



**Friends
of Refugees**



**BE
A
Friend**

**2022
ANNUAL
REPORT**



Our Pillars of **SUCCESS**

New Americans arrive in the US with talents, gifts, and the desire to see their families experience abundant life in a flourishing community. To help them achieve their goals, we come alongside as friends—with holistic, integrative initiatives that cluster around three main pillars.

HEALTH & WELL-BEING

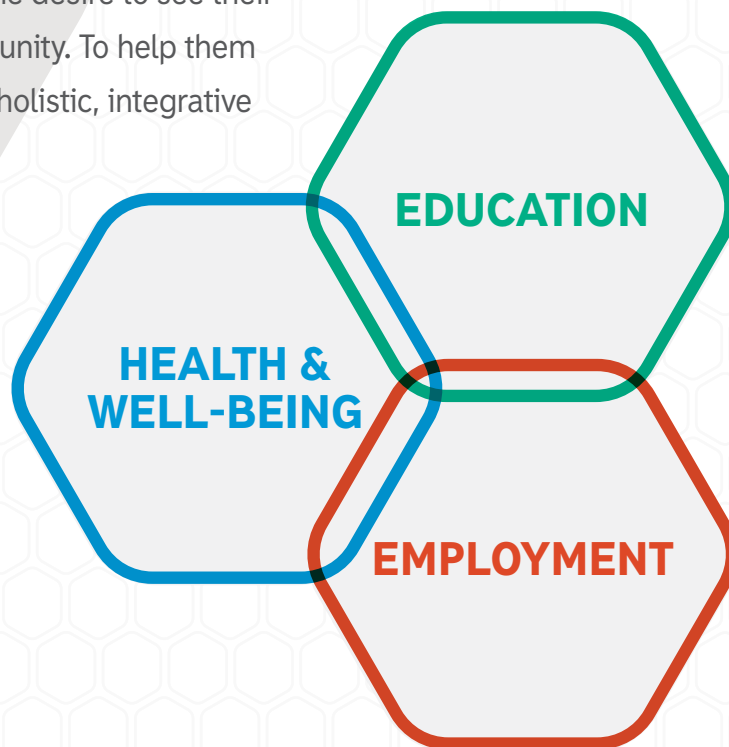
- Jolly Avenue Garden
- Embrace

EDUCATION

- Refugee Family Literacy
- Summer Youth Experience (SYE)

EMPLOYMENT

- Start:ME
- Refugee Family Literacy (RFL)
- Embrace
- Growing Leaders at Jolly Avenue Garden



HEALTH & WELL-BEING

We provide environments where people are free to contribute not only to their own well-being, but also to the well-being of their families, neighbors and communities.

" Part of the garden is growing vegetables that go to feed families. This is important.
The other part is that people from different countries come together and make new friends.

I think that's really important work. "

- Boi, Growing Leader at the Jolly Avenue Garden

256

HOURS OF
HEALTHY MOM
EDUCATION
CLASSES

114

BABIES BORN
THROUGH EMBRACE

226

PEOPLE SERVED
THROUGH
GARDEN PLOTS



EDUCATION

We have seen what happens when women and children receive foundational education: the entire family thrives for generations to come!

7 WEEKS DURATION FOR SUMMER YOUTH EXPERIENCE

17 MOTHERS ENROLLED IN ESOL DURING SUMMER YOUTH EXPERIENCE

123 MOTHERS SERVED DURING RFL

272 KIDS IMPACTED DURING SUMMER YOUTH EXPERIENCE AND RFL



"Over the summer, I was so moved by the enthusiasm of women in the ESOL class. They had so much determination and energy for learning.

These are strong, intelligent women, and they should not be underestimated."

- Lizzie,
Summer ESOL Class Volunteer

EMPLOYMENT

We empower refugees and immigrants by providing employment opportunities through career relevant certification, continued education, and social & professional networking events.

"I have so much confidence in owning my own business."

I love being my own boss, and what I like the most is making my customers happy. Seeing them happy on a special day makes me smile. It's a way of serving them."



- Semira, Alumna of Start:ME Atlanta
and Owner of Cakes by Semira

55%

FRIENDS OF REFUGEES STAFF ARE NEW AMERICANS

EMPLOYMENT STATS

12

COUNTRIES REPRESENTED BY FRIENDS OF REFUGEES STAFF

15

ENTREPRENEURS IN START:ME

8

HIGH SCHOOLERS EMPLOYED AS GROWING LEADERS

11

ALUMNI OF RFL WHO ARE NOW TEACHERS OF THE PROGRAM



Hasina's STORY



"Working for Friends of Refugees is my first job in America. It was a big challenge, since the work with Embrace Refugee Birth is very different from what I studied in Kabul. Luckily, I am a fast learner."

Hasina Ajeer has a Master's Degree in Business Administration. For ten years, she had worked in Finance and Management at various universities. Then, the US's exit from Afghanistan threw her world into chaos. She arrived in the US in December of 2021.

By June of the following year, she was serving as a Program Impact Associate and Afghan Community Liaison. "She jumped right in," says Virginia Tester, Director of Embrace. "Within a month, she was helping to teach classes and host baby showers for refugee women at the newly renovated Hospitality House. She even figured out a new way of accessing transportation for women without cars."

"We all help each other and teach each other on the team," laughs Hasina. "I taught them about transportation, Aku taught me about postpartum. Mu Naw taught me about accessing family services. We are all just working together to help these women, and sharing our culture along the way," she says.

Forming new friendships has been key to her sense of community in the US. She explains, "I have many friends, including two American women. We have coffee, we share food. When I feel tired and lonely, they encourage me."

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

Pattie Baker



"I am not a gardener.

I am a person working on resilience."

Pattie Baker is a second generation American and one of the many friends who gave their time to help New Americans flourish last year.

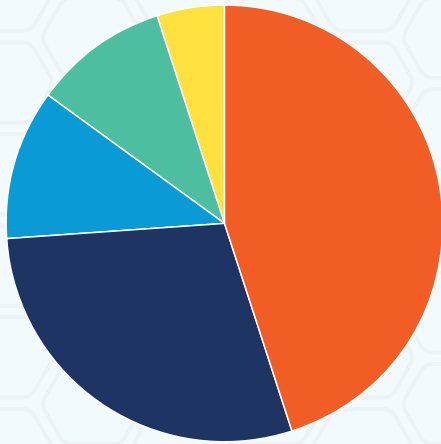
She came to the Jolly Avenue Garden with the simple desire to be a friend to fellow gardeners. For Pattie, this meant creating "revival gardens," or enriching garden plots to make them more fertile. A productive plot means more food for a family!

Over the course of eighteen months, Pattie was dedicated to creating revival gardens in our Clarkston community.

"The generosity and hospitality of the other gardeners has deeply inspired me," she says.

FRIENDS OF REFUGEES

2022 Funding



45% INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

29% FOUNDATION & NPO GRANTS

11% RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

10% OTHER SOURCES

5% CORPORATIONS

.....
1.9 MILLION
IN REVENUE



Get inspired by some of the amazing partner contributions from this past year!

CHRISTMAS STORE

All Souls Fellowship was one of many groups who hosted crafts and games for almost 200 kids while their parents shopped for winter clothing, toys, and educational supplies.

MADISON AVENUE SOAPBOX DERBY

The neighborhood organizers of the event chose Friends of Refugees to receive the proceeds of their annual fundraiser... and they invited us to join the race!



REFUGEE FAMILY LITERACY VOLUNTEER

A longtime partner and volunteer, Marilyn serves each week at RFL.



SOUTHFACE

Energy experts at the Southface Institute, with a grant from their GoodUse program, helped us renovate our Hospitality House and other spaces, drastically lowering our utility bills.



SUMMER YOUTH EXPERIENCE

SYE is possible because of our partners who volunteer, supply lunches, sponsor activities and host events.



Thank you!

We're grateful for all our partners and sponsors across the Atlanta area and beyond.

Atlanta Botanical Gardens

Atlanta Foundation

Betty and Davis Fitzgerald Foundation

CDC Foundation

Direct Relief

Helping Mamas

International Rescue Committee

John and Mary Franklin Foundation, Inc.

Madison Avenue Soapbox Derby

Mary Allen Lindsey Branan Foundation

May P. and Francis L. Abreu Charitable Trust

North Point Ministries, Inc.

Passion City Church

Perimeter Church, inc.

Purisolve

Sandell Ministries, Inc

Scott Hudgens Family Foundation, Inc

The Creature Comforts Gets Comfortable

Fund at the Athens Area

Community Foundation

All Souls Fellowship

American Family Insurance

Dreams Foundation

Atlanta Jewish Foundation

Autodesk Foundation

Brookhaven Presbyterian Church

Catholic Foundation of North GA

Christ Church Presbyterian

City Church Eastside, Inc.

Clarkston Early Learning Task Force

Compost Now

Concrete Jungle

CrossFit Liminal

Decatur City Church

Dollar General Literacy Foundation

Duluth First United Methodist Church, inc.

Eastminster Presbyterian Church

Edward R. Fisher Charitable Foundation

Emory Decatur Hospital

Emory University Rollins School

of Public Health

Emory University School of Nursing

Estee Lauder Companies

Ethne Health

Food Well Alliance

Georgia Power Foundation, Inc.

Georgia State University's Prevention

Research Center

Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies

Coalition of Georgia

Immanuel Anglican Church

Indian Creek Elementary School

Intown Community Church

Karis Community Church

Kairos Church

Memorial Drive Ministries

North Avenue Presbyterian Church

Northside United Methodist Church

Price Gilbert Jr Charitable Fund

Refugee Women's Network

Saint Luke's Presbyterian Church

Southface

Smoke Rise Baptist Church

The AEC Trust

The Community Foundation

for Greater Atlanta, Inc.

The Ray C. Anderson Foundation

Three Taverns Brewery

three



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