

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 15

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to join Catholic Charities and the San Antonio Missions in the celebration of World Refugee Day; and

WHEREAS, World Refugee Day, held on June 20 of each year, is dedicated to raising awareness of the state of refugees throughout the world; Catholic Charities and the San Antonio Missions are celebrating this year with two events, on June 12 and June 20, that will feature a citizenship swearing-in ceremony and a children's art exhibit; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of refugees are brought to the United States every year because they cannot return to their home country; the United States and the Catholic Church have been world leaders in offering new homes to refugees regardless of their country of origin; and

WHEREAS, Almost half of all refugees arriving in the United States are resettled through the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Migration and Refugee Services; the Catholic Charities Refugee Services organization has helped resettle thousands of refugees in Texas from more than 16 countries since it began providing services in 1980; and

WHEREAS, In the last year alone, the San Antonio office resettled some 800 refugees and helped them integrate into the community by providing them with housing, employment services, medical attention, education, English-language classes, and community orientation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 82nd Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby commend members of the Catholic Charities group for their efforts to help others and improve the lives of refugees; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared in observance of World Refugee Day.

Van de Putte

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on June 9, 2011.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate