

MADE FOR CHANGE

2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

world relief 
DURHAM



Stories Inside

High School Graduate Wins Scholarship for Nursing School

A refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo won a competitive scholarship!

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A Story of Welcome

A family of 11 from Afghanistan fled the Taliban and resettled in Durham to rebuild their lives.



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STANDING WITH OUR NEIGHBORS IN 2020

2020 brought immense challenges for our refugee and immigrant neighbors whose vulnerabilities were severely compounded by COVID-19. Because of your generosity, over 2,800 immigrants and refugees were directly and indirectly supported with essential services and community integration. They received emergency rent assistance, found new jobs, received critical legal services, received public health information in their native languages, improved their English, reunited with family, and connected with supportive volunteers who, for many, will become lifelong friends. **World Relief Durham served alongside faithful churches, community partners, and volunteers to demonstrate the powerful contagion of compassion and love in overcoming isolation and fearful divides.**

With your help, we've had the immense privilege of coming alongside refugees and immigrants as they rebuild their lives, heal from trauma, and become meaningfully integrated in the community. Thank you for standing with our foreign-born neighbors, with the dream of their flourishing!

From WRD
Office Director,
Adam Clark



I remember listening to the bell ring and watching five large classrooms of refugees and immigrants in various levels of ESL class finish and fill the hallways to a standstill. There were Bhutanese young professionals, Burmese rice farmers, Iraqis who had worked with the US military and as a result had had to flee their homes; there were Somalis who had survived ethnic cleansing, survivors of war from multiple countries, Cuban political refugees—some of the most resilient and talented people I’ve ever met. **I remember watching two men—a quiet North Korean man who had spent 9 years in a hole being tortured, and an even quieter elderly Burmese man who had spent decades waiting for resettlement living in a bamboo hut in a camp in Thailand.**

Every day I watched these two men shuffle through the crowd, staring around gloomily until they found each other. And they immediately lit up. They began chattering to each other, smiling, tears would sometimes come to their eyes as they embraced. They were elated to see each other every day. It was honestly beautiful and I push back tears of my own remembering now as I write. **The most wonderful and mysterious thing about this daily phenomenon was that, at least according to their case files and reports by their ESL teachers, they had no verbal way to communicate with each other at all. Their English level was as low as it could be, they did not share another language, they did not share a faith.** The only thing I could find out about them was that they had both been persecuted prisoners overseas and that someone in their ESL classes had told them about the other. And so they found each other each day.

They embraced like old friends or separated family. I can’t exaggerate how relieved and happy and at peace they were when they “talked” and pointed and laughed together in the hall for 15 minutes every day between classes.

And if you hadn’t met them or taken the time to volunteer and join this work in some way, anyone would have walked right by and missed this beautiful mystery of their connection. I had missed it for months. For those of you reading this review, you have your own such stories or the opportunity to discover them by joining this work. **Whether you are an immigrant or not, whether you have the language skills or not, whether you notice or not, our immigrant neighbors’ struggles and triumphs are happening all around us. At work, in our schools, in the grocery store, at your place of worship, at the airport.**

In the pages of this annual review, you will see the impact WE had together in assisting our immigrant neighbors as they improved their own material, economic, social, and spiritual lives in the Triangle in partnership with us. I cannot improve upon the stories or statistics shared here in showing you the impact we have had together nor the invitations these represent to you to be a part of this work. But I hope my story will make you pause sometime soon to appreciate and even seek out the beautiful connections happening right now across the Triangle between people from different worlds who are becoming no longer strangers. **May we all no longer be strangers and find these beautiful connections together. Join us!**

Adam Clark

THREE PILLARS OF WORLD RELIEF DURHAM'S WORK

World Relief Durham employs a holistic approach to coming alongside and equipping refugees and immigrants to become fully integrated, thriving members of the community.



Providing Vital Services

Refugees and immigrants need specific and experienced support to navigate life in the United States as they begin rebuilding their lives. This includes housing, school enrollment, translation services, social service enrollments, learning English, driver's education, employment services, and navigating the complex immigration legal system. World Relief Durham and partners compassionately come alongside refugees and immigrants with this support.



Building Welcoming Communities

Churches, volunteers, and community partners are at the heart of our shared mission to lovingly welcome refugees and immigrants from across the world, compassionately accompanying and advocating for them as they rebuild their lives. World Relief Durham equips these treasured partners to serve refugees and immigrants, while also advocating for issues that impact immigrants, at both the local and national levels.



Connecting People

Caring, mutual relationships are core to all that World Relief Durham does. Whether it's connecting volunteer mentors with young adults, teaching ESL, connecting churches with newcomer refugee families, or tutoring youth after school, World Relief Durham's work brings together people with vastly different cultures, backgrounds, and ethnicities in authentic friendship.

2,800+

Refugees & immigrants
served directly and
indirectly in 2020

21

Countries of origin
represented among
clients

60

Clients fully
vaccinated



Aline

Aline's Journey to Nursing School

Aline's journey started in the war-torn Democratic Republic of the Congo, from which she and her family fled and resettled as refugees in Durham. She was one of the first young people to join World Relief Durham's Mentorship Program when it started in 2019. She was paired with a mentor who guided her in identifying the primary educational and vocational goals she wanted to pursue and access critical resources to help pursue her dreams.

Aline has made incredible progress in pursuing her dreams of serving in the medical field. As a high school senior who actively pursued opportunities to fund her dreams, Aline was recently awarded the Triangle Community Foundation Felicia Brewer scholarship of \$50,000 from one of World Relief Durham's community partners and was offered admission to four universities! "I hope to be able to one day employ my understanding and compassion for those experiencing suffering and pain by working as a nurse. I think now women are becoming more comfortable and I would like to see that continue in the future."

Thank you for standing with Aline and so many other refugee and immigrant youth as they pursue their dreams and share their gifts with our community!

Youth Services Impact by the Numbers

38,000+

Hours of support provided for immigrant youth

98

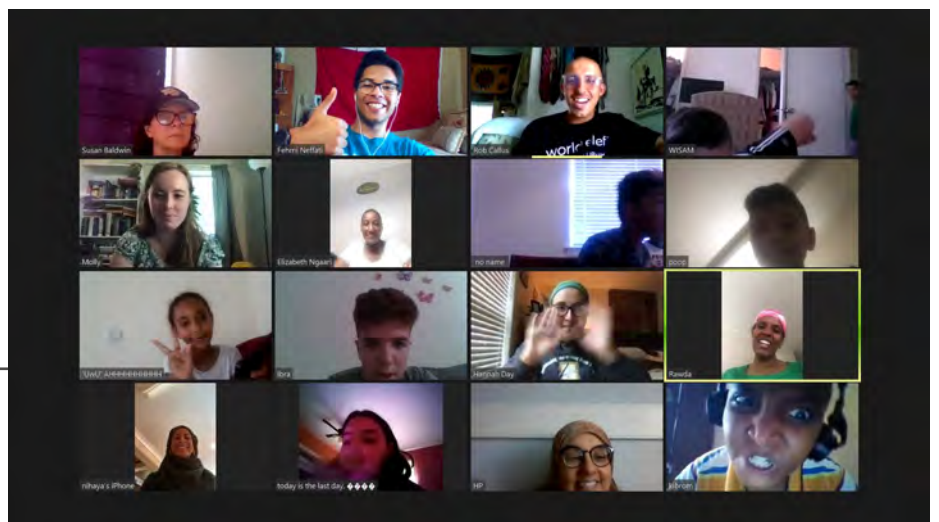
Zoom tutoring sessions for 100+ youth

16

Countries of origin represented among youth

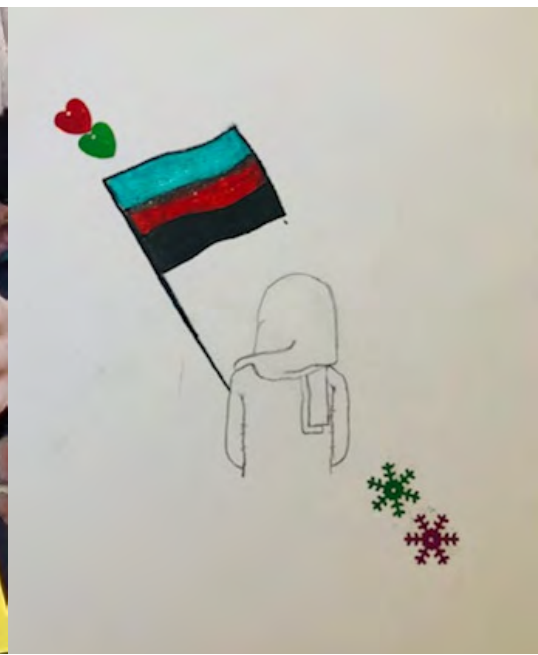
1,999

Hours of mentoring provided for young adult refugees



Challenges & Gifts of Virtual Learning

When schools shut down in March 2020, WRD's youth services program quickly pivoted to virtual program delivery, offering multilingual academic tutoring and social-emotional support online. As nearly all youth speak native languages other than English or Spanish, they were missing critical public health information and communications from the public school system. WRD staff worked with bilingual assistants to ensure that youth and their families received all messaging, while also ensuring that youth could access and use technology for online school. Over 100 youth were supported thanks to your compassion!



Critical Importance of Mental Health

Many refugees endure profound physical and psychological trauma after fleeing from violence and persecution in their countries of origin. These traumas are compounded by acculturative stress and linguistic isolation in their new countries.

World Relief Durham regularly conducts mental health assessments and screenings for youth and adults to identify individuals requiring referrals to UNC Refugee Wellness, a partner that provides individual and group therapy.

Get updates and prayer requests in real time by connecting with us on social media!

@worldreliefdurham
@WRDurham

Healing through Art Therapy

Many newcomer refugee and immigrant youth spent the majority of their lives in refugee camps or other dangerous areas prior to moving to Durham. As a result, nearly all have experienced educational disruption, with some having had little formal schooling. Art is a safe and shared medium to express feelings and traumatic experiences, connecting more to oneself and others.

Many youth served by World Relief Durham participate in art therapy lessons over Zoom led by partner, Art Therapy Institute and in partnership with Durham Public Schools ESL Department.

Each week, clinicians from the Art Therapy Institute facilitate three art therapy groups,

creating space for youth to name their emotions, share about what makes them feel secure, and dream in bright colors about what they hope for themselves.

Youth have shared that these art therapy sessions are the highlight of their week. In between sessions, they create new pieces of art at home, eager to share at the start of each session.



World Relief Durham's Youth Services program is grateful for partnerships with Durham Public Schools, the United Way of the Greater Triangle, Triangle Community Foundation, UNC Refugee Wellness, and Art Therapy Institute!

JOURNEYING TO SAFETY, WELCOME & HOPE

One family's journey from Afghanistan to Durham

Last year, despite the Muslim ban and the lowest refugee ceiling in history, World Relief Durham welcomed a family to our community. The husband and wife arrived with ten of their children, aged 2-19, but their move was marred because their eldest child, a son, who did not have the proper papers to travel to the U.S., had fled to Belgium from Afghanistan. Still, the large family resettled in Durham with our help, and began the hard work of learning English, finding employment, and starting school.



This work was nothing compared to the situation the family fled. In Afghanistan, the father worked for the US military fighting the Taliban. Between the presence of the Taliban in their front-line village and the dangers to the family, it was critical that they leave. They were getting daily threats and notes saying they had to work for or pay the Taliban. In Afghanistan, the mother said she couldn't sleep. She would get up all

51

Refugees resettled from seven countries in 2020

throughout the night and check on the children and worry about her husband at work and son who had been sent to Belgium. Their oldest son was in Belgium because he was told to work for the Taliban or be killed. All of the younger nine children couldn't play outside because of the dangers. Women were often raped and children murdered. Sometimes they would see a body in the streets.

50

People supported with employment services

Upon arrival in the U.S., the mother experienced relief and relaxation. To have "no worries (was) a vast contrast to what I was experiencing in Afghanistan." **The family was excited for all their children, especially the girls, to be educated, to read and write. The oldest daughter and mother had never even held a pen in their hands or had any education.**

105

People attended virtual driver's education & ESL

The family was paired with a local Durham family, the Schultes, who wanted to serve as Friendship Partners, a six-month commitment to regularly check-in with the refugees and assist them with ESL, basic needs, errands, etc. "I remember preparing the small apartment before the family arrived thinking "a family of 13 is going to live HERE?!" And that was before all of us were confined to

68

Families received COVID-19 related direct assistance



our homes due to the pandemic. However, from our very first meeting, all you could see and feel from the family was a deep sense of gratitude,” said Mick Schulte, who with her husband, Mark and their four kids have treasured their new friendship.

“They also wanted to connect and welcome people

immediately. Each time we would visit thinking we would stay for a short while and it would turn into an hour or two of watching our children play soccer together in the grassy area near their apartment. We drank their delicious tea and our kids thoroughly enjoyed trays full of nuts and candies. We have honestly never felt so welcomed by people. And it felt especially wonderful because we were building relationships with people who come from completely different backgrounds with a totally new language to us. We’re forever grateful for this opportunity for our family. Thank you World Relief Durham!”

Now the family, from adults to tots, are all learning English and thriving, and the father has good work. The family feels that World Relief Durham “helped with everything.” If they had a problem, World Relief helped. They love their volunteer tutor and Friendship Partners. About their tutor, Rinnette Lowder, they say they “cry when (she) leaves and are upset when (she) can’t come!” When asked what the family likes best about living in Durham, the father didn’t hesitate in his answer: “Being safe and happy and knowing my family is cared for.”

The family’s story took an unexpected and joyful turn when our Immigration Legal Services department was able to work with their eldest son to bring him to Durham. The days leading up to his arrival, one of our first refugee resettlements in 2021, were nerve-racking. But the day finally came when he took a taxi to the family’s apartment and called his dad to say, “Come to the door. I’m here!” The family cried and stayed up all night, talking and reveling in their reunion. The son said, “Without World Relief Durham, I couldn’t have come here. I’m happy.” We’re happy, too. We are happy for this family and that our resettlement, volunteer engagement, youth services, and Immigration Legal Services teams could work together to change the lives of this family for the better.

Read more stories of impact online on our blog
and by subscribing to our newsletter!

Visit our website at:
worldreliefdurham.org



Vergonia proudly became a US citizen with the help of WRD's Immigration Legal Services program!

Legal Status = Stability

To obtain the right to work, become citizens, and reunite with family members, immigrants have to navigate the extremely complex US immigration system—a difficult process, even for native English speakers. World Relief Durham's nationally accredited Immigration Legal Services program provides affordable legal consultations and representation for their immigration cases, some of which can take years to be decided. World Relief and partners also advocate for just immigration policies that respect both the dignity of all human beings and the needs of our country and community.

Immigration Legal Services Milestones

20

Countries of Origin
Across all Clients

144

Legal Consultations
& Representations

670+

Community Members
Educated About Immigration



Keeping the Faith

U.S. citizen Aumonae Johnson met her fiancé, Siafa, in 2016 during one of her annual mission trips to Liberia, where she was born. She describes how their "souls connected" when they met. Aumonae and Siafa quickly entered into a relationship and have been together in their "journey of love and faith." Two years ago, on July 26, 2019, Siafa asked Aumonae to marry him while she was visiting Liberia and she said yes!

After returning to the United States, she filed a fiancé visa petition for Siafa that was approved in April 2020. Aumonae was hoping that the processing at the U.S. Embassy would happen quickly, as is typical with fiancé visa cases, and she would be able to return to the United States from Liberia with Siafa in August 2020. Siafa's visa was indefinitely delayed due to the pandemic, causing the couple emotional, mental, and financial strain:

"Being apart has no way been easy. Our strong communication and faith have kept us going...a process that usually takes nine months has taken almost two years from start to finish. It has been very stressful and it has taken a serious toll on us mentally, financially, and health wise. Families are supposed to be together, not apart. We cannot even plan a wedding because we do not know what to expect. My prayer and hope is that all families are reconnected. I want to continue to make beautiful and lasting memories with my husband-to-be. We have been patiently waiting. I know that it is God's will for me and Siafa to be together."

Aumonae and Siafa were thrilled to recently hear that Siafa was granted a K-1 fiancé visa after almost two years of processing! **They are grateful for your support, which enabled WRD to provide the legal representation they needed to be reunited, and helped them keep the faith while waiting.**

Did you know?

WRD's Immigration Legal Services program is the only provider in Durham offering comprehensive family-based representation in Green Card applications!

Creating Partnerships of Love

Churches are central to World Relief Durham's work



*Good Neighbor Team from Trinity Park Church
Welcome Refugees at RDU!*

Jesus calls us to love God and love our neighbor. At World Relief Durham, we are committed to partnering with local churches to live this out through a ministry of welcome, service, and advocacy. In 2020, we partnered with 18 churches across many denominational and nondenominational affiliations, revealing the powerful impact of churches unifying around the **shared ministry of creating communities of welcome, hospitality, and belonging for persecuted and oppressed people from across the globe.**

Churches rallied together to set up apartments for new refugee arrival families, serve as Friendship Partners, help new refugees learn English, deliver emergency food throughout the pandemic, connect clients to jobs, donate winter coats and baby shower items for expecting mothers, and faithfully pray for their refugee and immigrant neighbors.

We celebrate these church partners that gave time, talent, and treasure sacrificially while also navigating tremendous COVID-19 challenges! - All Saints Church, Blacknall Presbyterian Church, Chapel Hill Bible Church, Christ Central Church, CityWell United Methodist Church, Duke Chapel, Durham Home Church Network UMC, Durham Mennonite Church, The Gathering Church, Hope Valley Baptist Church, King's Park International Church, Mt. Sylvan United Methodist Church, Refuge Home Church, Resurrection Life Church, Story Church, The Summit Church, Trinity Park Church, and Waypoint Church.



*Apartment Set Up Team from Durham Home
Church Network United Methodist Church*



Faithful volunteer, Tim delivering rice to food insecure families

The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow.
Psalm 146:9



Volunteers - the Heart and Soul of World Relief's Ministry

Thank you to the 300+ community members who put their compassion into action by lovingly serving, befriending, and having their lives enriched by our refugee and immigrant neighbors!

World Relief volunteers are changing lives. This past year, volunteers rose to the challenges of supporting our newest neighbors during a global pandemic. They delivered food, set up apartments, pivoted to virtual tutoring, demonstrated remarkable creativity in connecting with their immigrant friends, to continue building friendships, mentored young adults, and

generally poured out their gifts and time to build a more welcoming community for our foreign-born neighbors. In return, our volunteers were transformed by the love, wisdom, and perspective of the people they were working to serve.

World Relief Durham's vision of creating welcoming communities where refugees and immigrants in vulnerable circumstances can contribute, share their gifts, and thrive wouldn't be possible apart from our team of volunteers. Thank you!



70

Families provided with food & urgent needs



4,000+

Hours of Volunteering



300+

Volunteers in 2020

Become a Volunteer!

Join us in walking alongside refugees and immigrants in our community! From English classes and apartment set-up to mentoring and tutoring after school, there are so many ways to build relationships and show welcome to refugees and immigrants in our community. Bring your gifts, abilities, and interests, and we will help you use them to support families and individuals as they rebuild their lives in Durham.

For more information, see worldreliefdurham.org/volunteer-opportunities or email WRDVolunteer@wr.org.

Your Generosity in 2020

\$961,904

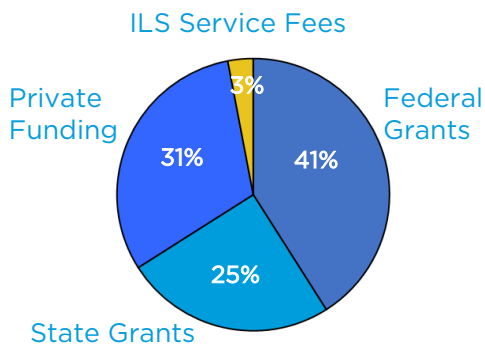
Total Revenue

\$938,646

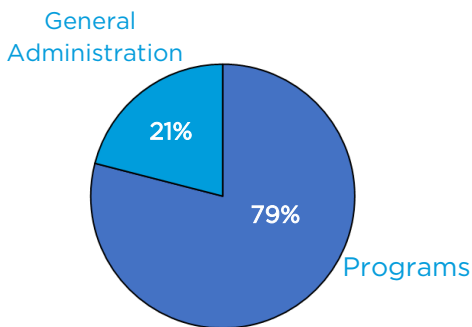
Total Expenses



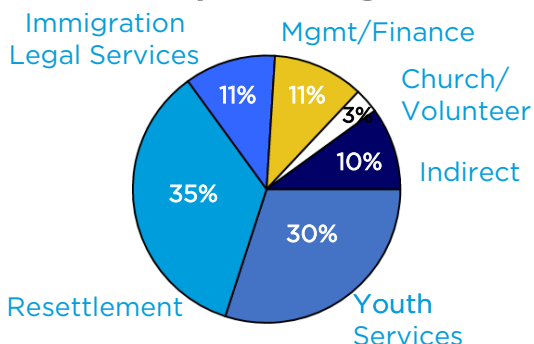
FY20 Income



FY20 Expenses



FY20 Program Spending



A New Set of Wheels!

Thanks to the generosity of World Relief Durham friends, funds to purchase a much-needed new van were raised in record time! Many hundreds of World Relief Durham clients will now have safe and reliable transportation to vital healthcare, education, and employment appointments and services for years to come. Transportation is often taken for granted, but not so for many of our refugee and immigrant clients who rely on public transportation and rides from World Relief staff. Thank you for supporting their integration into our community in this crucial way!

Thank You!

Our ministry is made possible by the generosity of many individuals, churches, foundations, and businesses. World Relief Durham continues to incrementally increase private revenue each year, enabling the expansion of more privately-funded programs that serve more and more refugees and immigrants.

Thank you for your partnership - for the gifts of financial support and time dedicated to volunteering with refugees and immigrants. Your compassion sustained our work and enabled us to serve more clients in 2020 than ever before. **World Relief Durham is poised for continued growth, deepening impact, and an increased witness by God's grace.**

Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today." - Luke 5:26

What Your Support Means

Your compassionate giving truly makes a difference for the refugees, immigrants, volunteers, churches, and other partners involved in our work!

Providing Vital Services

"Durham Public Schools' partnership with World Relief has had a positive impact on all the stakeholders in multiple ways. Teachers and administrators are appreciative of the social/emotional and academic supports that our students are benefitting from. It has really helped develop a better understanding of the needs of the students and the volunteers are wonderful with building community within the schools."

Sashi Rayasam, DPS Director K-12 ESL Learning Services

"There was a season in our marriage when we were in a financial hardship, had just added three kids to our family, and getting donated food each week literally kept our family fed. It has been a joy to now have an opportunity to do the same for refugees we are welcoming through World Relief Durham and our home church."

Jodi, World Relief Volunteer

Building Welcoming Communities

"Our faith community is committed to love of God and love of neighbor, endeavoring to show God's love to all, especially those who come to our country seeking refuge and critical assistance. Through World Relief Durham, our church has been able to offer food and financial assistance to families, even in the midst of a global pandemic. We are so grateful for this important work in our community."

Pastor Crystal, World Relief Church Partner

"Folks at our church have participated in tutoring immigrant children, helped lead a summer enrichment camp, and have served as friends to refugees through the Friendship Partner program. World Relief Durham has given our church a bridge to create meaningful relationships with the refugee community in Durham."

Amy, World Relief Church Partner

Fostering Mutual Relationships

"Partnering with World Relief Durham has opened up our lives to wonderful individuals and stories from many cultures - a diversity of people that has been so enriching in our lives. The refugee crisis is only growing around the globe and breaking apart so many lives. We have been so honored to partner with World Relief to combat that brokenness in our little corner of the world. Our lives are so much richer because of it."

Tim, World Relief Volunteer

All of this is possible because of your compassionate support!



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Photos courtesy of Mick Schulte and World Relief Staff