doing the screening, HepBFree follows up by providing vaccinations for those who test negative and treatment for those who test positive.
ECDC Highlights

Confident in a Big New World

Sara came to the U.S. in August from the Central African Republic with very little knowledge of how to function in a Western country. Even opening a car door was a challenge! Sara was fearful of being a single mom in a big, new world. Over the past several months, Sara slowly gained confidence, as she learned how to write her name for the first time, how to buy a bus pass at King Soopers, and how to grocery shop for her family.

When she started her first job, the fear crept back that she was not capable of doing this on her own, but with a little encouragement, she gained her confidence again. Sara is no longer a fearful refugee but a proud employee working full time to provide for her children. Sara was resettled by the African Community Center–Denver.

First Helped and Now a Helper

Originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Jean Robert first came to Houston with his family of nine from a refugee camp just over a year ago. In that short amount of time, and thanks to the support of Alliance for Multicultural Community Services, and ECDC resettlement affiliate, he has been engaged with the community, volunteering his time and talents as a musician while juggling work and supporting his family.

Jean Robert says that it was not easy to come to the U.S., but he is happy because he wants his kids to study and have “big futures.” Because of new community members like him, Houston is a city where the dreams of a diverse population come to life. Jean Robert’s own vision is to become a teacher once again. The Alliance will be at his side to help him achieve that dream.
Contributors and Partners

ECDC is deeply grateful for the support of the following partners:

Alliance for African Assistance
Alliance for Multicultural Community Services
American Red Cross
Anonymous
Arlington County, Virginia
   Economic Independence Program
Bank of America
Bed Bath and Beyond
Best Buns Bakery
Birches Foundation, Inc.
Capital One
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
City and County of Denver, Colorado,
   Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs
Colonial Parking, Inc.
Colorado Department of Human Services
Colorado Fabrics
Colorado Refugee Services Program
Commonwealth of Virginia
CWB Holdings
Dama Resturaunt
Denver Foundation
Ethiopian Airlines
ETrade
Fairfax County, Virginia
Consolidated Community Funding Pool
Frank Foundation
Giant Food
Grace Ethiopian Church
HSBC Bank USA
International Rescue Committee
Intuit Financial Freedom
Lincoln Financial Foundation, Inc.
Maryland Office for Refugees and Asylees
Mylestone Plans
National Life Group
Nashville International Center for Empowerment
Orbis Institute Inc.
PNC
RefugePoint
Refugee Empowerment Center
Simpson United Methodist Church
Sleep Supply, Inc.
State of Colorado
SunTrust Bank
TD Bank
The Colorado Trust
Tony Gramsas Youth Services program
U Street Parking
University of Denver
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Migration and
   Refugee Services
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of
   Refugee Resettlement
U.S. Department of the Treasury
United Way
United Way, Alexandria Community Impact Grant
Virginia Community Action Partnership
Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth
Washington Forrest Foundation
Wells Fargo
Well Fargo Foundation
Whole Foods

Individual Donors
Angie Wood
Ashley Littig
Dr. Abrahm Medhanye
Alan and Ronny Frishman
Azeb Desta
Barbara Frank and Ronni McCaffrey
Brigitte Anderson-Bucher
Carolyn and Robert Rose
Catherine Crawford
Desta Asayehgn, Ph.D.
Elizabeth Wendmagegnhu
Erin and Scott Frank
Father Dini Tekleberhan
Gebre Tareke
Hagos A. Seyoum
Hagos Teferra
Henning W. Leidecker, Jr. and Allene F. Wright
Henok K. Tesfaye
J.D. and Gretel Von Pischke
John Andelin and Ginger Geoffrey
James B. Giltner
Janet Lee
Leul Alemayehyu and Tabotu Beyene
Marlana Goodson
Margaret McKelvey
Mariele Shukla
Mebrahtu Teklehaimanot
Melissa Theesen and John Striebel
Menelik H. Michael
Mesfin Gebremichael
Muzey Meressa
Nancy Kearney
Neway Gebreab
Rebecca Moon
Ron Munia
Sheryl Parul
Solomon Teklu
Sue and Bob Shalley
Teddy Tadesse and Lily Negatu
Tefsaye Tetemke
Tsehay Teferra, Ph.D.
Zed Wondemu
Yeman Yeohannes
Yeshi Gebremeskel and Mebrahtu Teklehaimanot
Financial Report

Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc. and Subsidiaries
Condensed Consolidated Statement of Activities
For the years Ended September 2016 and 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support, Revenues and Gains</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal, State and Local Government Grants</td>
<td>21,896,213</td>
<td>17,504,776</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Grants and contracts</td>
<td>195,471</td>
<td>427,911</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>248,577</td>
<td>437,704</td>
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<td>Fees for services</td>
<td>92,795</td>
<td>82,882</td>
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<td>Sales Income</td>
<td>142,522</td>
<td>147,931</td>
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<td>Interest Income</td>
<td>322,714</td>
<td>304,037</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rental income</td>
<td>651,768</td>
<td>692,085</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributed goods and services</td>
<td>188,719</td>
<td>134,037</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>16,937</td>
<td>88,151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Support, Revenues, and Gains</td>
<td>23,755,716</td>
<td>19,819,514</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Expenses and Losses                  |                   |                   |
| Program Services                     | 19,534,160        | 15,823,530        |
| General and administrative           | 2,857,980         | 2,619,429         |
| Total Expenses                       | 22,392,140        | 18,442,959        |

| Changes in Net Assets                | 1,363,576         | 1,376,555         |
| Net Assets at the Beginning of Year  | 12,733,595        | 11,357,040        |
| Net Assets at End of Year            | 14,097,171        | 12,733,595        |

![Pie chart showing various service areas and their percentages]