



# Diocese of Rockford

Catholic Charities Refugee and Immigration Services  
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Social Services

## Celebrating June 20<sup>th</sup> WORLD REFUGEE DAY

Due to pandemic of COVID- 19 we are not hosting our annual celebration this June. Instead we are sharing a one success story of for all of us resettled in Diocese of Rockford and our immediate communities.

I woke up in the morning with mixed feelings. Emotional surges usually come and go as a father of three kids with life stressors, I try to deal my day to day life with contentment. Ever since my family and I stepped in the land of opportunity, prior fears of losing my life, what to eat next day, my children losing their precious years with no education puffed into a thin air. Sometimes when I see my kids go to school moving up in the world and sit together with my family feels like a dream. Nonetheless, I am humbled and blessed for the life I was granted. I sat in my bed and reflected how far I have come and where I am now. I came from a country torn by war, civil unrest, killing, persecution and human rights violations. Fleeing for my life was the only option.

I am forever grateful & blessed with an enormous gift of life and future coming to the United States. When I recall my journey before I came, it was survival with no dream and future. But now I know there is future. I am grateful for the community that welcomed me, my family and other refugees like me with open arms and embraced us and stocked our homes with necessities. It has taken the entire community to make us feel loved and accepted. I am proud to raise my kids in an environment where they can thrive academically and economically, & give back to the community that embraced us. With God's grace I have managed to buy a house, my wife attends college working for her degree, and my kids live with hope and future. Life has never been better. My reflection to my mixed feelings evolved by two different situations. One inflicted scars and the other turned them to stars.

### Thank you for being the agents of change in our lives.

Sincerely,

*Jean Lukoto*  
Congo D.R.  
Cuba.

*Tuyen OH*  
VIETNAM

*Thame Htoo*  
Burma  
*MIRACH*  
ERITREA

*Olga Ivanova*  
RUSSIA

*Jackson*  
BURUNDI  
*JIMAN*  
IRAQ

*Mazen*  
QASSAB  
SYRIA

*Mokhtar*  
EGYPT

*Janet*  
Bosnia  
CROATIA

