



2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Refugee Dream Center

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword	01
Our Mission & Vision	02
Programs	03
Advocacy	04
Our Impact	05
Community Engagement	06
World Refugee Day	07
Youth Empowerment	08-09
Intercultural Women Ambassadors	10-11
Impact Stories	12-16
FY'22 Financial Report	17
Partnerships and Collaboration	18
Our Supporters	19
How Can You Help?	20
Thank You	21

Foreword



Refugee Dream Center

Refugee Dream Center (RDC) in Providence, RI is a post-resettlement refugee organization committed to providing vital support to the local refugee community. Our primary focus is to ensure the continuity of services that aid in their journey towards self-sufficiency and integration into their new home. By targeting our services specifically to refugees, we aim to bridge the gaps in support that often lead to difficulties in their integration into American society.

These service gaps can result in various challenges, including poor mental health, limited employment opportunities due to language barriers, inadequate English proficiency, acculturation gaps, limited access to healthcare and knowledge, and diminished prospects for higher education, particularly among youth. To address these critical needs, the Refugee Dream Center offers a comprehensive array of programmatic offerings.

Teddi Jallow

Co-founder and Executive Director
Refugee Dream Center



Teddi Jallow “

As the Executive Director of the Refugee Dream Center, our mission is to provide a sense of family and support to those who have been displaced from their homes. We understand that family may be far away, but we strive to create a welcoming and inclusive community where refugees can find solace, resources, and opportunities to rebuild their lives.

”

MISSION & VISION

MISSION

Refugee Dream Center (RDC) is a post-resettlement refugee agency. Our approach includes offering services to fill gaps in refugee resettlement, while also providing continuation of services to ensure refugee self-reliance and self-sufficiency. We offer direct services in the areas of adult education, employment, legal, case management services, youth support services, health promotion, language and access services, psychosocial support, food distribution, housing, and cash assistance to refugees. RDC is also a strong advocacy agency for the rights of refugees.

VISION

Refugee Dream Center is a common venue for community engagement, cultural exchange, and a home away from home for refugees. It is a place for caring, self-help, healing, personal and professional development, and a venue for empowerment, strengths cultivation, and accompaniment toward success.



Programs

We operate four core programs: Adult Education, Health Promotion, Youth Programs, and Case Management

Health Promotion

- Journey-to-health
- Family Matters
- Health home visits and lead safety awareness
- Psychosocial support services

Youth Program

- City Youth Employment
- Youth Soccer League
- Homework Helpers
- Afghani Youth Adjustment Support
- Refugee Youth Dream
- Youth Domestic Violence Prevention Project
- Dream Leaders Project
- Scholarships

Adult Education

- English (ESL) Classes
- Job Club
- Financial Literacy
- Computer Literacy
- Citizenship Classes

Case Management

- Intercultural Women's Ambassadors Project
- Domestic Violence Project
- Breaking Barriers
- Advocacy
- Cultural Awareness Training
- Interpreter services
- Immigration assistance
- Housing assistance
- Food distribution
- Rental assistance
- Cash assistance
- Housing access
- Utilities assistance
- Transportation assistance
- Job Placement



Advocacy



The Refugee Dream Center also advocates for refugee women's rights, employment opportunities, access to resources, disability rights, spousal rights, legal and immigration support, children's rights, tenant rights, and improved health access.



Our Impact

4800

Total interpreting hours of community members assisted

336

Community members recieved health promotion services

60

Community members attended ESL classes

170

Families served in our lead safety program

2,400

Community Members assisted in 2022

400

Total Families Served

4800

Total hours served to comuunity members

1200

Homevisits to refugee homes

Community Engagement

Events

Refugee Dream Center successfully hosted a series of programs and events, including the prominent World Refugee Day celebration held on June 18th, 2022, bringing together refugees and non-refugees to celebrate our community members and foster a deeper connection and understanding between them.

World Refugee Day

500

People in attendance

13

Represented countries in offered cultural dishes

7

Vendor Categories: African apparel, handcrafted items, fresh vegetables, hair braiding, henna, paintings, education materials

5

Forms of entertainment--- poetry, singing, cultural dances, DJ

World Refugee Day annual event organized by the Refugee Dream Center encompassed a vibrant celebration of refugees, individuals who have been forced to leave their homes due to various challenging circumstances such as war, violence, and persecution. With over 300 clients served annually from 19 countries of origin, our linguistic diversity continues to expand as we enhance accessibility for Providence's refugee population. This annual event provides a unique opportunity for all refugees in Rhode Island to come together, celebrate their diverse cultures, and enjoy culturally-specific foods offered free of charge, fostering unity and appreciation for their respective backgrounds.



Youth Empowerment

Through our Youth Domestic Violence program, we successfully provided comprehensive training to a cohort of 20 youth, educating them about domestic violence, its generational cycle, and preventive measures. Recognizing the diverse cultural norms and varying relationships with law enforcement across the world, our program specifically focused on raising awareness among these youth community members about domestic violence within the United States.

In our commitment to promoting physical health and fostering a sense of community, we organized a soccer event where 40 refugee youth actively participated. Renowned figures, Dr. Omar Bah and youth leader Night Jean Muhingabo, joined the event, providing inspiration and guidance to the young participants. This event served as an engaging platform for both physical activity and community building.





Youth Empowerment

Our academic support mentorship program for youth community members successfully engaged 30 participants, comprising 15 refugee community members and 15 volunteers from esteemed educational institutions such as the Moses Brown School and The Wheeler School. Through this program, we provided valuable guidance and assistance to enhance the academic development and success of the participating youth.

Scholarships

40K

Awarded by us to youth community members in scholarship money



220K

Awarded to youth members in outside scholarship money in 2022





Intercultural Women Ambassadors

In this project, we brought together a group of 6 Afghani women and 6 American women to create a designated space that promotes culture-sharing, friendship-building, and awareness of available resources and entertainment options. The primary objective is to empower women and reduce feelings of isolation, providing a supportive environment where they can connect, learn from each other, and gain a sense of empowerment.

American Women

- Exposed to global cultures
- Enables them to expand their understanding of different populations
- Cultural attunement
- Embrace diversity
- Fulfill community service needs
- Become advocates for the cause of refugees and human rights

Leadership
Women's health awareness
Positive environment
Have a voice in the community
Fostering community unity
Increasing awareness about refugees
Promoting acceptance of refugees
Storytelling skills
Mutual learning between cultures
Public speaking skills

Refugee Women

- Mental health
- Women's health
- Trauma intervention
- Resilience-building
- Help integrate into American society
- Improve English language skills
- Build storytelling skills
- Encourage self-sufficiency and independence
- Job acquisition and maintenance





Intercultural Women Ambassadors

During the project, the USA women involved gained a deeper understanding of Afghani culture and formed close connections with the Afghan women and their children, fostering a bridge and rapport between the two communities. Over time, the language barrier became less significant as these women bonded through a variety of activities, including outings to the zoo and other parts of Rhode Island, grocery shopping, clothing shopping, and engaging in events like a beach scavenger hunt.

Simultaneously, the Afghan women were able to achieve many of their goals. At the project's inception, a survey revealed that most participants aspired to secure employment and pursue higher education. Throughout the project, they had access to lessons on various topics, including the American healthcare system, the English language, financial literacy, and the history of the USA and Rhode Island. Furthermore, they had the opportunity to form strong bonds with one another during events featuring dancing and food.

Service Activities:

- Learning about the American Healthcare system
- English Language courses
- Financial Literacy
- Learning about USA/Rhode Island History

Bonding activities:

- Going to the zoo
- Going shopping
- Scavenger hunt



Impact Stories

Fanta Cissé

Community Member From: Mali

Fanta Cissé arrived in the United States from Mali on May 2, 2019 almost four years ago. She first walked into the Refugee Dream Center (RDC) two years ago, two years after arriving in the U.S. She came to know of the RDC through a friend of hers. She arrived at the Center unable to speak English which led her to join our English classes. Like many refugees, Fanta struggled with integrating and navigating the intricacies of the U.S. governmental and social systems without knowing the English language. Fast forward to 2023, Fanta is now able to communicate well in English. When asked how the RDC English classes have helped her, she said “I understand a lot of English now and I go shopping by myself”. Her increased knowledge of the English language afforded her the ability to go shopping and run errands without much assistance. As a direct result of the English classes, she is able to navigate her daily life with more ease and communicate her needs. In addition, with the help of the RDC case workers, Fanta was able to find a job. When asked about what she was grateful for, Fanta expressed joyfully about how much she loves the Refugee Dream Center and the positive impact the Center has in the community. She also added that she likes how helpful the staff is whenever she or other community members come into the office. Fanta continues to attend our in-person English classes dedicated to improving her English language skills and working towards self-sufficiency.



Impact Stories

Ahmed Bahadori

Community Member From: Afghanistan

Hamed migrated to America at the end of 2021 from Afghanistan. Hamed was really persistent in having a position in a healthcare facility. He wanted to gear a position in his interests so he could grow into a career he was interested in. Hamed said RDC helped me throughout the whole process from beginning to end.” He described the process as “simple and very helpful.” Hamed described the process by first creating a resume. He mentioned the strong efforts RDC put into helping him get a job in Rhode Island Hospital by continuously calling to look for open positions. He also said that he was assisted with the process of preparing for the interview and was also accompanied in his interview. Once offered the position he mentioned RDC helped with the complete onboarding process and even accompanied to receive a tour of Rhode Island Hospital. Hamed said “ he is grateful for the RDC to take him in and really help him to integrate into America as seamlessly as possible.” “This has been such an amazing experience. Everyone was really nice. Everyone at RDC treated me like a friend/family and made America feel like home.”



Impact Stories

Mohammad Reza Jalali

Youth Community Member From: Afghanistan

Mohammad arrived in the United States in 2016 from Afghanistan. Only one year later, in 2017, he became a youth community member at the Refugee Dream Center. When he first arrived Mohammad was shy and dealt with anxiety. He found it challenging to learn English and as a result struggled to make friends. However, things improved for him once he joined RDC's youth program. When asked about it, Mohammed said "The refugee youth program has been such an amazing program. It helped me with struggles such as meeting new friends and improving my English." Mohammad also appointed David Cicilline as a mentor to guide him in any of his future endeavors. Mohammed is grateful to be here in America, where he has a safe environment. He said, "I have been able to grow so much here in America, and even though at first I felt like a stranger, now things in America feel like home."



Impact Stories

Seynabou Dioum

Community Member From: Senegal

Seynabou first migrated to the United States in 1996 from Senegal. During her time here, she has acclimated to American culture and has been able to establish a new life. Seynabou is a single mother of four. During her time here she immersed herself into a new career as a certified nursing assistant. When Covid-19 hit, her life was turned upside down when she lost her job. With rent increasing and the rising cost of goods, she shifted focus and began catering and selling dishes from home. Even while working, rent was still too much to afford and she was served an eviction notice. She searched for help and her sister was able to refer her to the Refugee Dream Center. Her sister had heard of the amazing things they have done for the refugee community, and she thought they could help. She listened to her sister's advice and came to the RDC. While here, she opened up to Teddi Jallow the executive director and shared her poignant story. Teddi knew the RDC needed to help her; she granted her \$4,500 and accompanied her in court to deal with her eviction. She was so relieved when Teddi told her she could help. She mentioned that she is "so grateful for having [her] family to have surrounded [her] with during such a difficult time in my life," and she is happy she can still provide a home for them. She also said, "I am so thankful to the Refugee Dream Center for being able to support me in a very difficult time in my life and to continue to provide support with house supplies, and the assistance she was able to receive to help keep a roof over her family's head."



Impact Stories

Hassan Samatar

Community Member From: Somalia

When asked what his hopes and expectations are for his new life here, Hassan Samatar responded that his dream is to care for his children, have an education, and learn more English. Hassan came to the U.S. as a refugee from Somalia. He had initial difficulty in getting adjusted to the customs and ways of living in the United States (including learning English) but has now found that living in U.S. has become normal. Amid challenges, he finds strength in going to the local mosque because he can pray, read the Quran, and speak to his friends at his place of worship. Navigating life in the United States made him and his family feel unwelcome at first when it came to shopping in the U.S., learning how to use the bus system, applying for social services, finding a place to live, and other unfamiliar activities and systems that refugees may encounter as they come into the U.S. With the moments of difficulty, there have also been sources of joy: all of his children are attending college at either University of Rhode Island or Community College of Rhode Island, attending English classes at the Refugee Dream Center, and gaining his United States citizenship two weeks ago. Hassan credits the RDC for helping him adjust in multiple aspects, providing him services like citizenship preparation, legal fees, paperwork, case management, and English classes. Of the programs run by the RDC, Hassan both appreciated and learned from the English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. Now that he is a United States citizen, Hassan hopes to continue to learn English, buy a house and car, and have his children finish school.



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022

CATEGORY

TOTAL

REVENUE

\$

A. Contributions and grants of cash and financial assets:	A. \$\$ 1,735,293
B. Contributions of non financial assets:	B. \$19,895
C. Total revenue	C. \$1,755,188

EXPENSES

\$

A. Payroll:	A. \$605,770
B. Payroll Taxes:	B. \$57,414
C. Employee Benefits:	C. \$47,641
D. Depreciation:	D. \$34,364
E. Food, supplies, and financial assistance:	E. \$113,526
F. Housing repairs:	F. \$30,364
G. Immigration and legal assistance:	G. \$22,862
H. Insurance:	H. \$16,036
I. Interest:	I. \$4,386
J. Meals and events:	J. \$37,775
K. Occupancy:	K. \$32,098
L. Office supplies and expenses:	L. \$33,743
M. Professional fees	M. \$24,357
N. Provision for bad debts:	N. \$14,072
O. Rental assistance:	O. \$68,688
P. Research:	P. \$9,700
Q. Scholarships and student assistance:	Q. \$60,340
R. Travel and travel assistance:	R. \$53,355
S. Youth camp and integration assistance:	S. \$125,501

NET INCOME

\$

A. Change in Net Assets	A. \$363,521
B. Net Assets at Beginning of Year	B. \$ 364,021
C. End of Year	C. \$ 727,542

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

We thank you for your continued support in our efforts!

University of Rhode Island
Brown University
Rhode Island College
Community College of Rhode
Island
Moses Brown
The Wheeler School
Dorcas International Institute of
Rhode Island
Genesis Center
United Way of Rhode Island
CARE New England
Tufts Health Plan
Islamic Relief USA
Wildflour Bakery
Lifespan
Beautiful Day Granola Company
Falvey Linen Supply
New Bridges for Haitian Success
Rhode Island Department of Health
Randstad
Greystone Inc
Edesia
Zoll Bio Detech
Beautiful Day

Employment 2000 Staffing Agency
OCA-PSGAO
HEZ-CP
Strategic Help Initiative
Rhode Island Foundation
DLT
RICADV
Nellie Mae Education Foundation
The Champlin Foundation
IRUSA
DLT
TUFTS
The Buckler Family Giving Fund
DHS
Fidelity Charitable
United Way
City of Providence
RI Community Food Bank
EPA
Mentor RI
RIDE
RIDOH
RICADV
HW Staffing Company
Lacerta Group LLC
Community Living of RI
Greenkiss staffing agency
Fayette Janitorial
FAD Servicing
Tiffany & Co

OUR SUPPORTERS

We thank you for your continued support in our efforts!

Emily Goldstein
Laura Twichell
Andrew Kanter
Jeff Levy
Noelle Harvey
Wendy Farr
Ben Hanbury-Aggs
Sean Carlson
Athru Urbano
Amanda Gray
Bill and Stephanie Mott
Catherine & Mike Zarra
Claire Davis
Blair Hundertmark
Anthony Chang
Ed and Kate O'Connor-Giles
Olivia Van Dyke
Sarah Summers
Bill and Stephanie Mott
Carolyn Mark
Julia Ramsey
Brett Smiley
Margaret MacDowell
Andrew Schrank & Aeron Hunt
Karen M Wright
Fadya El Rayess & Deborah Kutenplon
Elizabeth T. Toll and Adam Pallant
Roberta Buttler & Abbott Ikeler
Paula C. Sager & Jeremy S. Sager
Sarah Summers
Sally Rotenberg
Carolyn Mark
Julia Ramsey
Brett Smiley
Margaret MacDowell
Andrew Schrank & Aeron Hunt
Karen M Wright
Fadya El Rayess & Deborah Kutenplon
Elizabeth T. Toll and Adam Pallant
Roberta Buttler & Abbott Ikeler
Anna Cable
Emily Goldstein
Marco Cross
David Polatty
Elisabeth Zweig
Allison Evans
Mary Curtin
Samuel Perry
ane A Desforges
Tina Tryforos
Ariana Wohl
Kate Gillis
Ora Wry
Andrew Kanter

Anna Cable
Emily Goldstein
Melissa McCullough
Jay Coogan
Rebecca Maxfield
Nancy WOLANSKI
Joshua Howell
Halley Lavenstein
SASOARES (Sylvia Soares)
Jane Arnold
Halley Lavenstein
Jane kaufman
Anna Cable
Jane kaufman
Nirmal Parikh
Jocelyn Bell
Bahati Nkera
Alexis Kellogg
Bethany Baker
Sarah Summers
Merrill Thomas
Jill Moretti
Zachary Albert
Sarah Summers
Vanessa Hamer
Bethany Baker
Sarah Summers
Caroline Rosenbaum
Alexi Widoff
Emily Goldstein
Terry Tullis and Connie
Worthington
Feibelman Family Fund
Allison DeGerlia
Seer Interactive
Sharon Daniels Sullivan
Jeannine Casselman
Claudia Gregoire
Alexis Burwell
Nina Waisman
Jane Kaufman
Kate Hanley
Jen & Sarah Stevens
Deborah Kopech
Amy Karageorgos
Rebecca Maxfield
Samantha Sekar
Carol Lewis
Jeanne Ernest
Anisa Raof
Taylor Polites
Gregg Thomas
Donna & Joe Baer
Erin Myles

West End Community Center/ Denise Greene
Jenny Lohmeier/ FBI Boston
Mira Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee
Advocacy Coalition/ Javier Juarez
Michele Seyler
Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island
First Unitarian Church
Lura Friend
Jewish Community Day School RI
Head of School
Sabrina Gonzalez and Luyao Lei
Filicia Doughty
Maisie Mc Adams/ Barrington High School
Dennis Hermida Gonzalez/ Community Health
Worker Supervisor
Moses Brown School
LaSalle School
Anna Block from Wheeler School
Elias Bilal
Students of the Rocky Hill Country Day School
Eldon and Christina McClure
Alli-Michelle Conti, Sam Aguirre, and Matteo
Vinoben
Goodwill/ "The Check Claimers"
Kathryn della Bitta
Melanie Borges
Kimberly Bose
Jennifer Bose
Bigger Dream Box (by sisters Barrett and
Brittan)
Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island
Sue Nagy
Kate Gillis
Shahista Whooley
Meg Fifer from Moses Brown School
karla Boudreaukj
Angelica Tyso
Pineyro Services LLC
Susan feeley
Shawn Kerachsky
Brown University
Moses Brown School
The Rashi School
Eastern Bank
BankNewport
Network for Good
Stop & Shop
The Beacon Mutual Insurance Company
Benevity Portal
Shaws Give Back
Phillips Memorial Baptist Church
David Karoff
Joanna and Frank Detz and Carini

How Can You Help?

Donate!

Visit our website at:
www.refugeedreamcenter.org/make-a-donation

For in-kind donations, please email:
info@refugeedreamcenter.org

Volunteer!

Your time and effort would be greatly appreciated!

If interested, please send volunteer inquiries to:
volunteer.refugeedreamcenter@gmail.com

Interact With Us!

Sign up for our newsletter today at:
www.refugeedreamcenter.org

Follow us on social media for the latest updates!



@refugeedreamcenter



facebook.com/refugeedreamcenter



@RefugeeDream



Refugee Dream Center

Thank You



Through your support, we have been able to expand our educational programs, including language classes, vocational training, and mentorship opportunities, equipping refugees with the skills and knowledge they need for successful integration into their new communities.

Furthermore, your dedication to the well-being of refugees is evident in the mental health and psychosocial support services we have been able to provide. From counseling and therapy sessions to trauma-informed care, your contributions have helped refugees heal, regain confidence, and move forward with resilience. Your support has also fostered community integration, facilitating connections, promoting cultural exchange, and creating a sense of belonging for refugees and the wider community.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without your belief in our mission and your willingness to stand with us. Your generosity has brought hope, empowerment, and a renewed sense of purpose to the lives of refugees. Thank you for your unwavering support and for being a driving force in our journey towards creating a more compassionate and inclusive world.