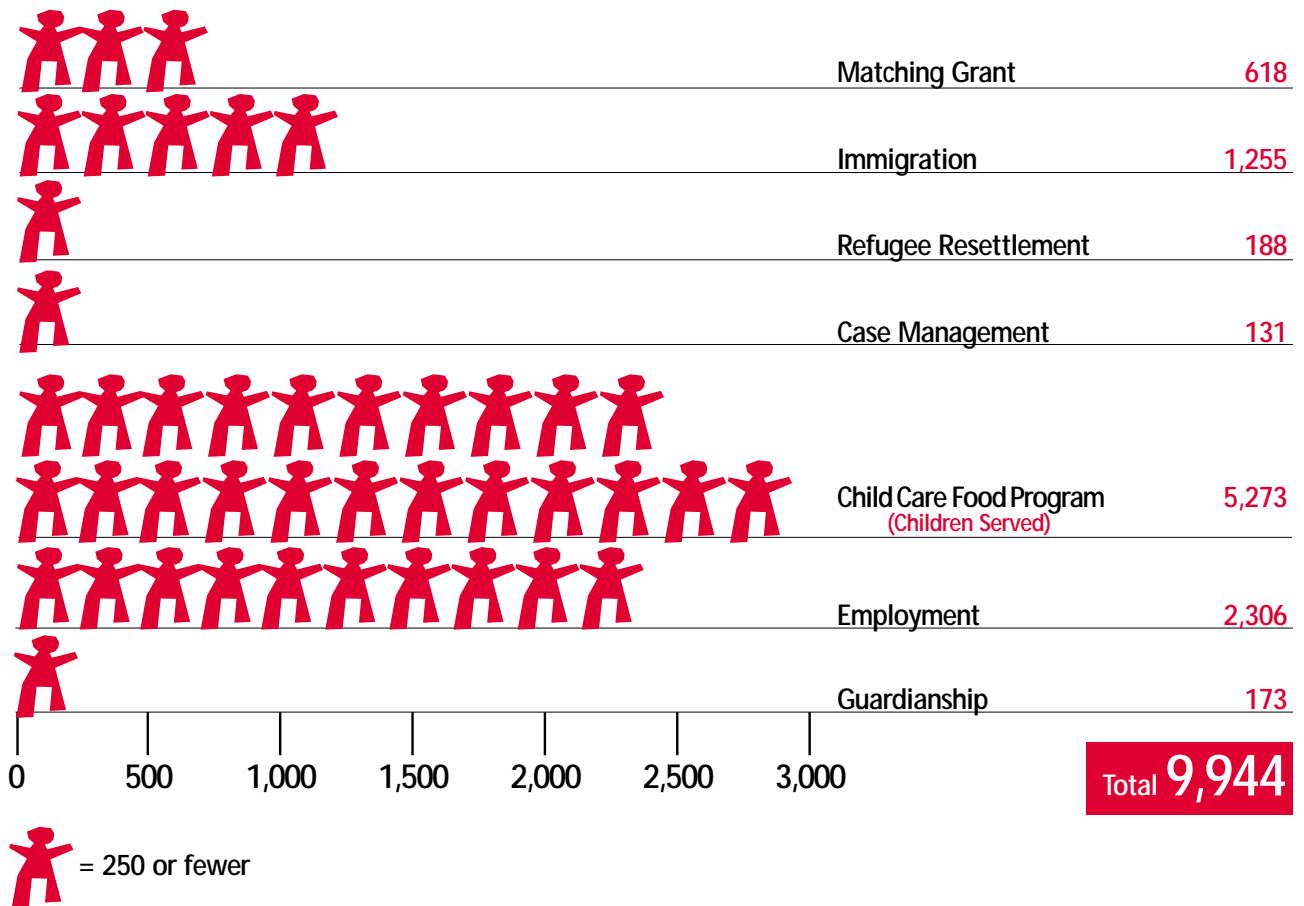


# PEOPLE SERVED IN 2004



The LSF Tampa Bay Region serves children, the frail elderly, families, and refugees and immigrants in need in Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco and Orange Counties. LSF staff members help refugees build new lives, care for the incapacitated, and ensure that children from low-income families in licensed home daycare programs receive nutritious daily meals.

## Programs



For more information, please call (813) 877-9303

## CULTURE SHOCK

volunteers joined LSF staff welcoming the refugees with open arms when they arrived at the airport.

Since children everywhere seem to speak a universal language, in no time at all the Bantu children were happily playing with the volunteers' children and grandchildren. The adults, however, needed help from Mohammed, the LSF interpreter, who spoke both Maay Maay and English.

The volunteers and LSF staff members helped the refugees adjust to their new community. Church volunteers provided a rental home and financial support, and also helped the family learn English. In addition, they found a job for Sharif.

In just one year, the refugees have made good progress. Sharif works full-time at a landscape business, the older children are enrolled in school, and both Sharif and Daynab continue to take English classes. The church volunteers still help the family with transportation to medical appointments, grocery shopping, English tutoring, and managing their finances.

LSF staff and volunteers have met every challenge with love and kindness, and this family now is looking forward to a promising future and becoming self-sufficient.



Lutheran Services Florida  
3627A West Waters Avenue  
Tampa, FL 33614

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LSF-TAMPA BAY REGION

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## CULTURE SHOCK

Sharif, his wife, Daynab, and their four children, (6 months to 9 years), suffered violent political and religious persecution before fleeing to safety in Kenya where they lived in a refugee camp for many years. Until they came to the

***“The Bantu children were happily playing with the volunteers’ children and grandchildren.”***

U.S. in January of 2004, they had never known what it was like to live in freedom. While all refugee resettlements require major life adjustments, this one required more than most. This resettlement provided a real lesson in “culture shock” for the LSF staff, as well as for the Bantu refugees because life in America is so vastly

different from the life the refugees had known in Africa.

Historically, the Bantu people had been slaves in their own country and excluded from mainstream society. They were denied an education, so they were illiterate and could communicate only in their native language—Maay Maay. They lacked any job skills that would be useful in a modern, urban environment because they had lived a simple, rural life farming the land. Also, they were completely unfamiliar with Western housing or common conveniences such as electricity, flush toilets, telephones, or kitchen and laundry appliances.

LSF had arranged for the Bradenton Christian Reformed Church to sponsor the Bantu family, and a group of church

