



2021



ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Friends,

The past year has been one of challenges. The Taliban takeover of Afghanistan and the war in Ukraine have forced millions from their homes. With the worsening of climate change and democracies under threat, we must prepare to meet the increased need for services.

I am grateful that the state of Washington has once again stepped forward to welcome refugees. Our lawmakers funded programs and services so thousands of refugees—including those in this photo who made a harrowing escape from Kabul Airport—now have sanctuary in the Puget Sound. And months later, they are starting jobs, enrolling their children in school, and tending to their emotional wellness so they can build a bright future in their new community.

This report is a glimpse into the work of ReWA. As our partner in creating a welcoming home for immigrants and refugees, I thank you.

—Mahnaz Eshetu, Executive Director

HIGHLIGHTS

Helping Afghans Resettle

When thousands of Afghan refugees arrived in Washington state, ReWA's Center for Social Emotional Wellbeing (formerly, Behavioral Health) was tapped by DSHS to coordinate mental health services across the region for newly arriving Afghans. At the same time, ReWA staff (right) partnered with the state and local agencies to provide housing, food, and other basic needs.



Rawad struggled to find work here until he got re-certified at UW Continuum. Now he is ReWA's facilities manager.

New UW Partnership Restarts Careers

Rawad emigrated with his family from Lebanon last year, but like many immigrants with professional experience but no U.S. degree, he was stuck in survival jobs. Thanks to a new partnership between ReWA's Day 1 Program and the University of Washington's Continuum College, Rawad was able to support his family while completing a degree in facilities management.

Learning on Ice

In 2021, Kraken Hockey offered free skating lessons to children from diverse backgrounds who may not have otherwise had the opportunity. ReWA early learners bused to the Kraken Iceplex weekly where they learned balance, coordination, and perseverance. ELC director Susan Lee said the majority of the children are from immigrant or refugee families. "At the rink, they had fun, but they also learned how to get back up when they fall."



IMPACT

In 2021, ReWA provided 3,346 immigrants and refugees with services to ensure they become self-sufficient and are able to rebuild their lives in their new communities.

YOUTH

- Engaged **74** students from 14 elementary and middle schools with after-school programming in science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM).
- Coached **42** youth (ages 16–24) in the Post-Secondary Success Program (PSSP) to help them enroll in higher education and vocational training programs.
- Held workshops for **32** parents to understand the school system and support their children's academic goals.

Student Stand-Out

Social-emotional learning can make the difference between overcoming barriers and missed opportunities. Betty studies biology at Seattle Central College. When she was selected to participate in a science and diversity conference, at first her teacher denied her request to miss class. Betty turned to her PSSP coach for advice. She returned to her teacher and helped him understand this was a unique opportunity that would help her studies—and her self-confidence. After the conference Betty said, “I connected, not only with four future employers, but with other accomplished and ambitious people my age who look like me: a young woman of color.”



ReWA's youth after-school program reaches families who speak Amharic, Oromo, Spanish, Somali and Tigrinya.



CITIZENSHIP

- In 2021, ReWA helped **157** new citizens prepare for the citizenship exam.
- Enrolled **220** students—doubled from previous year—in online and in-person citizenship classes, offering 6,398 hours of instruction.

Students attend 12-week civics courses to prepare for the U.S. Citizenship exam, often aided by volunteer tutors.

Former Seattle Mayor, Jenny Durkan, reads to preschoolers in Lake City.



EARLY LEARNING CENTERS

- Provided **217** families with year-round childcare and preschool at three locations in Rainier Valley, Beacon Hill, and Lake City, using Soy Bilingüe, a bi-lingual and bi-cultural curriculum.

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

- **439** individuals received employment services
- **177** found jobs with a **75%** retention rate after 3 months

Thanks to a grant from KeyBank, the Health Care Advancement program will help ReWA clients train for jobs in the medical field.

CENTER FOR SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELLNESS

CSEW shifted its focus from mental illness to wellness by providing counseling aimed at prevention, treatment, and recovery.

- Supported **200** clients in King County, ages **13–83**, with multi-lingual trauma-informed and resiliency-based licensed counseling services, both in person and via telehealth.
- Counselors provided counseling services in Arabic, Somali, Dari, Farsi, Pashto, Turkish, and Amharic.



Families come to ReWA for support—from basic needs to computer literacy.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Provided **710** individuals (women, men and transgender persons) with domestic violence support, from obtaining protection orders and other legal issues, to finding transitional housing, job training, food assistance, and counseling.



ENGLISH

- In 2021, ReWA welcomed **185** students to online and in-person classes—a **60%** increase over the previous year.

HOUSING

- Housed **357** families and distributed **\$496,000** in rental assistance.
- Helped families access **\$1.48 m** in government rental assistance” (covid-related).

SOCIAL SERVICES/CASE MANAGEMENT

- **590** individuals received case management and social service support for basic needs, including subsidies for transportation and utilities.
- ReWA staff distributed **107** laptops, with one-on-one computer literacy training, to help families stay connect to education and community.

One Woman's Story

People often ask, “Why don't you leave?” In my home country, women raise the kids, the husband works, and you don't complain when he gets violent. And he threatened to have me deported. In the end, it was my young son who called the police. That is when I met my ReWA domestic violence advocate. She helped me find housing, job training and English classes. Most importantly, she gave me the emotional support to create a new life. That was a few years ago. Today, I have a job and support my family. And I volunteer with a support group for women at my church.

GRATEFUL FOR COMMUNITY

YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT

Once again, our community of supporters—you!—came through at our Annual Gala and other fundraising events throughout the year. Because government grants do not cover the full cost of programs, community support is vital to keeping ReWA's doors open. Thank you!

By the Numbers

883 individual donors and **91** corporate and institutional partners gave **\$1,854,879** in private funding to ReWA last year.



Medina shared her family's story as part of ReWA's online Gala in October 2021.



VOLUNTEERS

72 volunteers gave **1,611** hours to:

- Help adult learners practice English and prepare for the citizenship exam; and
- Assist with youth after-school programs.

Nursing Students Lend Expertise

Once again, Seattle University nursing students volunteered with ReWA as part of their training. They assisted in virtual classrooms and on field trips, and gave presentations to the youth on COVID safety, body image and eating disorders, and more.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

REVENUE

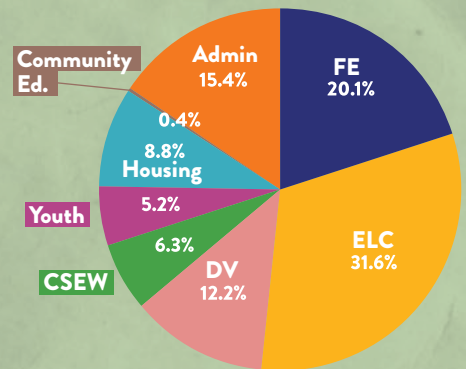
Public Contributions (gov't grants & contracts)	\$7,748,820
Private Contributions (corporate, foundations, individuals)	\$1,755,787
United Way	\$243,402
Special Events	\$99,092
Fee for Service and Other Income	\$1,598,790
TOTAL REVENUE	\$11,436,891

EXPENSES (see pie chart)

Family Empowerment	\$2,129,178
Early Learning Centers	\$3,336,805
Domestic Violence	\$1,287,193
Center for Social-Emotional Wellbeing	\$667,604
Youth	\$552,249
Housing and Homelessness Prevention	\$927,434
Community Education	\$37,388
Administration & Fundraising	\$1,629,207
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$10,567,207

BALANCE SHEET

Assets	\$21,873,536
Liabilities	\$8,101,943
NET ASSETS	\$13,771,593



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.