

Friends,

Since the fall of 2021, ReEstablish Richmond and our partners welcomed more than 1,000 newcomers (mostly from Afghanistan) into our community, connecting them to the resources they need to thrive. We centered our work on building strong partnerships and lifting the barriers to education, employment, and transportation so our clients could fully participate in the resources available to them.

Among the many milestones that give me pride, here are a few that best remind me of what can be achieved by working together to welcome newcomers:

- We engaged our volunteer community by matching 104 clients with trained volunteers to help them
 achieve their educational and economic goals.
- We intentionally strengthened our partnership with the Afghan community, providing financial support to the newly formed Afghan Association of Central Virginia and hiring 3 Afghan staff members.
- We responded to our client needs by establishing 3 community-based English classes in partnership with ICNA Relief and the Tuckahoe YMCA.
- We built new relationships with driving schools so that 2 permit review classes were provided in Dari and 60 clients were connected to behind the wheel instruction so they could earn a driver's license and keep themselves (and others) safe on the roads.

The work highlighted on the following pages was made possible through the power of collaboration and partnership, demonstrating that when we come together for our newest neighbors, we can make a big impact.

In connection,
Kate Ayers, Executive Director

Our Growing Team!



Sheeba Adli **Program Support** Specialist



Haji Mohammad Khaja

Program Support Specialist





Jvoti Rimal Coordinator of Client Engagement



Kate Ayers Executive Director



Mary Wagner Healthy Futures AmeriCorps Member



Lindsay Bunting Eubanks Veena Lothe Jay Beekman Ramona Taheri Marilyn Breslow Kelly Gartner Sue Goodwin Sherita Grinter Rick Hanson Channing Hicks Sarah Merryman Hawa Stodah

Sadia Shah



Helen Rai **Director of Client** Engagement







Laura Berge Jones Associate Director

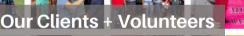


Coordinator of Client Engagement

Frances Burnson









Emily Schneider Resource Access Coordinator of Transportation Independence



Helen Zein Eddine Director of Volunteer + **Community Engagement**















Robin Seagraves Director of Finance + Administraton





Naseeb Ullah Safi Behind the Wheel Coordinator of Transportation Independence



Erin Harper Capacity Building AmeriCorps Member



Joanna Patzig **Economic Empowerment** AmeriCorps Member



Katie Brown Director of **Economic Empowerment**



Maris Laney Capacity Building AmeriCorps Member



"Our clients trust us to provide the information they need to access community services such as English and wellness classes.

This trust is the most precious thing we can do for people who are rebuilding their lives in a new place."

Sheeba Adli, Program Support Specialist







In August 2021, during the withdrawal of American troops and the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, many of our Afghan neighbors were worried and anxious about the safety of their family members back home.

At the same time, concerned mental health professionals in our local community offered their time to hold space for our Afghan clients to process their feelings among one another and find healthy ways to cope.

That fall, an initial group of clients accepted our invitation to participate in a support group with their peers.

After meeting for 8 weeks, they wanted to continue, so we held a second group in the spring of 2022.

In the summer we organized a third group, utilizing a mental health curriculum which offered new tools.



These wellness groups allowed participants, all women, to feel heard and to learn practical ways to take care of their mental health.

We hope to continue offering these groups and engage new participants in the coming years.

"It was a really good experience and distracted us from other things.

We got experience and learned a lot."

Female client from Afghanistan



In difficult times, there will always be people who step up to help.

And so, with the influx of Afghans in our community after the evacuation in 2021 and the arrival of Ukrainian families in Richmond after the war began in February 2022, numerous organizations and individuals reached out to us - ready to mobilize and respond but often unsure about what was needed, how to be most useful, or where to start.

This year we responded to more speaker requests than ever,
equipping concerned community members with tools to understand the experiences of our
neighbors from refugee, displaced, and conflict-affected backgrounds, and
expanding appreciation for the rich perspectives that newcomers bring to our community.

Among those already engaged, we facilitated conversations and bi-monthly dialogues with resettlement agencies, faith communities, and other service providers across the area, resulting in streamlined communication, increased resource awareness, and reduced duplication of efforts. To most effectively answer questions and foster collective wisdom, we started a support group for experienced and new volunteers along with community partners.

Throughout the year, we educated, empowered, and connected members of the wider Richmond community to information and resources and to one another, strengthening pathways of support so that our newest neighbors experienced welcome.

"Out of all the meetings I attend every week, the United in Welcome support group is by far the most helpful and encouraging!

It's great to reach out when we've hit roadblocks on how to help the international and refugee community. It's inspiring to hear what other people and organizations are doing, to help give us ideas of what we can do. It's an extremely helpful, collaborative effort to be in touch with ReEstablish Richmond and the IRC as well.

And after every meeting, Helen Rai does a phenomenal job of sending a recap with resources that were shared and discussed.

I'm so grateful to be part of this group!"

Lily Cameron, organizational lead for the Internationals Ministry of First Baptist Church of Ashland and Ashland Christian Church Disciples of Christ



This year we implemented a monthly Newcomer Newsletter to connect resettled community leaders with resources to aid and ease the integration of those who have recently arrived.

Further investing in members of our client communities, we established the Community Engagement Fellowship, a paid opportunity to share power and decision-making with those who have received our services at one point in their resettlement journey.

"My father used to say that good people are always on the earth, and the land is beautiful with them.

Thank you, ReEstablish Richmond, for all your good work."

Najibullah Nazari, former client from Afghanistan



In June, we joined forces with the City of Richmond's Office of Immigrant and Refugee Engagement to co-host the Imagine: Multicultural Festival.

The festival brought together thousands of newcomers to learn more about resources in our community and to celebrate World Refugee Day and Immigrant Heritage Month.

This year's celebration was especially joyous after the necessary restrictions on group gatherings during the pandemic over the previous two years.







In response to the influx of newcomers after the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan in August of 2021, the Heela Sewing Course collaborated with local stores and organizations to create a pattern, source materials, and provide instruction to community members and clients.

Together, we made over 150 prayer rugs that were distributed to our newest neighbors.

"Sewing prayer rugs for newly arrived Muslim refugees has been a way to contribute the sewing skills I learned from my grandmothers.

The gift of a prayer rug is like saying: Welcome Home!"

Mary Evans, volunteer (pictured above)



"I was paired with a lovely lady from Afghanistan, where because of the Taliban she was never allowed to go to school.

One year later she is preparing for her citizenship test. She is comfortable using her English skills and proudly announced she even answers the phone at work.

Along the way, we laughed and cried together, but we didn't let anything stop us from achieving her goal."

Sandra Markham, volunteer

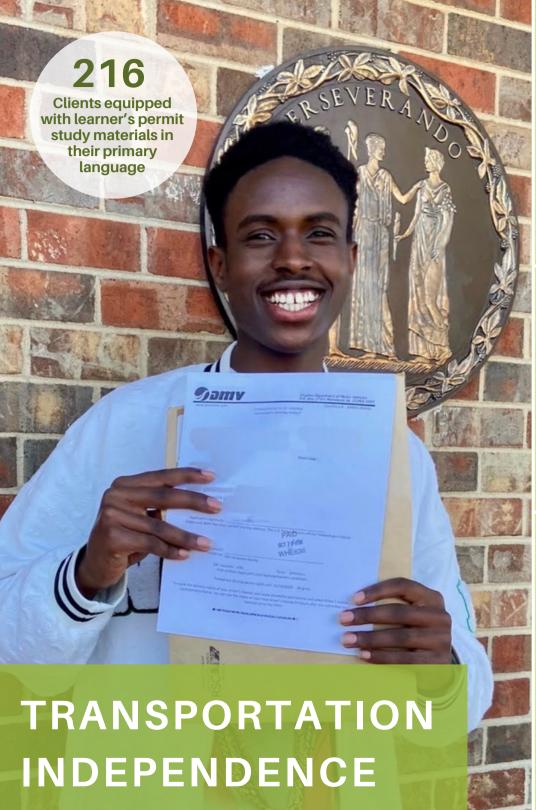


Our 5th annual Refugee and Immigrant Volunteer
Summit (RAIVS) provided 18 virtual learning sessions
and in-person networking opportunities
for 170 volunteers
across the Richmond community.

"As a brand new English tutor, the 2022 conference gave me a rich and helpful context for this volunteer role. Speakers were knowledgeable, engaging, and explored a diverse range of topics."

Jodi Teitelman, volunteer





This year we revamped our service model for driver's license support to ensure that newcomers could more efficiently and effectively connect to the resources needed to become safe drivers.

Our Driving in Virginia workshop provides clients with a step-by-step explanation of the driver's license process, important car seat safety information, and digital study materials in their primary language.

By using technology to increase access to resources, our clients are equipped with tools to manage their own progress, improve their knowledge, confidence, and skills, and reduce the time it takes to get a driver's license.



"Before this workshop,
I didn't know anything about
how to get a driver's license.
I also didn't know the car seat
information before,
but now I do.

After the workshop,
I understood how to study.
I watched the videos and
practiced, and now
I know everything!
My husband and I are
ready for the test."

Female client from Afghanistan





"The digital resources helped me a lot.

The most important thing was that I learned how to drive safely for myself and others, not just for the test."

Male client from Sudan



TRANSPORTATION INDEPENDENCE



Tusome Pamoja is Swahili for 'Let's Learn Together.'
This educational ministry of St. Elizabeth Catholic Church provides literacy and math instruction for students with limited or interrupted formal education (SLIFE).

ReEstablish Richmond partners with Tusome Pamoja by providing volunteer support for 1:1 tutoring, transportation, and logistics.



The Narratio Fellowship is an intensive storytelling and leadership program providing resettled refugee youth with the tools and resources to share their narratives and creative works on the world stage.

ReEstablish Richmond partners with Narratio to support the fellows in meeting their academic and artistic goals.

"Narratio was amazing! I learned about other people, other countries, cultures, and religions.

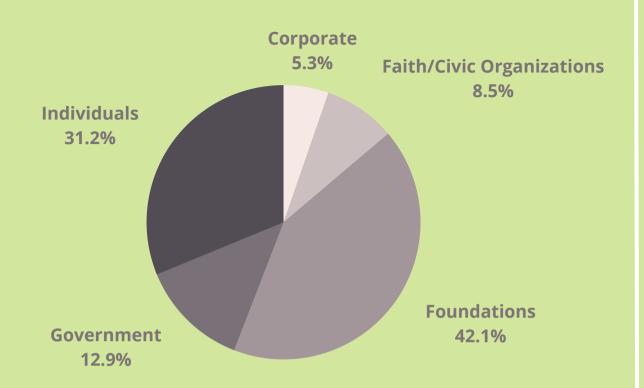
It gave me support in so many ways.

I appreciated the information about educational programs and universities. The Narratio team inspired us to follow our dreams and not give up."

Valeska, 2022 Narratio Fellow







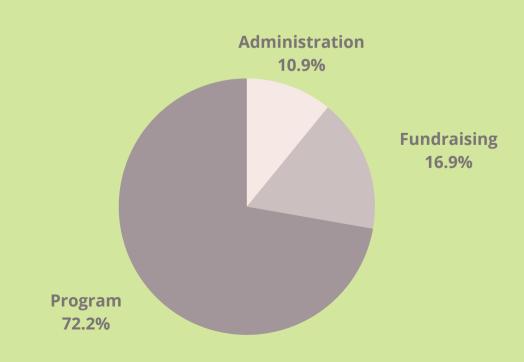


Total Donation Revenue \$811,591.04

Surplus income raised in 2022 will enable us to stabilize our reserves fund, continue to expand our staff to support our growing programs, dream big as we begin a new 3 year strategic plan, and strengthen our human resources by offering staff a healthcare stipend for the first time.

Total Expenses \$414,571.12

FY 2022 FINANCIALS



THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS, DONORS, AND PARTNERS FOR YOUR VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS WORK

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