

**Opening Doors, Inc.
Spring 2009**

Opening Doors, Inc. is a non profit refugee resettlement agency that has expanded its services to include human trafficking victims and low-income families in the Sacramento area. Because this agency is growing every year, unlimited creative opportunities are available for interns.

During my internship at Opening Doors, my official title was Advocacy and Policy Making Intern. Because this program did not exist before my internship, I had the luxury of creating the program and implementing my vision. With the ultimate vision of working with congress members in the future to pass legislation in favor of refugees, my goal during my ten week internship was to create some of the infrastructure and tools to facilitate grassroots advocacy. Some of my accomplishments included creating a page on Opening Doors' website dedicated to activism; creating activism flyers, brochures and display boards; working with caseworkers on gathering refugee success stories and testimonials to use for advocacy materials; planning and attending local cultural and humanitarian events/fairs/festivals for outreach and volunteer recruitment; refining material needs and scripts for event attendance; working with the board of directors, the advisory board and national volunteer agencies on advocacy ideas and contacting local legislators asking for their support for refugee legislations and appropriations. There is unlimited growth potential where various skills like journalism, PR, communications, etc., will help to produce a wholesome advocacy program.

In addition to working on the advocacy program, I had the opportunity to help resettle refugees by searching for and enrolling them at physician and dental clinics and tutoring English to a blind refugee. If advocacy is not an interest of yours, there are plenty of hands on opportunities with clients and the resettlement process, which prove to be very fulfilling.