

## **Refugee Stories with Medical Needs**

*Stories of refugees who had knowledge of a medical need before and after arrival in the United States*

### **Prior Knowledge**

- Eshe: Agency received medical history of Eshe's untreated HIV condition. This condition was confirmed upon arrival to the US.
- Alika: Agency received medical history of Alika's goiter and vision loss. These conditions were confirmed upon arrival to the US. Testing is currently being conducted to determine if the mass on her throat is benign.
- Goma: Agency received medical history of Goma's Hepatitis B infection. This condition was confirmed upon arrival to the US. She sees specialists regularly to monitor her liver function.
- Dalila: Agency received medical history of Goma's Hepatitis C infection. This condition was confirmed upon arrival to the US.
- Rachel: Agency received medical history of Rachel's blindness. This was confirmed upon arrival.
- Hana: Agency received medical history for Hana noting an undiagnosed heart disease. Upon arrival, cardiologist diagnosed her Patent Ductus Arteriosus (PDA). Thirty-seven days after arriving to Grand Rapids, she had an operation to correct the issue.
- Henry: Agency received medical history noting seizure disorder. Epilepsy was diagnosed in Grand Rapids by neurologist and treatment continued.

### **No Prior Knowledge**

- Goma: Agency received Goma's medical history, but there was no report of diabetes. Upon arrival, Goma was diagnosed with diabetes. She takes medication and tracks her blood sugar levels.
- Tupa: After biopsy, it was discovered that client has an aggressive lymphoma, a health condition that was not known or documented at the time of the client's arrival into the U.S. He passed away within days.
- Koyah: Agency received Koyah's overseas medical history, which mentioned hypertension and sequelae of perthes disease (a hip condition). Months later, he was diagnosed with diabetes.
- Bea: Bea arrived with a clean medical record. Upon her first PCP visit blood work showed that she had malaria. Bea was treatment immediately.
- Kona: Kona arrived with a single infectious disease diagnosis. Upon examination, it was discovered that he has a gigantic kidney stone. Urologist performed surgery last week.