

Refugee Resources in Indianapolis, Indiana

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Research Problem and Project Objective

- I completed an internship with Catholic Charities Indianapolis and I was required to complete a research project for them. I noticed that Catholic Charities introduced the families to a multitude of resources, but there was no organized database to find all the resources available to them.
- Catholic Charities then requested a comprehensive database that includes every/any type of resource that clients made need as they adjust to US life. I've compiled the resources into several Google Maps for easy retrieval of resources and their locations by the both the case managers at Catholic Charities and the refugees.

Background section

- Catholic Charities Indianapolis was founded in 1919. One facet of this charity is the Refugee and Immigrant Services (CCRIS) branch. CCRIS provides three months of services to the clients that arrive in the US including apartment set-up, airport pick-up, and a home safety orientation within the first 24 hours of their arrival. They also provide assistance with medical, welfare, and social security appointments, community/cultural orientation, mental health and behavioral services, English training, and employment services within the clients' first three months of arrival. Since 1975 Catholic Charities Indianapolis has resettled more than 19,000 refugees and 587 were resettled Indianapolis in 2015.

Methods

- Participant-Observation in Catholic Charities Services and Events
- Collected Resource Information
- Mapped Information in a Story Map Format

Discussion

Types of Resources Gathered:

- Doctor's offices, bus stops near apartment communities and other resources, libraries, BMVs, banks, schools, Social Security Offices, Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) and WIC offices, ethnic restaurants, grocery stores, attractions downtown, etc.

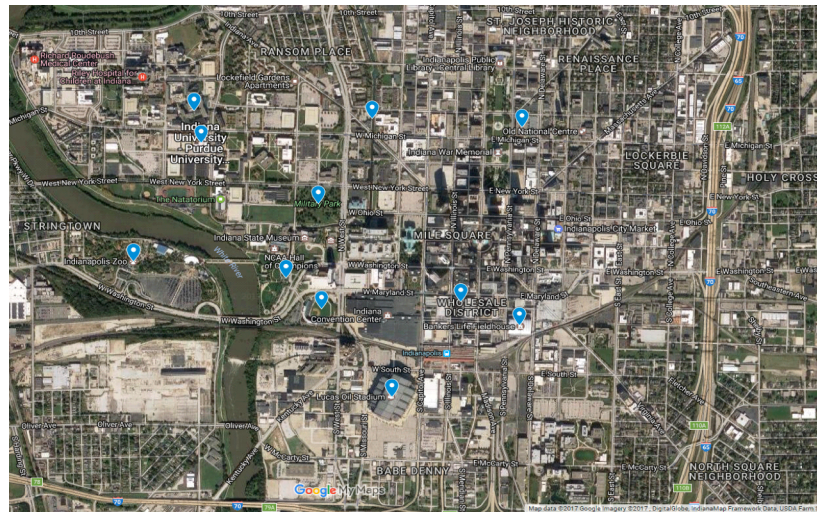


Figure 1: Map of Downtown Indianapolis with several resources pinned with blue pins.

Data Collection:

- The best way to compile these resources is a type of Google Map that can separate Indianapolis into sections such as Westside, Southside, Northside, and Downtown Indianapolis.
- This format can be easily accessed by the case managers who can pass the information to their clients. It can also be accessed by clients or their children that have learned to navigate the internet.
- Students in Global Migration were involved in data collection of the resources on the North, West, and South sides
- This map will ease refugees' transition into their new lives and homes here in the US and in Indianapolis. It will also help people that work with refugees advocate for them and teach people about the struggles in the lives of refugees. In these uncertain times in politics and the United States, there needs to be awareness that refugees are not bad people that 'drain our resources' and that they add to the richness and diversity of America.