



GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

June 2005

### *Refugee Awareness Month*

I am pleased to offer my greetings as Californians observe Refugee Awareness Month.

In the past 30 years, more than one million refugees have settled in California, seeking lives free from racial, religious, political or social persecution. They have made great sacrifices to obtain gainful employment as they journey toward self-sufficiency, despite cultural barriers, lack of high-level job skills and other challenges.

California is a leader in its administration of the Refugee and Resettlement Programs, where public and private agencies collaborate to deliver culturally-sensitive services that offer protection and relief assistance. These partnerships help generate new jobs and provide essential training for refugees and their families.

During Refugee Awareness Month, we reflect on the freedom and opportunity that is America's greatest tradition and acknowledge the contributions of refugees that enrich our state economically, socially and intellectually. I salute all of the agencies and organizations working together to ease the transition for refugees adjusting to their new life in our Golden State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arnold Schwarzenegger".

Arnold Schwarzenegger

