Dear Friends,

In 2022, despite ongoing geopolitical challenges, Refugee Women’s Alliance (ReWA) displayed resilience, resuming normal operations as the pandemic improved. ReWA faced significant impacts from events like the Afghan Taliban takeover and the Ukraine war, leading to an influx of refugees. ReWA swiftly addressed increased demand for vital services in social, educational, housing, immigration, and behavioral health domains.

Amidst challenges, a notable increase in operational expenses due to inflation and hiring additional staff strained our ability to provide comprehensive programs. This underscores our gratitude to the community for their ongoing support. Our accomplishments depend on community support. We sincerely appreciate your support and commitment to ReWA’s mission.

—Mahnaz Eshetu, Executive Director

ReWA’s Kraken Partnership Continues Strong

In 2022, ReWA was the first Early Learning Center to partner with Seattle Kraken team to provide the opportunity to learn ice skating and hockey.

One ECEAP family who participated in the learning group applied and received additional scholarship to continue the lessons in the summer, as well as in September 2022. Without the path ReWA provided, this family and many other families wouldn’t have been able to introduce ice skating to their kids at such a young age.

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HIGHLIGHTS

ReWA Launches Healthcare Careers

In 2022, we transitioned to conducting the Home Care Aide certification (HCA) course internally at ReWA, with our own qualified instructor leading the way, actively closing the gap within the field between our participants and certified HCA providers.

ReWA Pilots State Afghan Placement and Assistance Program (SAPA)

ReWA piloted the SAPA program with a collaboration of partners in a new Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance (ORIA) Community Based Resettlement program, the first of its kind.

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Afghan Staff support Afghan resettlement in Puget Sound

Children learn to skate
In 2022, ReWA provided 3,265 immigrants and refugees with services to ensure they become self-sufficient and are able to rebuild their lives in their new communities. The impact of these services reverberated across their families, reaching an estimated 12,000 persons.

YOUTH & POST-SECONDARY SUCCESS PROGRAM

- Engaged 144 students from 14 elementary and middle schools with after-school programming in science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM).
- Coached 70 youth with post-secondary career exploration to help them enroll in higher education and vocational training programs.

Post Secondary Success Program Highlight
I have been working with a long-time student of PSSP (Post Secondary Success Program) on her senior capstone project while she is studying to become a respiratory therapist. We have talked through coping strategies with anxiety when working on difficult projects.

She is confident now in her knowledge and background and will be delivering speeches throughout Seattle about the importance of organ donations in the Black community.

—Eyerusalem Mesele

EARLY LEARNING CENTERS

- Provided 217 families with year-round childcare and pre-school at three locations in Rainier Valley, Beacon Hill, and Lake City, using the Soy Bilingüe, a bi-lingual and bi-cultural curriculum.
- Served 25 infants and toddlers in our childcare (ages 0-3 years old) and (192) children ages 3-5 in an approved pre-school readiness program; of these, 90% were bilingual and 85% came from low-income families.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Provided 703 individuals (women, men, and transgender persons) with domestic violence support and legal services.
- 99% lived below the poverty line.
- 89% of adult DV survivors obtained legal aid and immigration assistance.

CITIZENSHIP

- ReWA helped 184 new citizens prepare for and pass the citizenship exam.
- Helped 473 participants with immigration and legal services.
- Expanded Immigration Services to include newly implemented Afghan Asylum Program.

ENGLISH

- ReWA welcomed 376 students to online and in-person classes.
- 200 students were provided laptops through ReWA to attend ESL and job readiness classes.

CENTER FOR SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELLNESS

- Supported 231 clients in King County, ages 19-84, with multi-lingual trauma-informed and resiliency-based licensed counseling services.
- Worked with partners to develop a referral system for King County new arrivals, streamlining our CSEW referral process.
- Started the Mental Wellness Navigation program which assisted 50 clients in connecting with the best services for their needs.

SUPPORT SERVICES

- 500 clients received education and information about basic food benefits.
- 200 clients assisted with food benefit applications.
- 60 participants attended Life Skills classes.

HOUSING

- 712 families housed or remained housed.
- Began LIHI partnership with the new George Fleming Site and housed 26 families.
- Expanded housing services with new ORIA Housing Subsidy program for serving Refugee and Immigrants who have lived in the US for under 5 years.
- 99% of ReWA clients remained housed for at least 6 months, which makes ReWA an industry leader in fighting homelessness.

One Woman’s Story

6 years ago, my life was very different. My husband was an alcoholic and became abusive. When my boys were 2 years old, I knew we had to leave.

A friend recommended ReWA, where a Thai case manager became my DV advocate. She helped me sign up for Apple Health. She helped me find transitional housing. She helped me find a lawyer to get a divorce. Today I have full custody of my boys; I have a full-time job with the school district.

Every day is a gift. When I think about what I would tell myself six years ago, I would say: “Be Brave. And let life surprise you.”

IMPACT

Single Mother Lands Dream Job with ReWA’s Wraparound Support

A young single mother immigrated to America. Her older child started kindergarten while the younger child needed childcare. ReWA, an organization she learned about through her family, became an essential resource for her.

Family support specialists provided extensive assistance through various forms of communication, supporting her personal, educational, and professional challenges. Today she is a Computer Engineer/Data Analyst at Microsoft making $110,000 a year, thanks to the education and support from ReWA.
GRATEFUL FOR COMMUNITY

YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT

With your support, ReWA assisted immigrants and refugees in maintaining vital connections to essential services and education, both through online platforms and in-person assistance, through their giving.

By the Numbers

883 individual donors gave $391,927, and 91 corporate, institutional, and foundation donors gave $1,163,342.92 in grants.

VOLUNTEERS

91 volunteers gave 1,511 hours to assist youth and adult learnings to learn English, practice for citizenship exam, and explore STEAM projects after school.

Dr. Kiran Dhillon’s Journey to ReWA

Dr. Kiran Dhillon’s life is a testament to the power of passion, resilience, and purpose. In 2022, she joined ReWA’s Board of Directors, aligning with her life’s mission shaped by personal experiences. Kiran’s journey began when her family moved from India to the US for safety and opportunities.

Kiran excelled academically, earning a PhD in Genetics from the University of Washington. She researched chemotherapy resistance in cancer at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and co-founded an organization supporting underrepresented scientists.

Currently, as Executive Director of UW Medicine’s Cancer Vaccine Institute, Kiran leads, fundraises, and administers to make cancer treatments universally accessible.

Kiran knows the importance of ReWA services through lived experience and is paving the way for others like herself as a board member.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

EXPENSES (see pie chart)

- Family Support $3,213,807
- Housing & Homelessness $1,519,519
- Prevention $3,735,013
- Early Learning Centers $1,490,468
- Domestic Violence $950,863
- Center for Social- Emotional Wellbeing $506,815
- Youth $34,101
- Community Education $34,101
- Administration $1,937,175

TOTAL EXPENSES $13,387,761

BALANCE SHEET

- Assets $24,041,654
- Liabilities $9,242,197
- NET ASSETS $14,799,457

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.