



Arthur Carr of NERS Sunderland office welcomes Abrehe to his new post

Abrehe Gets a Move-On!

When Abrehe Zemichael was granted leave to remain in March 2006, he set himself two clear goals; as he says, "to settle in the UK by being employed and to be a productive person."

Less than a year later, Abrehe is already well on his way to achieving those goals after taking up his new post in NERS' Sunderland office.

Following his positive decision and a brief spell in temporary accommodation in Sunderland, Abrehe was offered a place on NERS Supported Housing

Project in May 2006 and began working closely with his Support Worker, Stuart Hastie to develop a plan to help him realise his ambitions. With his post graduate qualifications and previous managerial experience, Abrehe was keen to rejoin the workplace as soon as possible and working with NERS as a volunteer was a good place to start. Abrehe was also referred to the RISE Project, Workfinder and Job Linkage who helped to prepare a CV and improve his prospects in the job market.

Abrehe also joined in with NERS' Time Together Project, which matches refugees with mentors from the established community. Abrehe feels that his mentor has helped him a lot and they have become close friends, meeting regularly and taking trips out together.

For Abrehe, integration has been the key to achieving the independence and self reliance which he has set as his goals. Now that he has made the move from service user to staff member he is looking forward to further developing his skills to help other asylum seekers and refugees to enjoy the same success.

The whole of the Housing Team joins in congratulating Abrehe and in wishing him continued success in the future.

Keeping in Touch with You

Welcome to the first edition of **Housing+plus**, the new NERS Housing Newsletter. Over the coming months we hope to keep you informed about all of the work of the Housing Team, as well as other information and stories you might find useful. We'd like to know what you think too, so if you want to get in touch with us please do;

Contact us on 0191 2457302 or email to

Robin Brown (Manager) - robb@refugee.org.uk

Ryan Elwell (Admin) - re@refugee.org.uk

Stuart Hastie (Support)

Alireza Sehhat (Support)

} housing@refugee.org.uk



OFFICE OF THE
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SERVICES



Community Integration Project

By Janet Lloyd—Community Integration Project Co-ordinator

Our project helps refugees and asylum seekers to build a new life in the North East of England. We can help you with:

- Advice on getting a job and training
- College courses
- Family activities
- Arts, music and sports activities
- Improve your English
- Meeting friends and neighbours
- Getting to know about where you live
- English classes with childcare

You can join in music, arts, family fun, outdoors and sports activities so you can get to know English people and other refugees. This helps build your confidence and improve your English.

Volunteering with a local organisation can help you learn new skills, meet new people, learn about what working in England is like.

You can find us at the NERS Bigg Market office. Or you can phone us:

If you live in Gateshead call: Anoushka Key on 07835102848

If you live in Newcastle call: Nasrin Ahmadi on 07835102849

Any suggestions?

Do you have any ideas for stories or information you would like to be featured in this newsletter?

Are you an organisation who would like to promote your service?

If so, then please get in touch with Rob Brown on 0191 245 7302 or by email to robb@refugee.org.uk

Coming Up Next Month— *Mentoring, the benefits of Volunteering, more about Supporting People....*

Latest News.....Latest News.....Late

West City

The DIY Café—250 Philip St, Arthur's Hill

The DIY Café is a new project involving the **Yours and Mine Community Café, Time Exchange** and the **North of England Refugee Service**.

Starting from **12th April 2007**, every Thursday, Friday and Saturday between **5.30 and 8pm**, the café will be offering the chance to improve your English, learn about setting up a business as well as a range of art and cultural activities.



Diners at the Community Cafe

East City

New English classes in Wallsend

With English classes becoming increasingly hard to find, it's good to know that a new English Language Group is offering sessions at Wallsend Library.

The first session is on **Thursday March 8th between 1 and 3pm**. Free childcare can be provided and the organisers will refund travel expenses too.

If you are interested in attending please contact **Deborah or Roger on 0191 2457311**