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"Our mission is to love and care for those seeking refuge from war torn countries with the heart of Jesus."

# Oasis International

## Celebrating Women!

Tha & Elizabeth from Burma, Alyaa and Jumani from Iraq, Sarah and Hemon from the United States and Ethiopia: just to name a few of our precious ladies from around the world. Forty-five ladies enjoyed lunch, gifts, prizes and games as we celebrated women. International Women's Day is celebrated around the world on March 8. At Oasis our heart is to value each woman, knowing they are made in the image of God!

We couldn't have done it without your help! Crosspoint Church in South County brought lunch and gifts. Ridgecrest Baptist in St. Charles watched our beautiful refugee children so the moms could enjoy their day!

We are so grateful for the churches who partner with us to love and care for the refugees of St. Louis. We are impacting our city with His love and compassion!



Volunteers from Crosspoint Church

Volunteers from Ridgecrest Baptist Church

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“This is what the LORD Almighty said: Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor. Do not plot evil against each other.” Zechariah 7:9

“Compassion” A feeling of deep sympathy and sorrow for another who is stricken by misfortune, accompanied by a strong desire to alleviate the suffering.

# Oasis In The City: “Stories from the heart”

“oasis” a pleasant or peaceful area in the midst of a difficult place: calm in the city

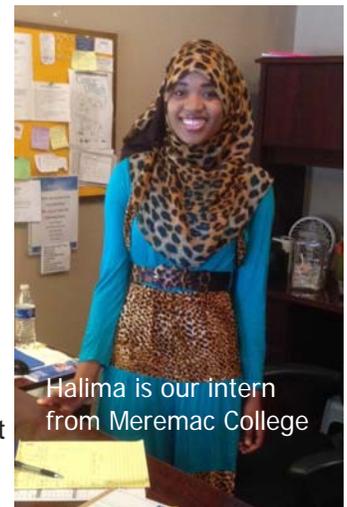
## Halima’s Story - “Back From the Dead”

My name is Halima Haji and I come from a family of 10 children. Most of my siblings were very healthy as babies except for one of my sisters, who passed away when she was 3 months old. I spent most of my childhood in and out of hospitals and couldn’t speak until the age of 3. My father researched the best doctors and would then take me there so I could receive the best treatment. However, there was a time when a doctor told my parents and the rest of my family that I had passed away. Everyone was devastated. As they were planning my funeral, I spoke for the first time. My first words were “I need some water.” Everyone was very shocked. My parents were so happy to see me alive.

Two years after coming back from the dead, a war took place in Kenya and we had to leave the country. In 2004, my family and I went to the U.S, except for my father, because he didn’t want to leave the family business behind. It was very difficult leaving him. Once in the U.S., kids in my class used to tease me and call me names. They used to call me “the new foreign kid” and I hated that. One time, some kids on the bus wanted to see my hair and I said no to them, so they snatched my scarf off. I was very upset. The girls were expelled and my mom changed our school. My first impression of American people was that they are very disrespectful, aggressive, have no self-respect, and are very judging. Those kids ruined my middle school experience. Years later, I made some great friends and found out that not every American is the same, so I stopped thinking that way and moved on with my life.

In 2008, my father became very ill and I couldn’t go see him because I didn’t have my green-card or a passport. A couple months later, he died. I took it pretty hard. I was broken into a million pieces and had difficulty coping with it. I stayed in my room all the time. I would skip school and not eat.

Moving on, I just recently started volunteering at Oasis International Ministries and I love the work that I do there. I lost one father and got four in return: Mark, Butch, Mike and Bruce. Also, I have a wonderful mother, Joani. She is the sweetest. I am very lucky to be a part of the Oasis family and have my wonderful fathers. I can never thank them enough for being there for me whenever I need them. It’s a blessing from God that I have them in my life and treat me as their own daughter. I love you all.



Halima is our intern from Meremac College