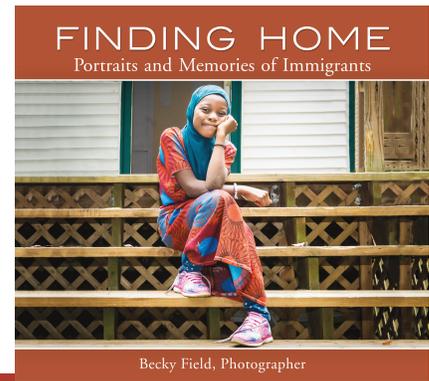


FINDING HOME

Portraits and Memories of Immigrants

Becky Field, Photographer



SAMPLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Q: Why did you start this project?

A: This photography project started as a result of an act of hate. In 2011-2012 there were four cases of hateful graffiti scrawled on refugee homes in Concord. I decided then to use my photography to show that cultural, ethnic and religious diversity in our communities should be celebrated and can add to the quality of life for all. About the same time, I had enrolled in the photography program at the NH Institute of Art to hone my self-taught photography skills.

Q: How did you connect with the families?

A: Initially I contacted leaders in the immigrant community who then connected me to families. For this second book, I also contacted friends and organizations in the immigrant communities. I have had outstanding support, cooperation and interest from new Americans for this project.

Q: Why publish this second book?

A: New Hampshire is known for being low diversity, so not everyone has had the experiences I have had through this project. I have had unusual, even unique, opportunities to be part of the personal lives, public ceremonies, and family events within the immigrant communities. I was also heard many stories of people's home countries and journeys to find a new and safe home in New Hampshire. So in FINDING HOME the stories are important partners with the photo images.

Q: Did the immigrants agree to be photographed?

A: The immigrant families were not only accepting of me and my camera, but also very willing and determined to share their lives, to let me photograph their traditions, and to document their stories. It was very important to me that individuals feel comfortable with me photographing them and understand the uses for the photos. People signed a release that explained my uses for the photos. I have always been careful not to include anyone who did not want to be photographed.

Q: Who is the audience for this book?

A: There are several audiences. I hope the photographs will be appreciated by all, including other photographers. In addition, I hope the American-born community will see in the photos evidence of the beauty, resilience and hard work within immigrant communities. The stories add an important dimension of family histories. I hope the immigrants' memories will stimulate discussions among students, community groups and government leaders about immigration policies and inclusion throughout our state.

Q: What have you learned from this project?

A: When I first started, I had no idea what an impact the project would have on me. I thought I might do this for about a year, then go back to photographing butterflies. Now, eight years later and still going, I have learned about other cultures, experienced sacred and traditional ceremonies, had excellent (though sometimes a bit spicy!) ethnic food, and, best, made wonderful, life-long friends. I only wish that through my two books everyone will feel the welcome and friendship that I encountered from all the immigrants.