



August 30, 2011

Dear Jesuit Drama,

We at Jesuit Refugee Service/USA are so excited about the process we are about to embark on with Jesuit High's Drama Department this fall to raise awareness about the lives, challenges, and contributions of the refugees JRS has worked with for the past 30 years.

As you may be aware, **Jesuit Refugee Service/USA (JRS/USA)** is the U.S. arm of an international Catholic non-profit organization, sponsored by the Society of Jesus whose mission is to accompany, serve and defend the rights of refugees, vulnerable migrants, and other forcibly displaced persons. Jesuit Refugee Service witnesses God's presence even among the most tragic of circumstances facing vulnerable and often forgotten people – **refugees and other forcibly displaced people** driven from their homes by conflict, natural disaster, economic injustice, or violation of their human rights. JRS works in more than 57 countries worldwide to meet the legal, educational, health, social and spiritual needs of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons. Our services are made available to refugees and displaced persons regardless of their race, ethnic origin, or religious beliefs.

Early this summer, aware of the Jesuit Drama's fantastic reputation for sensitive theatrical portrayal of serious real world issues facing our society and global community, JRS/USA extended an invitation to Jesuit High School Drama to collaborate with us in creating a piece of documentary theatre based on the true accounts compiled over our years of assisting and supporting **uprooted people**. Our hope is to create a play that high school and college students and even parishioners might perform to bring awareness of the issues that refugees and the displaced struggle with. Your work this semester will aid JRS in engaging the larger community – and in particular the Jesuit network – in a dialogue about the issues facing displaced persons. Themes highlighted in the compiled interviews range from longing for home, to facing xenophobia abroad, to sexual and gender-based violence suffered by refugee women and children, to new hopes for a better future in a resettlement country.

Ultimately, we hope the production of this play on campuses around the country will inspire lifelong advocates for refugees and the world's displaced, and supporters and advocates for the work of JRS/USA. As participants, authors and actors in the proposed project you will be presented with both opportunity to challenge assumptions and change minds and hearts through theatre – and to invite people to “stand in the shoes” of displaced migrants and refugees through this work.

To Accompany, Serve and Advocate for the Rights of Refugees and Forcibly Displaced Persons
1016 16th Street, NW Suite 500 Washington, D.C. 20036 Phone 202.462.0400 Fax 202.462.7008 www.jrsusa.org

We are excited to be a resource as you embark on this project, and we can't wait to see what we know will be the excellent results!

Thank you for considering this opportunity.

Yours sincerely,



Cindy Rice
Development Director



Shaina Aber
Associate Advocacy Director



Cara Pavlak
Outreach Coordinator

To Accompany, Serve and Advocate for the Rights of Refugees and Forcibly Displaced Persons
1016 16th Street, NW Suite 500 Washington, D.C. 20036 Phone 202.462.0400 Fax 202.462.7008 www.jrsusa.org