WE WARMLY THANK ALL OUR DONORS AND PARTNERS.
A COMPLETE LIST OF DONORS CAN BE FOUND AT REFUGEEONE.ORG/ANNUAL-REPORTS.
DEAR FRIENDS,

For decades, refugee resettlement has been a proud American tradition.

Ever since the nation’s first refugees landed at Plymouth Rock on November 11, 1620, millions of refugees and immigrants have embraced the dream of coming to these shores for freedom and a chance to build a better future.

Today, we are faced with a humanitarian crisis of epic proportion. More than 68.5 million people have been forced from their homes worldwide. Meanwhile, the United States has steadily reduced the number of refugees entering the country.

Despite these challenges, you chose to give.

You gave of your time, tirelessly welcoming 175 refugees as they continued to arrive every month and helping hundreds more who arrived in recent years.

You gave of your talents, finding creative ways to help refugees learn English, find better jobs, and succeed in school.

And you gave of your resources, ensuring those fleeing violence and persecution have what’s necessary to thrive as new Americans.

Thanks to your support, we’re now serving refugees for up to 5 years and in new, creative ways. Inside this report, you’ll learn how we’ve extended our services for teens like Mamayan and developed initiatives such as our vocational Sewing Studio to help refugees like Afrah develop skills and find good work.

You’ll also find an opportunity to advocate for refugees. By mailing the enclosed postcard, you can urge policymakers to ensure the U.S. remains a place of welcome.

As a refugee myself, I know your entire universe can fall apart at a moment’s notice. More importantly, I know it is the people around you who give you the strength to carry on.

Thank you for being a source of that strength.

Melineh Kano,
Executive Director
Resettled by RefugeeOne in 1984
YOUR IMPACT

ARRIVALS
175 NEW REFUGEE ARRIVALS
13 COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN
- BURMA
- AFGHANISTAN
- CONGO
- UKRAINE
- IRAQ
2,413 REFUGEES RESETTLED IN THE PAST 5 YEARS

EMPLOYMENT
288 JOBS SECURED FOR REFUGEES AT LOCAL BUSINESSES
$11.87 AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE
145 ATTENDED ENGLISH CLASSES

YOUTH
534 CHILDREN RECEIVED ACADEMIC SUPPORT, EDUCATIONAL ADVOCACY, AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
OF 170 CHILDREN IN OUR AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM
77% IMPROVED IN ENGLISH

WELLNESS
140 ADULTS
83 YOUTH
RECEIVED THERAPEUTIC SERVICES
73% OF ADULTS REPORTED AN IMPROVEMENT IN THEIR MENTAL HEALTH

IMMIGRATION
448 PEOPLE BECAME AMERICAN CITIZENS OR LEGAL PERMANENT RESIDENTS

GET INVOLVED!
1 DONATE: Your financial gifts help refugees in Chicago rebuild their lives. Help ensure they have what they need.
2 VOLUNTEER: Walk alongside refugees as a teacher and friend. Sign up to co-sponsor a family, tutor a child, mentor an adult, or volunteer in our office or English classrooms.
3 HIRE A REFUGEE: Refugees are driven to succeed. Allow us to refer qualified candidates for your job openings.
4 ADVOCATE: Raise your voice in support of refugees. Mail the enclosed postcard and call your elected leaders to express support for refugee resettlement.
MAMAYAN, REFUGEE FROM LIBERIA, CHICAGOAN SINCE 2013 | LEAH, VOLUNTEER TUTOR

Mamayan was 10 years old when she arrived in Chicago with her grandmother in 2013 after more than 5 years in a refugee camp.

Although she arrived speaking little English, Mamayan was extremely bright and driven to learn. In 2015, RefugeeOne introduced her to a volunteer tutor named Leah. Little did they know they were about to embark on a journey that would change both of their lives forever.

Leah quickly noticed Mamayan’s natural intelligence and curiosity. When they went to the library for the first time, Mamayan lit up with excitement. Every week, she would check out 2 or 3 books and finish them before her next meeting with Leah, all while taking care of her younger cousins while her grandmother worked.

RefugeeOne’s after-school program provided Mamayan with extra academic support and a chance to connect with other youth. She now volunteers at the program, helping other refugee children adjust to their new lives, and attends RefugeeOne’s new program for refugee teens, which was piloted this year.

By the end of 8th grade, Mamayan was ahead of her classes in many subjects. She was even the valedictorian of her middle school and went to the ceremony wearing traditional Liberian clothing.

Leah, a graduate of University of Chicago, also helped Mamayan apply to the university’s prestigious Collegiate Scholars Program, where she could take classes from college professors and prepare for higher education. She wrote a powerful application essay and was accepted as one of the top students in her class.

“It’s amazing to have role model like Leah to remind me I can do great things,” said Mamayan. “It’s grown from a mentorship into a true friendship. I am grateful RefugeeOne introduced us. We make a perfect pair.”

Today, Mamayan is a sophomore at Chicago Math and Science Academy, a charter school where RefugeeOne helped her enroll. She’s taking 2 AP classes, runs track, and is a member of National Honor Society.

She and Leah meet every week. Leah hopes to continue making Mamayan aware of opportunities that exist in the city and encourage her to reach her full potential.

As for Mamayan, she has her sights set on furthering her education.

“I want to go to medical school and become a surgeon,” she said. “My dream is the University of Chicago.”
Although refugees arrive in the U.S. with little more than the contents of their suitcases, they also bring with them experiences and skills from the life they left behind.

For Afrah, a refugee from Iraq who arrived in 2015 with her husband and six children, those skills include her ability to sew. Afrah’s father died when she was very young, so she grew up watching her mother sew for a living.

From an early age, Afrah was fascinated by her mother’s abilities and determined to follow in her footsteps. By the time she was 13, she was making her own clothing. At 22, she was working in a custom-made shop, sewing everything from menswear to wedding gowns.

When RefugeeOne launched its vocational sewing program this year for refugees throughout Chicago, Afrah was one of the first women to enroll.

The Sewing Studio is one example of how your support is creating new initiatives to help refugees progress, even years after they arrive. The studio, which offers beginner and advanced courses, provides refugees with an opportunity to develop marketable job skills, build a social network, and ultimately earn income from home.

Throughout the 12-week advanced Professional Alterations course, Afrah worked alongside 9 other women from 5 different countries.

“I loved everything about the classes,” said Afrah. “I gained advanced skills on industrial machines, learned the English words for my trade, and made a lot of new friends. After graduation, I missed being in the studio with the rest of my class.”

Today, Afrah is proud to use the techniques she developed at RefugeeOne’s Sewing Studio to make handcrafted children’s teepees at Teepee Joy, a local business that has hired 3 of our program’s graduates.
AUDITED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES:
JULY 1, 2017 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2018

SOURCE OF FUNDS

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<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Source of Funds</th>
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<td>39%</td>
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<td>27%</td>
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TOTAL $3,737,603

USE OF FUNDS

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<td>10%</td>
<td>Fundraising</td>
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TOTAL $3,324,265

Full financials are available upon request by contacting our office. Surplus, which includes temporarily restricted grants for FY2019, will be used to maintain infrastructure and offset more than $1,000,000 loss in government funding.

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