

OPEN DOORS

Bancroft School, Worcester, MA

In the fall of 2015, Michael Barshteyn and Alyssa Shear conducted a photojournalism project at the Bancroft School in Worcester, focused on one principle of the art form: telling a true story about an underreported or misunderstood population within society. It presents refugee families from Bhutan, Congo, Burma, Syria, and Iraq who escaped turmoil in their home countries and in refugee camps, and have now resettled in Worcester, MA.

The intention of this project was to interview and photograph the subjects as they are, in an everyday setting. Each Friday in December of 2015 they graciously opened up their homes and allowed Michael and Alyssa to informally and candidly photograph them. The men in the office are a father and son, themselves resettled refugees, who helped facilitate the visits and now work at the Refugee Immigration Assistance Center (RIAC) to help other refugees find safe homes, stable jobs, new opportunities, and better lives in the United States.