

Executive Summary 2018



SEATTLE



Change is part of what it means to be human—to be alive. Our minds and bodies change with each passing day. Cultures adapt to new influences. The seeds we sow sprout into blossoming plants. Here at World Relief Seattle, we have the privilege of watching refugees experience the process of becoming United States citizens, fully-integrated into community.

This past year at World Relief Seattle, it sometimes felt like we were deluged in a sea of change. Even with the precipitous drop in the number of refugees that the United States allowed into our country, we saw many more opportunities to meet real needs in the refugee and immigrant community. We expanded our services to asylees, school-aged refugee children, people in need of legal advice, and those who—more than ever before—needed pathways to community integration and economic empowerment.



The World Relief Seattle community celebrates the first growing season at the garden with music, dancing, & food. The garden has become a place of community, stability, sustainability, and empowerment.

We've planted new programs such as the [Family Literacy Class](#) for parents and their young children, [post-release services](#) near the Immigration Detention Center in Tacoma, and an [asylee casework program](#). We grew and nurtured our welcome services, employment services, and volunteer-led programs. We continued to invest in encouragement and spiritual care to the detainees at the Detention Center. Perhaps the most fun was seeing the fruits of our labor as the first growing season at the community garden culminated with a wonderful celebration and a hearty yield of fresh produce. We had 50 families from 20 countries farm with us!

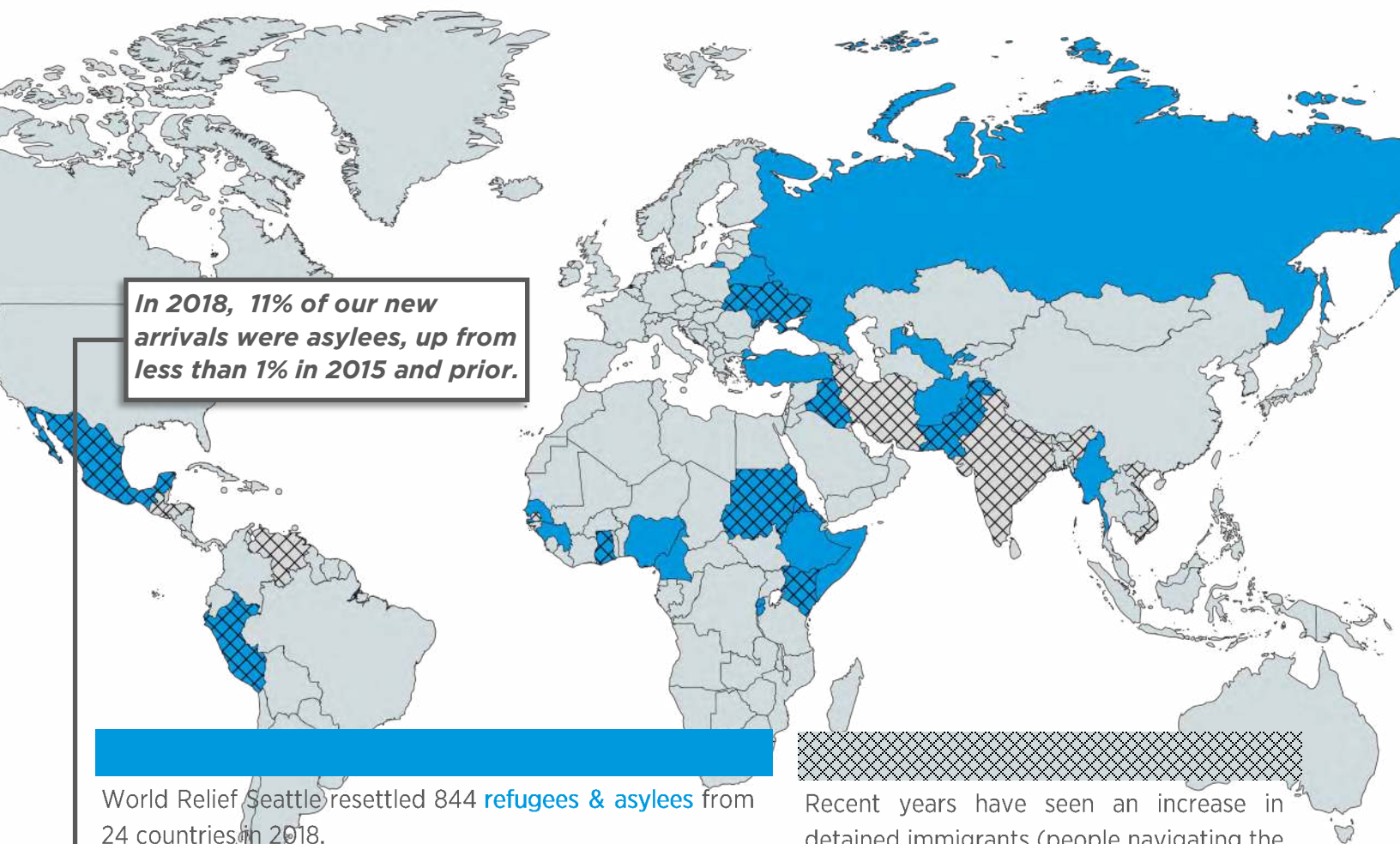
Change can be frightening or it can be exhilarating. At World Relief Seattle we aim to create a safe space that minimizes the fear-provoking uncertainty that change often brings. Instead, with the full weight of a welcoming community behind us, we lean into it with great joy.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chitra Hanstad".

Chitra Hanstad
Executive Director

We envision every refugee & vulnerable immigrant **welcomed** by community, **rooted** in community, and **empowered** for community.

Welcomed by Community



World Relief Seattle resettled 844 **refugees & asylees** from 24 countries in 2018.

As the traditional refugee resettlement program has been limited in scope and scale by US policy, we have noticed an increase in the number of people seeking refuge through the asylum process over the last couple of years.



Recent years have seen an increase in detained immigrants (people navigating the immigration legal system and potentially facing deportation).

Those who resolve documentation issues or are granted asylum are released with little warning and no resources, sometimes many states away from where they were initially detained.

In 2018, we grew our capacity to help meet needs of **released detainees**, providing referrals to asylee resettlement services, help coordinating transportation back to their families, access to volunteer host homes, or just a place to sit and think for a moment.

Rooted in Community

Immigration Legal Services expand in 2018

For many immigrants, arrival to America is not the end of navigating the complicated U.S. immigration system. That is why we expanded our Immigration Legal Services team from one to three full-time Department of Justice accredited staff over the last year.

This growing team assists refugees, asylees and immigrants with things like work authorization, green cards, citizenship, and family reunification. With your support, we are able to offer these services either pro-bono or at reduced rates to those in need.

More highlights from our year

- 274 people got jobs at 188 companies
- We had 53 kids at summer camp & 100 at soccer camp
- 94 English learners achieved a full level gain (gains in reading, writing, speaking, and listening) within just 6 weeks of classes.
- 214 newcomers were connected with volunteer cultural companions, host homes, and good neighbor teams.



Empowered for Community



Elizabeth, pink, fled persecution in Vietnam as a child in 1979.



Today Elizabeth has joined a Good Neighbor Team with her church to help resettle others seeking refuge.

I can recall one evening in March of 1978 when my father, Sen Vuu, came home after a visit to the city filled with hope. I could see in his eyes what we had all longed for and that was hope to find freedom—freedom of speech and freedom of religion. My father had just secured seats for our entire family of 8 on a small boat to depart Vietnam. After 4 nights and 5 days at sea, we were rescued by a Malaysian navy war ship. I spent roughly one year moving from one refugee camp to another before finally arriving in Seattle on March 20th, 1979.

When Elizabeth and her family arrived in the United States, World Relief partnered with a family at Alderwood Community Church (ACC) to welcome

and resettle them. Sen Vuu quickly became an advocate for others looking for hope, freedom of speech, and freedom of religion.

Just about 40 years later and still part of ACC, Elizabeth joined a Good Neighbor Team. Through this church-based volunteer program ACC welcomed 4 asylees in 2018—helping them find housing, gain employment, practice English and integrate into their new community.

It's not often that we reconnect with former refugees after so many years. Seeing Elizabeth as she and her church community prepare to welcome more people in 2019 reminds us of the empowerment we envision for every newcomer that comes through our doors.

Fiscal Recap

World Relief's fiscal year runs from October through September.

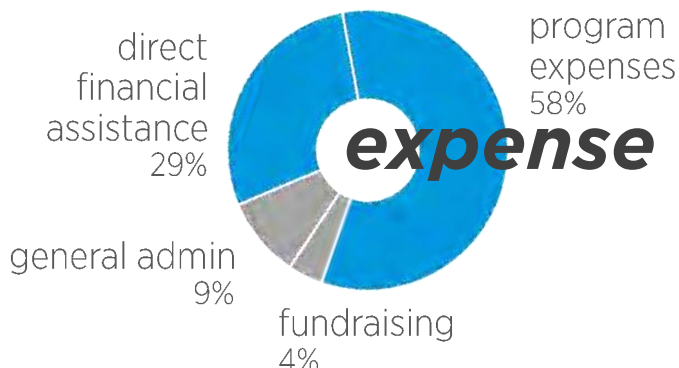
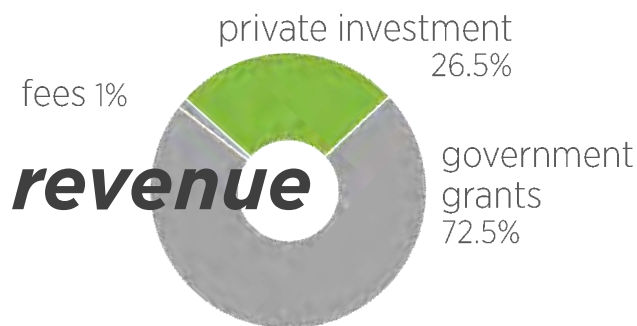
revenue \$4,178,360

expense \$4,245,931

\$1M \$2M \$3M \$4M

Federal funding has decreased dramatically in recent years, but we continue to see an increase in private funding. Private funding reserves prudently set aside in past years helped us to cover a slight deficit in expenses in FY 2018.

In a time of uncertainty and change in refugee programs on a national scale, the faithfulness of our community partners has allowed us—against all odds—to grow in many ways.



The 6-week sewing class is a place for women to learn new skills, practice English, and make friends. 25 women participated in sewing class in 2018.



Youth programs aim to help whole families navigate behavior expectations, school systems, and cultural integration during a time of great transition.

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