

*Refugee Program*



# IOWA REFUGEE SERVICE CENTER

150 DES MOINES STREET • DES MOINES, IOWA 50316 • 515/281-4334

ROBERT D. RAY  
GOVERNOR

COLLEEN SHEARER  
DIRECTOR

## NEWS RELEASE

09/30/79rw

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Richard Whitaker - 515/281-3117

### IOWA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH LEADERS URGE ALL LOCAL CHURCHES TO SPONSOR REFUGEE FAMILIES

The Iowa Conference Council on Ministries recently expressed encouragement for United Methodist churches throughout the state to sponsor Indochinese refugee families, according to Colleen Shearer, director of the Iowa Refugee Service Center.

Shearer said the council is also recommending that the Methodist churches sponsor through the Iowa Refugee Service Center, as a result of conversations between Dr. Al Wilken; director of the Iowa Conference Council on Ministries; the Rev. Don Manworren, executive director of Iowa Inter-church Forum; and the Rev. Marv Weidner, manager of the Iowa Refugee Service Center.

"The refugee center will be receiving a planeload of 380 Indochinese refugees--almost all of them from the country of Laos--on October 14 and I hope that a large number of United Methodist churches will come forward to help in this most humanitarian effort," said Shearer.

Dr. Ed Boulton, administrative assistant to Bishop Lance Webb, said,

"I am pleased that the council endorsed an effort that will encourage Iowa United Methodist churches to sponsor refugee families from Southeast Asia. The scale of suffering in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia is beyond what we can imagine...genocide and holocaust are words that do not exaggerate the situation."

Persons interested in sponsoring refugees are urged to contact the Iowa Refugee Service Center by calling the Iowa toll free lines 1-800-362-2780 and 1-800-362-2923 or the local Des Moines numbers 281-4334, 281-4337 and 281-4339.

IOWA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
ENCOURAGE YOUR LOCAL CHURCHES  
TO SPONSOR REFUGEE FAMILIES

The Iowa Conference Council on Ministries recently expressed its encouragement for United Methodist churches throughout the state to sponsor Indo-Chinese refugee families, according to Carlene Shearer, director of the Iowa Refugee Service Center.

Shearer said the council is also recommending that the Methodist churches sponsor through the Iowa Refugee Service Center, as a result of conversations between Dr. Al Wilson, director of the Iowa Conference Council on Ministries; the Rev. Don Simolice, executive director of Iowa Inter-church Forum; and the Rev. Gary Weiland, manager of the Iowa Refugee Service Center.

"The refugee center will be receiving a plane load of 150 Indo-Chinese refugees - almost all of them from the country of Laos - on October 16 and I hope that a large number of United Methodist churches will come forward to help in this most humanitarian effort," said Shearer.