

# Impacting lives, inspiring futures of New Americans

# **2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 2022: RENEWAL AND RESILIENCE

As global crises continue to arise, we embrace the reality that our work is more important than ever – requiring flexibility, creativity and the dedication of our expert staff. Your support in 2022 made it possible for the Institute to respond effectively and strategically.

This was a year of renewal and resilience at the International Institute of Minnesota. Renewal came with the opening of our expanded and renovated building on Como Avenue in Saint Paul, doubling our capacity to serve the New Americans who now call Minnesota home.

Outstanding community engagement and support, alongside private donations, fueled the Institute in 2022 to assist New Americans in finding sure-footing faster. While working hard to become stable and self-sufficient, they can also work toward their dreams and enrich their communities.

Resilience came with returning to in-person services and classes, while rising to the challenge of supporting an unanticipated influx of refugees from Ukraine and Afghanistan. Along with these new arrivals, the Institute continues welcoming people from around the world.

In this remarkable year, we almost doubled our staff size, especially within our Refugee Services team. From immediate to long-term case management, to housing and employment services, the Institute enhanced its capacity to support more new arrivals.

Our Immigration Services team also expanded. We are thrilled that we added an immigration attorney to our staff this year, allowing us to provide support for complex immigration cases.

Citizenship pathways for qualified New Americans remain a priority because citizenship is critical for family stability and security. We filed 750 citizenship applications in 2022, while 901 additional clients achieved the life-changing milestone of naturalization – earning them essential freedoms such as the ability to vote and engage more fully in their communities.

We tapped our resilience and creativity again to adapt to changing times and needs. By listening to client feedback and recommendations, we increased accessibility for all students. In 2022, we fully integrated hi-flex classes (simultaneous online and in person), while prioritizing program quality – from our English classes for beginning and intermediate learners, to preparation for higher education in our growing College Readiness Academy.

Another highlight in 2022 was the expansion of the Medical Careers Pathway. Two new programs now support internationally-trained medical professionals as they transition to work in the United States.

Whether our first point of contact with New Americans is at the airport or in the classroom, the Institute remains steadfast in its dedication to help them conquer challenges so they can achieve their dreams. We're inspired and humbled daily by the ways you champion this important work with your support.

With gratitude and warm regards,



Jane Graupman

# Proud to be part of the people.

With his pen poised to fill in his choice for Minnesota governor, Ahmed entered a voting booth for the first time. When he exited into the autumn air, he proudly pressed a round, red sticker onto his shirt.

"It was amazing. I was proud to be part of the people," Ahmed said.

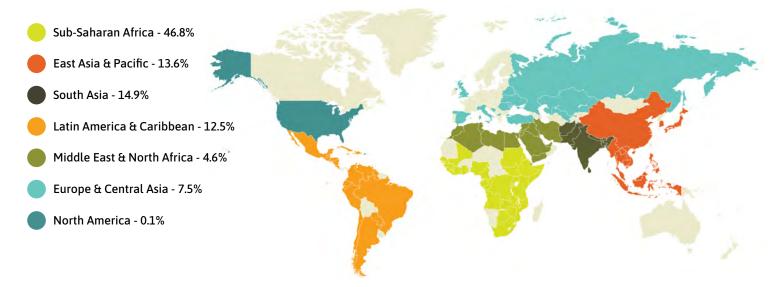
Minnesota became Ahmed's home once he left Somalia in 2014. After a few years of working and dreaming of furthering his education, a friend told him about the International Institute of Minnesota. He completed his Nursing Assistant Training and citizenship application through the Institute. He remembers telling his wife, Fatouma, "I found a place that really cares about people. Not only just cares, but they're seeing the future of this generation."

Ahmed now works as a certified nursing assistant with memory care patients – a perfect fit for his calm demeanor and warm smile. He naturalized during an emotional ceremony in the summer of 2021.

"It was like a dream come true," Ahmed said. "I always had dreamed to choose who I want to vote for, who is speaking for the people and to have more opportunities."

## OUR REACH IN 2022: 3,238 NEW AMERICANS FROM 100 COUNTRIES

Our clients and students arrive from all over the world, contributing to Minnesota's culture, labor market and economy. Each New American we serve reminds us of the meaning of persistence and dedication as they overcome challenges, work toward building new lives and contribute to the vibrancy of the community.



# THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to our 316 volunteers who remain committed to making Minnesota welcoming. From interns and classroom volunteers, to citizenship application support and housing drive organizers – and many jobs in between – please know: your engagement, time and effort makes a heartfelt difference in the lives of New Americans.



"I truly love interacting with people from other cultures. I love learning about where (our students) are from. I feel close to them. I know about their lives. I know about their hopes and dreams and their histories. That is really special to me, and when I'm not there, I miss it."

- Kelsey Reinke, Conversation Circle volunteer

Please visit impact.iimn.org to view a complete list of 2022 volunteers.

Che Institute helps us very much. You are people with an incredibly open heart.

When Zhanna arrived from Ukraine last summer, she had no idea how long the war with Russia would continue or how long she and her daughters would need to stay in Minnesota.

Her daily calls with her husband – who was required to stay behind in Ukraine – became unpredictable as rocket attacks and blackouts caused him to lose power, internet and phone connection. As Zhanna and her two adult daughters learn to live with the painful uncertainty of their family's future, they have found refuge, safety and support through the International Institute of Minnesota.

"The Institute helps us very much," Zhanna

said. "You are people with an incredibly open heart, who are not indifferent to the grief of other people. Thank you very much."

Four afternoons a week, Zhanna and her 20-year-old daughter Yeva, attend English classes at the Institute. Classroom games and new relationships with students from around the world provide a distraction from the constant news cycle.

"We forget about our lives in Ukraine, about this war, when we play and smile – a little bit forget the information from Ukraine," Zhanna said.

Looking ahead, Zhanna says her daughters may choose to stay and work for the full two years permitted through the U.S. government's Uniting for Ukraine humanitarian parole program. Zhanna, however, has other hopes. "I want to come back to my husband."

# **OUR 2022 IMPACT**

We served 3,238 New Americans in 2022, providing a strong start for refugees and immigrants so they can work toward self-sufficiency. Once stability is achieved, we're there for next steps, too: providing career advancement support, homeownership advising and a pathway toward citizenship.

With the Institute as a partner, New Americans and their families journey with increased confidence toward full membership in American life.

# **ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING**

615 students served

25,000 hours of instruction

257 Afghan arrivals received Cultural Orientation

# **CAREER PATHWAYS AND COLLEGE READINESS**

## 571

participants in classes, job trainings and career support programs

## \$21.46

average hourly wage earned by Professional Leadership Training graduates

## 82%

of College Readiness Academy participants persist in college

## 218

students and clients received financial coaching or homeownership advising

## 99

nursing assistants and Medical Career Advancement graduates placed into healthcare jobs

## 3.63

first semester grade point average earned by College Readiness Academy graduates

#### \$38.21

average hourly wage for Medical Career Advancement graduates who upgraded their careers

# **AFGHAN FAMILY FUND**

## 6+ months

average time housing was fully funded to provide families time to begin employment, focus on their adjustment and save income to help meet future financial goals

750

476 clients assisted

# **BASIC NEEDS FUND**

34

grants made to clients at risk of homelessness or facing health or family-related emergencies

## 27%

of emergency housing grants were awarded to human trafficking survivors

## \$641

average cash-assistance distributed per individual to pay rent and help with other necessities

# **REFUGEE SERVICES**

people with refugee, parolee, asylee or another humanitarian status received extended services supported by community donations

refugees resettled, including Afghan humanitarian parolees

families enrolled in the nation's first guaranteed income pilot project for newly arrived

## 107

affordable homes secured; 100% received complete sets of donated housing supplies

## 100%

of Afghans received supplemental rental assistance from the Afghan Family Fund

96 children enrolled in school

## 114

newly arrived refugees employed

# **CITIZENSHIP SERVICES**

clients took the Naturalization Oath of Allegiance to the United States and became U.S. citizens

### \$423.975

saved by Institute clients in citizenship application fees to USCIS

additional clients filed citizenship applications

# **IMMIGRATION SERVICES**

### 119

Permanent residency "green card" applications filed

# DONORS

Thanks to committed donors like you, the International Institute of Minnesota exists as a resource to support, educate and inspire New Americans to achieve the lives of their dreams.

The following individuals and organizations contributed financial gifts to the International Institute of Minnesota during its 2022 fiscal year: October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022.

#### \$250,000 +

#### Anonymous

Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation

The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation

#### \$249,999 - \$100,000

3M Sharon and Randal Cochrane **McKnight Foundation** 

#### \$99,999 - \$50,000

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#### \$49,999 - \$25,000

An Anonymous Fund of Headwaters Foundation for Justice

Anonymous

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**Bergerson Family** Foundation

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#### \$24.999 - \$10.000

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**Community Fund** 

Marsden Holding LLC Old National Bank

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#### \$9.999 - \$5.000

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Anonymous (3)

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#### \$2.499 - \$1.000

A donor advised fund of the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation

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American Immigration Lawyers Association MN-DAK (AILA)

An Anonymous Fund of The Minneapolis Foundation

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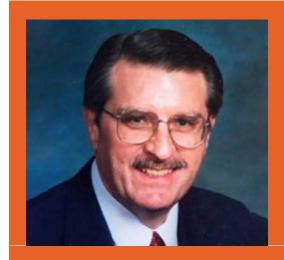
**Raymond Willis** 

#### \$999 - \$500

Advance Consulting LLC Karen Alexander Altrusa International Foundation of Saint Paul Matthew Ambrose The Andrew Litecky Fund Kelsey and Aaron Ankeny Anonymous (20) Mary and Kevin Barton Sarah and Mick Bauer Eileen Baumgartner Thomas Bergum Bernice L. Schapiro Shafer Fund David Blascyk Marge and Steve Braden Marit Brock Jaime Chismar and Brian Seebacher Christ the King Lutheran Church Janet Ciegler Jeremy Clain Peggy and David Cochrane Gina and Brian Corcoran Kathleen and Charles Coskran Cathy and Chris Crosby-Schmidt The Dante Moreira Gilbert Fund Elaine De Franco Olson and Eric Olson Richard DeBeau and Doris Walker Philip Delphey Françoise Denis

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Thank you to those who contributed in memory of Robert Hoyle, who served as the Institute's Executive Director 1970-2005.

Katie Scholz

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To see a complete list of donors and tribute and memorial gifts, visit impact.iimn.org. After I move here, I don't know how to begin. I appreciate teacher and International Institute of Minnesota because teacher help me to live here and have a good job.

- Thuan, English student and a graduate of the Institute's Dietary Aide and Professional Leadership trainings

#### GOVERNMENT GRANTS

The following governmental entities and program partners issued grants or contracts to the International Institute of Minnesota from October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022.

Heartland Care Services

Local Initiatives Support Corporation

Minnesota Council of Churches

Minnesota Department of Education

Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

Minnesota Department of Health

Minnesota Department of Human Services

Minnesota State

NORC at the University of Chicago

Saint Paul Community Literacy Consortium

U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

U.S. Department of Justice

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Thank you to retired 2022 board directors, Dave DePaepe and Maggie Habashy.

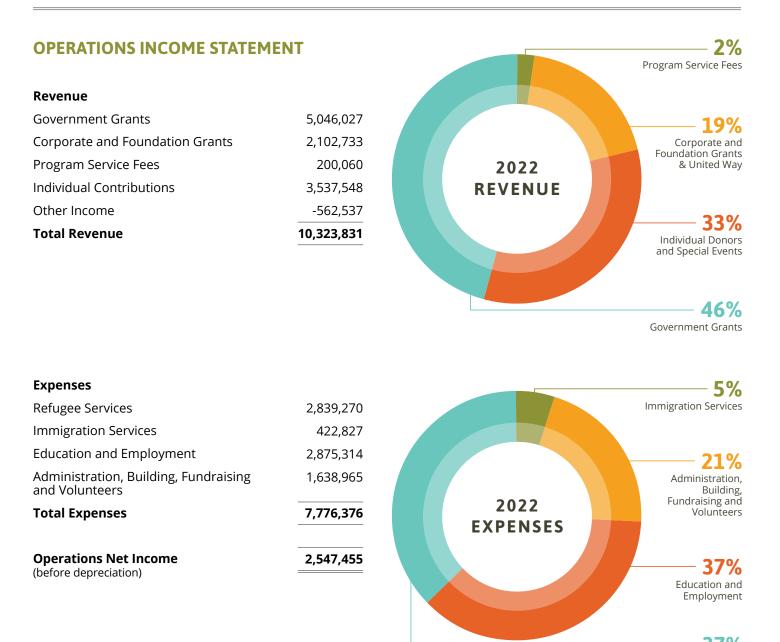
## **2022 FINANCIALS** OCTOBER 2021 - SEPTEMBER 2022

#### **BALANCE SHEET**

Operations Current Assets	7,006,179
Unemployment Services Trust	26,931
Investments	2,033,874
Property, Equipment, Land	11,978,263
Total Assets	21,045,247

\*In March 2022, the Institute moved into its new \$13 million building. This new asset will depreciate over time.

Total Liabilities	3,199,566
Net Assets	
Fund Balance - Without Donor Restriction	12,344,801
Fund Balance - Without Donor Restriction - Board Designated	1,977,900
Fund Balance - With Donor Restriction	3,522,980
Total Net Assets	17,845,681*
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	21,045,247





Your extraordinary response to the arrival of Afghan families allowed the Institute to address their most urgent needs: affordable housing, employment, securing vital immigration documents and so much more. Now, these families work every day to rebuild their lives and contribute to their new communities. Your support makes it possible for us to provide essential programs and services for their next steps, such as employment advancement, financial advising and higher education preparation. Thank you.

# FIND MORE STORIES AND INFORMATION AT: IMPACT.IIMN.ORG

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