Dear Friends,

Looking back on 2020, one word comes to mind: resilience. Within weeks of the Governor’s stay-home order in March, ReWA staff were working from home—using phones, laptops, and cell phone apps—to ensure the Puget Sound’s immigrant and refugee community stayed safe and connected to services.

Then in May, the murder of George Floyd unleashed racial justice protests that forced a long overdue reckoning across the nation that I believe will reverberate for generations.

2020 has been very challenging, but the emergency support from the philanthropic community—from individual donors, corporate partners, and institutional funders, including the Seattle Foundation’s Covid Response Fund—helped ReWA remain a beacon for the immigrant and refugee community, as it has for more than 35 years.

Thanks to you, our amazing community, by year’s end, we distributed: $103,000 in food vouchers to 218 families, $225,000 in emergency rental assistance, and $30,000 in utility assistance during a snowy winter. We also sourced 150 laptops so adult and youth learners—like Mahi (left)—didn’t fall behind in their career and education goals.

We couldn’t have done this without all of you—our community.

Thank you.

—Mahnaz Eshetu, Executive Director

HIGHLIGHTS

Youth Art Show

Last year’s Annual Youth showcase in June featured a virtual art show in an online gallery. After three months of remote schooling and witnessing protests for racial justice, youth, like Nasira (age 21), the artist who drew the sketch at right, had a lot to express. Program Support Coordinator Alexis Joshua said, “Youth used art to explore what it feels like to be their age at this time, and how the pandemic highlighted existing systemic issues.”

New Life Skills Curriculum Aids Integration

With state funding, ReWA ESL teachers and case managers created a Life Skills curriculum to help refugees and immigrants with limited English proficiency. These lessons in computer literacy, the U.S. education and banking systems, and even comparison shopping at the grocery store, all help with social, economic, and political integration.

Census Counts

As a 2020 Census community partner, ReWA helped 1,500 immigrant and refugee households be counted so Washington receives its fair share of federal resources and congressional representation for the next 10 years. When the pandemic hit, we shifted our strategy to an online campaign, with follow-up calls and outdoor, socially distanced events to encourage participation in the Census.
In 2020, ReWA programs served 3,001 individuals with an estimated impact across their families and communities that reached 12,000 people around Puget Sound.

**CITIZENSHIP**

Despite federal policies over the past four years that raised barriers to citizenship for low-income people, ReWA doubled the size of citizenship classes, resulting in:

- 136 students in citizenship class
- 149 new citizens
- 1,285 hours of online instruction
- 50 clients receiving green cards

**HOUSING**

Working remotely, ReWA staff connected immigrant and refugee families and others to transitional and low-income housing and helped them sign up for King County’s Covid-19-related rental assistance lottery.

- 237 families housed, a 5% increase over 2019
- $679,329 in rental assistance distributed, 40% to clients in the Domestic Violence program

**EMPLOYMENT SERVICES**

Despite widespread job loss in the transportation, hospitality, and retail industries that employ many immigrants and refugees, ReWA helped them find jobs and prepare to go back to work.

- 488 received employment services including job training and career coaching
- 198 found jobs with a $16/hr average wage
- 125 applied for unemployment insurance
- 263 received food benefits
- 236 families received $53,668 for transportation, education/credential testing, clothing, childcare, books and training supplies, and utilities

**EARLY LEARNING CENTERS**

During the three-month closure, ReWA distributed weekly learning packets and provided tablets for families to access an online learning hub with educational videos in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Mandarin, and Oromo.

- Served 217 families, 90% of which are bilingual, bicultural
- Held 90 parent education workshops to support school-to-home learning using Incredible Years and HighScope curricula

Because of Covid, I lost my ride-share driving job and almost had to drop out of school. Now, I have help paying my rent and will finish my degree this summer.

—ReWA client
2020 had a severe impact on the mental health of vulnerable populations, including immigrants and refugees. ReWA counselors provided trauma-informed, resiliency-based licensed behavioral health counseling services.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

ReWA provides legal help for survivors of domestic violence, and connects them to housing, employment, and counseling services. When the pandemic hit, most shelters stopped accepting new clients for four months. Working remotely, ReWA staff responded to increasing calls, providing online protection orders, emergency rental assistance, safety planning, access to employment, and help with utility bills and groceries.

- Helped 715 women and five men escape violence
- Distributed $282,864 to families for housing, food, and utilities

My spouse was abusive for years, but with COVID, it got worse. ReWA helped me and my two children find temporary housing and a protection order. Now I am free and so are my kids.

—East African mother of two

**YOUTH**

When schools closed state-wide, the youth program staff sprang into action: delivering food, checking in weekly and helping youth connect to school district-provided laptops.

- Served 214 low-income, refugee and immigrant youth, ages 9–24, from families from Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Guatemala

Elementary and middle school programs offer programs in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM); tutoring support; and parent education. The Post-Secondary Success program helps older students explore careers and internships and apply to college.

**LEARNING ENGLISH**

When in-person English classes were cancelled in March, teachers mailed weekly homework packets to 113 students because few had access to computers or the internet. ReWA’s teachers made follow-up calls using mobile apps, and when funds for laptops became available, teachers held one-on-one, socially distanced, digital literacy sessions.

In class, we talked about the coronavirus: how students keep themselves, their families, and the community safe. Essentially, we were acting as front line public health workers.

—ESL teacher

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

2020 had a severe impact on the mental health of vulnerable populations, including immigrants and refugees. ReWA counselors provided trauma-informed, resiliency-based licensed behavioral health counseling services.

- 199 patients received behavioral health counseling
- Ages 11–82, 60% female
- Staff languages: Arabic, Kurdish, Turkish, Dari, Farsi, Pashto, Somali

My husband and I are disabled, so when we had to stay home, we felt isolated. Then my ReWA counselor called to check in. Now, whenever we speak, I am relieved to know we are not alone. I can feel the emotional support.

—Iraqi couple in Kent
CELEBRATING COMMUNITY

YOUR GENEROSITY IS FELT BY FAMILIES

As demand for ReWA services grew, so did the generosity of our community of donors. In 2020, 749 individuals, who gave an average gift of $419, together with 97 corporations and foundations, gifted $5,141,569 to ReWA programs.

VOLUNTEERS GALVANIZE THE VOTE

During last fall’s election, a team of voter outreach volunteers who speak Somali, Vietnamese, and Arabic reached out to help more than 400 new citizens vote for the first time in a historic election.

In 2020 ReWA volunteers donated hundreds of hours to programs, including in the Early Learning Centers, citizenship clinics, assisting in English classes, and conducting outreach for voter education campaigns.

Because of Covid, I was stuck at home, but volunteering with ReWA to reach new voters helped strengthen my connection to community.

—Tawene, ReWA voter education volunteer

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

REVENUE

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<tr>
<th>Source</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Contributions (gov’t grants &amp; contracts)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Contributions (corporate foundations, individuals)</td>
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<td>Fees for Services (child care and other services)</td>
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<td>United Way</td>
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<td>Investment and Other Income</td>
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<td>TOTAL REVENUE</td>
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EXPENSES (see pie chart)

- Family Empowerment: 18.9%
- Early Learning Centers: 0.4%
- Domestic Violence: 14.1%
- Behavioral Health: 30.1%
- Youth: 5.4%
- Housing: 7.5%
- Administration & Fundraising: 16.7%
- Advocacy: 5.4%
- TOTAL EXPENSES: $10,192,773

BALANCE SHEET

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

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.