



Nashville International Center for Empowerment

Our History

MISSION

At NICE, we strive to ensure that refugees and immigrants achieve their full potential now and for generations to come. Our central mission is to develop a strong, prosperous and peaceful community enriched by diversity.

We seek to empower refugees and immigrants, provide vibrant leadership, build strong community relationships, provide sustainable service programs, create a respectful resource center, and develop robust networking partnerships in Middle Tennessee and across the country.

FOUNDING

In the 1990s, thousands of refugees fled war-torn Sudan hoping to find a safe place to live, work, and raise families with dignity. For many of these refugees, especially women, war had rendered formal education impossible. Without a place to learn English, these immigrants struggled under the weight of resettlement.

In 2005, a group of these Sudanese men and women, led by current NICE President and CEO Gatluck Ter Thach, founded the Sudanese Community & Women's Services Center with the goal of providing Sudanese refugees the skills they would need to facilitate independence and self-sufficiency.

GROWTH

As word spread quickly throughout the refugee and immigrant communities in Nashville, the SCWSC began receiving requests for help from non-Sudanese. Eventually, the group's mission was amended to meet the needs of the larger body of multicultural immigrants in the area. In the spring of 2010, the center changed its name to reflect its new mission, thus creating the **Nashville International Center for Empowerment**.

Since our founding, we at NICE have helped over 7,000 people from 43 nations, most of whom are of African, Asian, and Middle Eastern descent. We continually aim to increase our clients' abilities to effectively read, write, and speak English through our adult and youth education programs. Additionally, we work with our clients to facilitate self-sufficiency and integration through our employment and resettlement services. We offer these programs to legal permanent residents with refugee, asylee, or immigrant statuses.



Nashville International
Center for Empowerment facilities



NICE President & CEO
Gatluck Ter Thach

Client & Volunteer Stories

When Melaku and his wife arrived in the United States as refugees from Ethiopia, they left behind many of their friends and family, including their son. While they quickly adapted to life in a new country and worked to become successful in their new home of Nashville, they still struggled with the fact that their son had to remain behind in Ethiopia.

Melaku came to us at the Nashville International Center for Empowerment in the hope that NICE could help him reunite his family. **In partnership with Melaku, we spent more than two and half years working to secure an immigrant visa for his son.** We supported the family through each step of the relocation process, from completing the initial application to submitting all necessary documents and addressing any challenges that arose. Even after Melaku and his wife relocated to Nevada, NICE continued to assist them in bringing their son to the United States.



On February 9, 2015, Melaku's son completed the final interview for his immigrant visa. He was approved to come to the United States and be reunited with his overjoyed family. Excited to share their joy, **the family contacted us the very next day to share the good news.** Everyone here at NICE is thrilled to have been able to help bring this family back together through this very long, but ultimately triumphant, journey.

