Welcome Home
We were happy to prepare and decorate your apartment.
Good luck!

Your Friends at One World One Love New Jersey
www.oneworldonelovenj.org
OUR MISSION
We welcome refugees and asylees with dignity and love, and foster inclusive communities that celebrate the cultural gifts that immigrants and citizens alike have to share with each other.

OUR IMPACT
In 2022, we supported 522 men, women, and children in 146 households. They came from 18 countries. Many received services from multiple programs.
"You know what U.S.A. stands for, right?"

An Afghan refugee asked me this a few months after he arrived in New Jersey with his wife and four kids. His command of English was excellent, having worked on behalf of the U.S. government in his homeland. Is this a trick question? I wondered. When I replied, “United States of America?” he laughed and shook his head. “No,” he said. “It means U Start Again.”

In 2022, One World One Love NJ supported more than 500 refugees as they started again. They came from all over the world, hopeful for a new beginning after fleeing war, violence, and persecution in their countries. This Impact Report, our first ever, details the many ways our programs played a pivotal role in their resettlement and integration. We met their material needs, from preparing fully-furnished apartments to delivering diapers, providing bicycles to distributing warm winter coats. We helped them learn English, apply for jobs, navigate car purchases, and more. We shared meals and learned about each other’s traditions and customs. We mentored, we advocated, we welcomed.

2022 marked a number of significant milestones for us. Since our founding, we’ve been 100% volunteer-run, but in 2022, the 1W1L board asked me to step into a paid part-time position to oversee programming and administration. We also received several grants, allowing us to serve more newcomers. Volunteers make our work possible, and in 2022 we welcomed many new faces and now count more than 100 active members. With guidance from a volunteer who is a licensed social worker, we developed training to educate volunteers about refugee resettlement and discuss best practices for supporting newcomers. Volunteers who’ve completed the training say they feel better informed and equipped to help refugees adjust. In 2022, we also expanded our network of community partners and are very grateful for our collaboration with the International Rescue Committee and The Warehouse NJ, among many others.

What’s in store for 2023? More of everything! With refugee arrivals expected to remain high, we’re excited to see our community grow. To be sure, our new friends face steep challenges as they start again in America. With your financial support, in-kind donations, and selfless giving of time, we stand ready to help them rebuild and lead productive, fulfilling lives. Thank you.

Jennifer Gill
Managing Director, One World One Love
### Timeline

What began as a call for donations in 2016 has grown into a nonprofit serving hundreds of newcomers each year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Syrian refugee crisis makes headlines. A photo of a Syrian toddler washed up on a Turkish beach shocks the world.</td>
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<td>Fall 2016</td>
<td>Founder Sally El-Sadek puts out a call on social media for clothes and household items for arriving Syrian refugees. The grassroots response is overwhelming.</td>
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<td>Early 2017</td>
<td>Apartment set-ups begin</td>
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<td>September 2017</td>
<td>One World One Love NJ becomes a 501c(3) nonprofit</td>
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<td>October 2017</td>
<td>Beach outing for 60+ newcomers, most seeing the ocean for the first time</td>
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<td>December 2017</td>
<td>20+ households supported in 2017 across programs</td>
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<td>January 2018</td>
<td>Volunteers help resettle a Burmese family through the Family Friends program. The program provided intensive support to several families through 2020.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winter 2018</td>
<td>Intergenerational Literacy and Enrichment program launches</td>
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<td>December 2018</td>
<td>40+ households served in 2018 across programs</td>
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<td>Spring 2019</td>
<td>Spring picnic, one of many social gatherings over the years</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 2019</td>
<td>70+ households served in 2019 across programs</td>
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**March 2020**: COVID-19 is declared a pandemic

**Spring 2020**: Emergency COVID response includes cash assistance, food, health guidance, and outreach to families

**2020**: Bikes Program launches

**December 2020**: In 2020, our programs and COVID response reached 80+ households

**March 2021**: Volunteers deliver hundreds of books to children in 37 families

**August 2021**: The Taliban reclaim Afghanistan. Thousands of Afghans are airlifted to safety in the U.S. and demand for our programs surges.

**October 2021**: Collection drive yields a carload of school supplies for Afghan children evacuated to New Jersey

**October 2021**: Babies program launches

**December 2021**: Completed 48 set-ups in 2021, most in the last three months of the year. Overall, our programs served 109 households, or 422 people.

**December 2022**: In 2022, we served 146 households, or 522 people, many receiving support from multiple programs. We set up 76 apartments, a new record, averaging more than one a week!
BASIC NEEDS
We meet the basic needs of refugees upon their arrival and in the months that follow.

APARTMENT SET-UPS
Preparing fully-furnished apartments for refugee newcomers has been a signature project since our founding. With a little elbow grease and a lot of love, our volunteers transform apartments into clean, welcoming homes. We scrub bathrooms, stock kitchens, assemble furniture, make beds, lay out toys for children, hang curtains, and fill the place with household items. Over the past six years, we’ve set up homes in central NJ for more than 1,500 refugees from around the world.

Setting up an apartment is a logistical feat. We often receive only a few days’ advance notice of a family’s arrival. Once the International Rescue Committee, our resettlement agency partner, secures an apartment, we activate a team of 5-6 volunteers to clean and furnish it. We coordinate closely with The Warehouse NJ, a nonprofit that provides furniture for our set-ups, and I Support The Girls, which donates toiletries and feminine products. The effort is well worth it. One client, an Afghan father of six, described walking into his fully-furnished home this way: “My shoulders,” he said, “they just went down.” That sense of relief, of feeling safe and supported, is what drives us to continue this important work.

“Is this the landlord’s?" the Congolese woman asked over and over as she walked through her family’s apartment for the first time. “No,” the case worker assured her. “It’s all yours.”

2022 IMPACT
76 Apartments Set Up
325 Newcomers
67 Volunteers
Volunteers in our Babies Program care for our littlest newcomers, making monthly deliveries of diapers, clothes and other baby essentials to families with children under five. Beyond material support, the program also nurtures closer ties with refugee families, who look forward to the volunteers’ visits. This effort is made possible by our partnership with the Moms Helping Moms Foundation, a New Jersey nonprofit that works with intermediaries like us to provide baby items, diapers and period supplies to underserved families throughout the state.

Jawad and Nooriya arrived from Afghanistan in 2021 and moved into a cozy apartment lovingly prepared by our volunteers. We gave Jawad a bicycle so he could get home faster after his late shift at a fast-food restaurant. When the couple welcomed their first child in 2022, our Babies team delivered newborn clothes, diapers, a crib, and other essentials. We also paid a portion of their monthly rent so Jawad could take unpaid parental leave from work. “Jawad appreciates all your help,” an interpreter told us. “He said he will keep you and your team in his prayers all the time.”

Our 2022 Bikes Program volunteers included three mechanics, two inventory holders, one coordinator and 19 delivery drivers.

Through our Bikes Program, volunteers refurbish donated bicycles that are then delivered to newcomers who use them to get to work, school, and appointments. Every bike comes with a helmet, lock, bell and tire pump to promote safety and long-term service.
EMERGENCY DISTRIBUTIONS

We organized two large-scale distribution events to meet the basic needs of asylum seekers who do not qualify for refugee resettlement assistance. From August to October, we collaborated with Refugee Assistance Partners (RAP) to collect and distribute laundry detergent and toiletries to hundreds of Haitian and Cuban asylum seekers. In November, we again joined with RAP to collect and distribute new and gently-used winter coats to more than 150 refugee and asylum-seeking households in Elizabeth. This effort was made possible by dozens of volunteers and the Knights of Columbus in Elizabeth, which hosted the coat giveaway.

LITERACY AND ENRICHMENT

We provide opportunities for refugees to learn English and access meaningful enrichment activities.

ESL TUTORING

Our volunteers provided 1-1 tutoring to teach newcomers essential English for daily life. They met students online and in person, sometimes taking “field trips” to the library or grocery store to practice English and explore local resources. They helped students prepare for their driving exam, fill out forms, and more.

“Deborah not only helped me to learn English but also provided emotional support. She listened to my stories from Afghanistan. I would like to thank her for her time, love, and care.”
— Roqia from Afghanistan

BACKPACK DISTRIBUTION

In August, our volunteers fanned out across five counties to deliver backpacks filled with school supplies to 33 families. We are grateful for our partnerships with ICNA Relief, which provided the backpacks, and Refugee Assistance Partners, whose volunteers also made deliveries. When a child who was not yet school-age was sad because he didn’t get a backpack like his older siblings, our volunteer went to Target, picked one up, and brought it to him. That’s the type of amazing volunteers we have!
COMMUNITY BUILDING
We organize social gatherings and other activities that foster inclusion and cross-cultural appreciation.

RAMADAN FOOD DELIVERY
During the holy season of Ramadan, we partnered with several organizations to deliver weekly meals to newcomers observing their first Ramadan in America. IRC, the local resettlement agency, identified the households, our partner, Cornerstone Counseling, prepared the meals, and One World One Love was one of 3 organizations that coordinated volunteers to drive “the last mile” to deliver the meals. Our collaboration delivered nearly 300 meals each week to more than 50 households on five consecutive Saturdays!

SPRING PICNIC
Our first large gathering in two years had a fantastic turnout with roughly 100 people attending, including newcomers from Afghanistan, Syria, Sudan, Guatemala, and Haiti. Some had arrived in the U.S. only recently; others were old friends we were delighted to see again. We are grateful to St. Vincent Academy, an all-girls high school in Newark, which prepared games and goody bags for the kids, as well as raised funds to offset the event’s expenses.

2022 IMPACT
7 Youths
8 Volunteers

Our volunteers drove three siblings to The Connection day camp for two weeks over the summer. The kids talked about the experience for months, especially the pool! Says their mom, “Estamos muy agradecidos por la ayuda que nos están dando.” (We are very grateful for the help you are giving us.)
ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

We mentor, offer career counseling, and provide financial aid to help refugees can achieve their goals.

EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

Refugees have a keen desire to work but often face significant hurdles. Some have limited formal education or speak only a little English. Others have college degrees but find it hard to get noticed by recruiters. Many lack a resume or a computer to apply for jobs. One World One Love helps newcomers overcome these obstacles in many ways. Among our efforts, our volunteers:

► Introduced several newcomers to Pfizer and its Refugee Recruitment Program. Two individuals were hired for positions in IT and compliance at the company.
► Assisted an Afghan newcomer with an application to Cooper Union’s prestigious Retraining Immigrant Engineers program. He was accepted!
► Developed resumes, accompanied to job fairs, and “pounded the pavement” with several job seekers.
► Introduced clients to several local employers and networked with other organizations to open doors to employment opportunities.
► Helped two families enroll their children in preschool, allowing both parents to work and study for the GED.
► Provided relocation assistance and guidance on employee benefits for a family moving for work.

“Because of One World One Love’s scholarship, I was able to take a certification course in my field ... which helped me succeed at competitive interviews and secure a professional job in the banking industry. Thumbs up for such a great program and coaching support.”

— N.A.Y. from Afghanistan

FINANCIAL AID

With grants from The Welcome Fund and the Mobilizing America for Refugees fund to support Afghan newcomers, we established the Afghan Economic Empowerment Fund and awarded scholarships to our new friends seeking to advance their education and skills. From June to December 2022, we distributed over $25,000 to 30 Afghans. The scholarships paid for driving school, ESL classes, college courses, professional certifications, and more.

Through a grant from the nonprofit Neighbors for Refugees, we helped five refugee families struggling with job loss, health complications, and other issues. Each family received rental assistance ranging from $500 to $850 thanks to this grant.

“Thank you for providing for the driving lessons. I passed my road test today!”

— S. from Afghanistan

LEGAL SERVICES

In 2022, we provided pro-bono legal representation to two families wrongfully denied the return of their security deposits from their landlords. One case was settled for more than the original security deposit, and the other is still pending. We also directed several asylum seekers to free and low-fee legal services in the community.
THANK YOU...

We value our collaboration with other refugee-supporting organizations

- Cornerstone Counseling
- Global Emergency Response & Assistance
- Hearts & Homes for Refugees
- Hello Neighbor Network
- International Rescue Committee
- Neighbors for Refugees
- Refugee Assistance Morris Partners
- Refugee Assistance Partners
- Refugee Employment Partnership
- Welcome Home Jersey City
- Westfield Fun Club

We thank our community partners for their generous in-kind donations

- AAPI Montclair
- Beacon Unitarian Universalist Church
- Camp Johnsonburg
- Christ Church, Summit
- Computers4People
- ICNA Relief
- IKEA
- I Support the Girls
- Kent Place School
- Knights of Columbus, Council #253
- Moms Helping Moms Foundation
- Outward Bound School of Philadelphia
- Plainfield Dairy Queen
- St. Vincent Academy
- The Connection
- The Warehouse NJ

We appreciate the financial support of our grantors...

- Calico Cat Food Pantry
- Christ Church, Summit
- Hello Neighbor Network
- Mobilizing America for Refugees Fund
- Neighbors for Refugees
- The Summit Foundation
- The Welcome Fund

...and many individual donors. Thank you!

We cherish our 100+ volunteers who selflessly give thousands of hours to welcome our new neighbors as they rebuild their lives. Thank you.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- SALLY EL-SAdek
  Community sponsorship coordinator, International Rescue Committee
- GRANT LUCKING
  Chief operating officer, New Jersey Home Builders Association
- VIRGINIA SCHMITT-DEVINE
  Human Resources Vice president, AT&T (retired)
- CATRIONA SMITH
  Church Administrative Assistant, Chatham United Methodist Church
- CYNTHIA THEK
  Practice Administrator, AM/PM Urgent Care
- JULIE YARBOROUGH
  Associate pastor, Christ Church, Summit

2022 FINANCIALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
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<td>$132,667</td>
<td>$106,162</td>
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- Grants: 55%
- Individual donations: 45%
- Economic Empowerment: 39%
- Personnel: 30%
- Basic Needs: 23%
- Administrative: 7%
- Special Events: 1%