ReWA helped me understand the job application and interview process, and now I work at Kaiser Permanente.
— Joy, Pharmacy tech

When ReWA was founded 35 years ago, Washington was the destination for thousands of immigrants and refugees, mainly from Southeast Asia. Today, one in five King County residents was born abroad, and 80% of refugees come from five countries: The Democratic Republic of Congo, Myanmar, Ukraine, Eritrea and Afghanistan. Through it all, ReWA has transformed economic and social opportunities for immigrants and refugees settling in the Puget Sound region.

MISSION ReWA is a non-profit, multi-ethnic organization that promotes inclusion, independence, personal leadership, and strong communities by providing refugee and immigrant women and their families with culturally and linguistically appropriate services. ReWA advocates for social justice, public policy changes, and equal access to services while respecting cultural values and the right to self-determination.

2019 HIGHLIGHTS: ADAPTING & FLOURISHING

Early Learning Centers grow with the Seattle Preschool Program
In June 2019, ReWA opened three new classrooms in Rainier Valley as part of the Seattle Preschool Program. ReWA’s Early Learning Centers serve low-income immigrant and refugee families on Beacon Hill, Rainier Valley, and the Lake City location, which opened in late 2018.

Tackling homelessness by stabilizing family incomes
Thanks to a grant from the Day 1 Fund, ReWA staff helped professional workers with some higher education enroll in re-training and certification courses so they can find work in their fields and earn incomes that keep up with the cost of living.

Citizenship applications climb despite new barriers to naturalization
Despite barriers, such as rising application fees and interviews requiring travel to USCIS offices in Portland and Yakima, in 2019, ReWA helped 15% more applicants become U.S. citizens and receive green cards.

ReWA opens expanded offices in SeaTac
In June ReWA relocated to more expansive office space in SeaTac City Hall. This move builds bridges between our municipal partners and immigrant and refugee communities. In 2019, ReWA distributed $39,300 in municipal housing and utilities subsidies to low-income, immigrant and refugee communities in Federal Way, Renton and Tukwila.
IMPACT ACROSS GENERATIONS

In 2019, ReWA’s programs served 2,913 individuals who arrived to the Puget Sound as immigrants and refugees. The impact of these services reverberated across their families, reaching an estimated 12,000 persons.

EMPLOYMENT AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

812 clients attended job readiness training, had help with resume and interview preparation and job searches, with 457 individuals finding jobs in the hospitality industry, warehouse and logistics, drivers, homecare aides, assistant preschool teachers, and professional roles. After 90 days, 77% are still on the job, making an average wage of $15.41/hr.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Served 707 survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. ReWA provides access to emergency housing, counseling, employment, and social services. Our legal team helps with legal immigration services, protection orders and court appearances to help clients regain their lives.

LEARNING ENGLISH

226 adult English language learners attended year-round classes geared to making social connections and entering the job market.

YOUTH PROGRAM

403 children and youth attended after-school tutoring programs at three elementary schools and six high schools around King County. This is a 9% increase from 2018. ReWA also provides high school students with job readiness training, mentoring, and career exploration for post-secondary success. ReWA also engaged with 79 parents and guardians—most of whom were refugees—to support their children as they navigate the school system.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

204 individuals received trauma-informed, resiliency-based, licensed behavioral health counseling services. They are aged 17-81 and come from all corners of King County, from Shoreline to Covington.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

As a young mother of two, I became homeless when I fled my abusive husband. ReWA provided motel vouchers for two weeks until I could move into transitional housing. Within a few months, I reached my goal of securing long-term, affordable housing and a job in transportation.

—“Claara,” DV client from East Africa

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

I had help with resume and interview preparation and job searches, with 457 individuals finding jobs in the hospitality industry, warehouse and logistics, drivers, homecare aides, assistant preschool teachers, and professional roles. After 90 days, 77% are still on the job, making an average wage of $15.41/hr.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Asma overcame incredible odds to be reunited with her children and create a future. “After all I have been through, we are now safe and happy. And to be speaking at the 2019 Gala was life-changing. The love and support from the people in the ballroom lifted me on wings and I flew home.”

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

ReWA instructors accompany youth on a visit to the University of Washington (right). Over half the youth in ReWA’s Post Secondary Success Program go on to enroll in higher education.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Without this rental assistance, it would be impossible for me to go back to school, pay the rent, and take care of my four kids at home. I’m really happy.

—“Lily” studied accounting in Kenya, but could only get janitorial work in the U.S. Now she is poised to earn an associate’s degree from Renton Technical College and support her family as an accountant full time.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Early Learning Centers

Engaged 225 families—80% low-income—in early childhood education using Soy Bilingüe and HighScope curriculum. In 2019 we opened three new classrooms in Rainier Valley, increasing capacity 30% from 2018 when the Lake City ELC opened. Forty percent of ReWA ELC families also receive family support services, including individual education plans for children with special needs.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

We are grateful our son is part of ReWA’s inclusive and social justice-oriented community where diversity is honored and celebrated.

—Denisse Guerrero, ELC Parent

CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES

Submitted 193 citizenship and green card applications with 90% approval rate, and 63 participants attended 1,100 instruction hours in American civic education in preparation for the citizenship exam.

Research shows that naturalization of permanent residents results in billions of dollars in economic development in their communities. Despite an increase in federal policies and costs that create barriers to naturalization, ReWA saw a 30% increase in applications in 2019.

HOUSING

224 families were housed or remained housed. Six months later, 98% remained so, making ReWA an industry leader. Funded by King County, United Way, the City of Seattle, and the Day1 Fund, ReWA helps those who face high barriers—immigrants, refugees, and persons of color—access affordable housing.

ESL students learn new vocabulary and cultural norms, from making phone calls in a work environment to asking directions on public transit.

Early Learning Centers

We are grateful our son is part of ReWA’s inclusive and social justice-oriented community where diversity is honored and celebrated.

—Denisse Guerrero, ELC Parent

Names in quotation marks are not real names.
COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Your Giving
Thanks to the generosity of our donors—548 individuals and 67 foundations and corporations—ReWA received $875,925 in private contributions.

My mother was an English teacher in Vietnam. After resettling in Seattle, she had a vision to help Vietnamese refugee women, many of whom suffered from domestic violence and had no English skills to ask for help. As a ReWA ESL volunteer, I can help someone learn English so that everything—safety, jobs, skills, and new community connections—is within reach.

— Jeanne Nguyen

Financial Summary

REVENUE
Public Contributions (gov’t grants & contracts) $7,189,463
Private Contributions (corporate, foundations, individuals) $875,925
Childcare Fees $911,703
United Way $195,496
Capital Campaign (grants, in-kind donations, cookbook sales) $742,653
Other $116,995
TOTAL REVENUE $10,032,235

EXPENSES
Family Empowerment $1,798,265
Early Learning Centers $2,808,993
Domestic Violence $1,347,926
Behavioral Health $568,351
Youth $589,244
Housing $637,658
Administration $1,743,991
Advocacy $44,220
TOTAL EXPENSES $9,538,648

BALANCE SHEET
Assets $16,701,206
Liabilities $7,555,837
NET ASSETS $9,145,369

For ReWA’s most recently audited financial statement go to www.rewa.org

A STORY BEHIND EVERY RECIPE

The Recipes for Refuge cookbook was released at the 2019 Gala, and quickly became a local best-seller, raising $10,719 in 2019 alone for ReWA programs. Developed with love by a dedicated volunteer crew and spearheaded by Girl Friday Productions, the photographs and journey stories showcase the culinary legacies of ReWA clients and staff.

A cooking demonstration at Rainier Beach Urban Farm brought together community supporters like Arianna, below, who attended with her grandmother.