

VISTA Assignment Description (VAD)

AmeriCorps VISTA: Alexandra Roche	
Member ID: 1206862	Effective Dates: 02/22/2016 - 02/20/2017
Title: Western Mass New Americans Welcome Home Project	
Sponsoring Organization: Catholic Charities USA Project Name: CCUSA New Americans Project Number: 15VSANJ007 Project Period: 09/06/2015 - 10/29/2016	
Site Name (if applicable): Catholic Charities Agency, Springfield, MA	
Focus Area(s) Primary: Healthy Futures Secondary: Economic Opportunity	

VISTA Assignment Objectives and Member Activities

Goal of the Project: To identify and expand opportunities to better empower refugee communities over the long term, particularly refugee and immigrant women and youth, in Hampden and Berkshire Counties of Western Massachusetts. The VISTA Volunteer will collaborate in developing and implementing programs and events and building and maintaining partnerships that serve these purposes.

Objective of the Assignment (*Period of Performance: January 2016 - December 31, 2016*)

To provide the research and outreach to identify and act upon effective, holistic and sustainable long-term integration services/projects/programs for the benefit of refugee populations in the Greater Springfield and Berkshire regions.

Member Activity: RESEARCH: 1. Be an active participant and liaison with Consortium Working Groups. 2. Participate in listening sessions on 5 preliminary identified gap areas with:3. Research existing models, programs and best practices that address the needs of refugee women and youth. 4. Conduct community mapping of resettled refugee and immigrant populations in the Greater Springfield and Berkshire areas.

Member Activity: OUTREACH: 1. Build relationship with various refugee communities, particularly women and youth. 2. Build relationship with existing and potential community partners and stakeholders.3. Take the lead in developing and coordinating faith-based and civic involvement in supporting concrete refugee needs. 4. Assist in identifying and developing a core group of volunteers who will work with women and youth groups.5. Collaborate in creating and maintaining social media communications.6. Take a lead role in coordinating events.