

A photograph of a man and a woman smiling and standing together indoors. The man is on the left, wearing a red and white striped polo shirt. The woman is on the right, wearing a red headscarf with a white floral pattern and a matching red top. They are both smiling warmly at the camera. The background is slightly blurred, showing an indoor setting with a window and some furniture.

world relief 
CHICAGOLAND

ORDINARY MOMENTS

Creating a Movement of Change

YEAR IN REVIEW 2021

DEAR FRIENDS,

As we reflect on the past year, it could be easy to focus on the tragedy, chaos, and violence. 84 million people are displaced from their homes—more than ever before. Our communities across Chicagoland continue to experience pandemic realities and challenges that threaten the ability of each person to flourish as God created us to. It is heartbreaking to see families suffer from financial hardship, lack of stable and affordable housing, slow immigration processes, and physical illness.

Yet as the ground feels like it is shifting beneath us, I have taken comfort in this: when we connect with each other over the ordinary experiences of being human, we become better at living together in community and welcoming new neighbors. And I have seen how, amid these realities, **you rose to the occasion in remarkable ways.**

This year, I saw volunteers, foundations, refugees, businesses, financial partners, church members, and World Relief Chicagoland staff work hard to connect with each other as circumstances called us to exercise compassion. From the churches who rallied to put together hundreds of Welcome Kits for new arrivals to the individual volunteers who showed up to volunteer virtually and in COVID-safe ways and financial partners who gave in sacrificial ways—**each action contributed to a bigger movement of change.**

Rather than simply describing the successes from the past year, this report is a small glimpse into that process of transformation. I hope that as you read, you are inspired by how God uses each of our individual actions to bring about a greater purpose and long-lasting impact—in 2021 and far beyond.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Sperry".

Susan Sperry
Executive Director
World Relief Chicagoland





ORDINARY MOMENTS

Together, creating a movement of change to
serve **6,500+** people across Chicagoland.



1,547

VOLUNTEERS



1,111

PRIVATE DONORS



120+

STAFF



220+

BUSINESSES



20+

FOUNDATIONS

In 2021, 1,547 volunteers, 1,111 donors, 121 staff, more than 20 foundations, and over 220 businesses joined together in a shared purpose—to welcome, walk alongside, and witness immigrants and refugees thrive in their new home. Together, we served 6,615 people across Chicagoland.

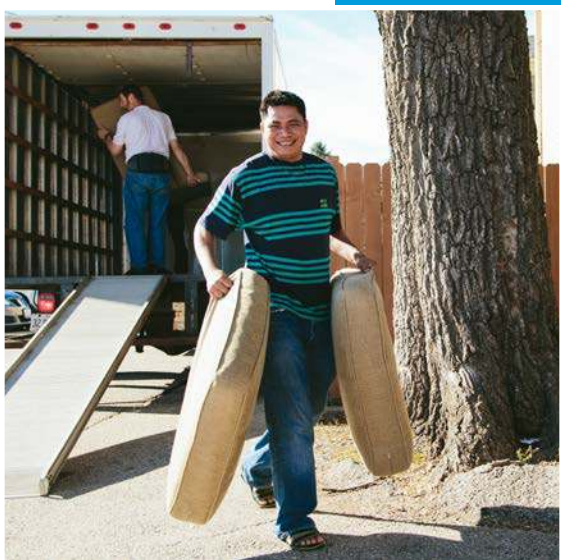
When we connect with each other over the ordinary experiences of being human, we become better at living together in community and welcoming new neighbors.

Susan Sperry

*Executive Director,
World Relief
Chicagoland*



Ordinary moments fill most of our days and make up our story. At World Relief Chicagoland, we see evidence of these ordinary moments every day—when you volunteered as a youth tutor for a child enrolled in e-learning, drove a refugee family to a medical appointment, stepped up to give above and beyond to welcome Afghan evacuees to safety, committed to giving \$10 a month, or became a Good Neighbor Team with your church small group.

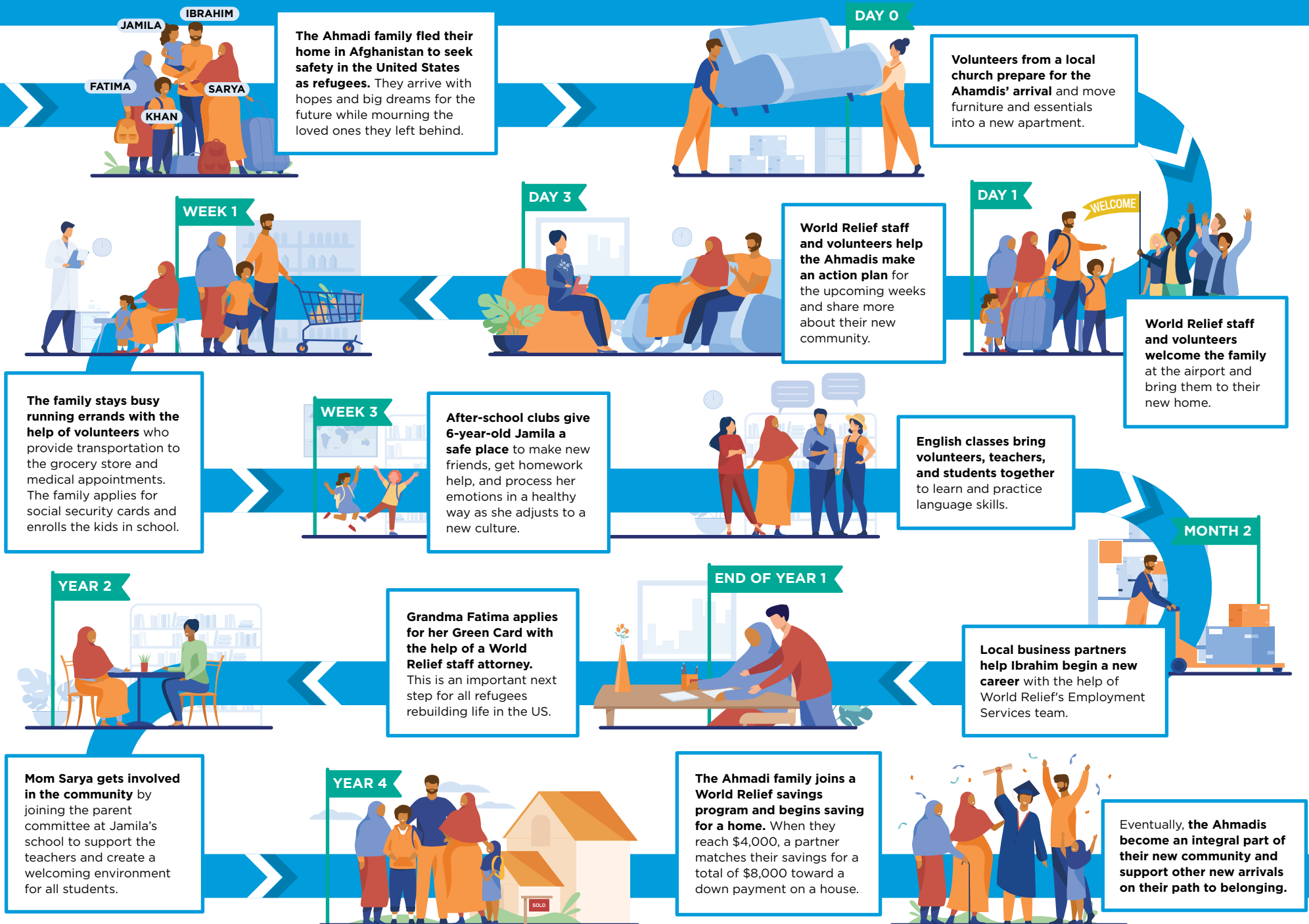


Each of these ordinary moments create lasting change in the hearts of each of us in the World Relief community. **And they forever change the lives of immigrants and refugees we walk with on their journey toward belonging.**

When we believe in the importance of our ordinary moments, we get a grander picture of the movement of change these ordinary moments fit into. We catch a glimpse of the Kingdom of God that is beautiful, diverse, and welcoming, and how, together, we are moving toward a community that reflects God's Kingdom here on earth.

Thank you for building communities of love and welcome for immigrants and refugees. Our ordinary moments are creating a movement of change.

THE JOURNEY OF A REFUGEE



A STORY OF **IMPACT**

In Afghanistan, Samira* was a gifted seamstress. With her skills in sewing and crocheting, she crafted gorgeous wedding gowns, dresses, and other apparel. Now, those days are documented only through the photos that Samira carried on the journey from Afghanistan to the U.S. military base where her family awaited resettlement and on to their new home in the suburbs of Chicago. But even on the journey, Samira continued using her talent to meet her family's needs. She transformed a bedsheet into a dress for her daughter. She made yarn by hand from spare materials.

When Samira arrived for resettlement by World Relief Chicago-land, staff learned of Samira's incredible skill as a seamstress. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we connected her with a sewing machine, fabric, thread, and other sewing tools so that she could begin using her skills to create a home and begin supporting her family in the United States.

The next time our staff saw her, Samira and her daughters were wearing brand-new dresses sewn by Samira that week! Right now, Samira is busy crocheting scarves, gloves, and hats for the cold Chicago winter and has entered a partnership with Shannon Gutiérrez, a local business owner, to sell Samira's hand-made items in her store. **Already, Samira is using her talents and skills to support her family and bless others. ♦**

* Name changed to protect this individual's privacy.



INDIVIDUALS

Even amid another year of uncertainty, World Relief Chicagoland's donors gave above and beyond.

In 2021, over 2,800 contributions were given to support immigrants and refugees as they rebuild their lives. The Monthly Partners community launched in fall 2021, our Changemakers community grew by 20%, 454 partners gave for the first time, and our virtual Global Gala reached over 1,000 people in spring 2021.

We are grateful for each person and family who has given to build welcoming communities.

When their children were school-age and began attending the neighborhood school right around the corner, Greg and Olivia Evans quickly realized the students their children were sitting next to in class were coming from different experiences. From a distance, they watched school counselors and teachers meeting the needs of recently resettled refugees. They saw these students learning a new language and navigating a huge life change.

As they saw this, Olivia (and Greg) began wondering: "How can we be a part of this? Is there a way for us to give kids equal footing in the same way we want to provide for our own kids? Is there a way for us to help make a difference? And that's where we met World Relief."

From this point forward, the Evans' partnership with World Relief has only expanded as they've watched many in the community around them join in the work. They had friends saying – "I can drive a car." or "I can be of service." In fact, their



neighbor around the corner is still involved and will say, "I'm doing an airport run tonight."

For the Evans, it all comes back to the concept of loving your neighbor. Loving your neighbor can be grand or simple, and there is room for all of that in World Relief's work. It's just a matter of asking yourself, what will I do?

One of the ways Greg and Olivia are responding is through financial partnership. Each year, they take time to talk with their kids about where they can have a tangible financial impact and what feels important to them. For the last several years, World Relief has been at the forefront of what is important.

Ultimately, for Greg (and Olivia) it comes back to the question: **"Who is my neighbor? Everyone is my neighbor. How do I show love? In any way I can."**

VOLUNTEERS

With more than 1,000 new volunteer applications, 2021 was a record-breaking year for volunteering with World Relief Chicagoland.

Each person and team who showed up virtually or in-person to help sort donations, setup housing, tutor students, mentor young adults, participate in ESL classes, provide transportation, or advocate contributes to creating a community of love and welcome.

World Relief Chicagoland aims to match volunteers with opportunities for them to use their skills and passions while building relationships.

One example of this is Max, a student at Loyola University Chicago who was inspired by World Relief's mission of serving immigrants and refugees in vulnerable situations. He applied to become a youth tutor at the Chicago office. However, conversation with World Relief staff revealed that Max's passion for healthcare access and his pre-med college studies was a perfect fit for the role of volunteer health advocate.

As a volunteer health advocate, Max met a refugee named Daniel. Max helps Daniel manage his health needs and they navigate the healthcare system together. However, the two have also developed a strong friendship – and Daniel has given Max a new perspective on his future career in medicine.

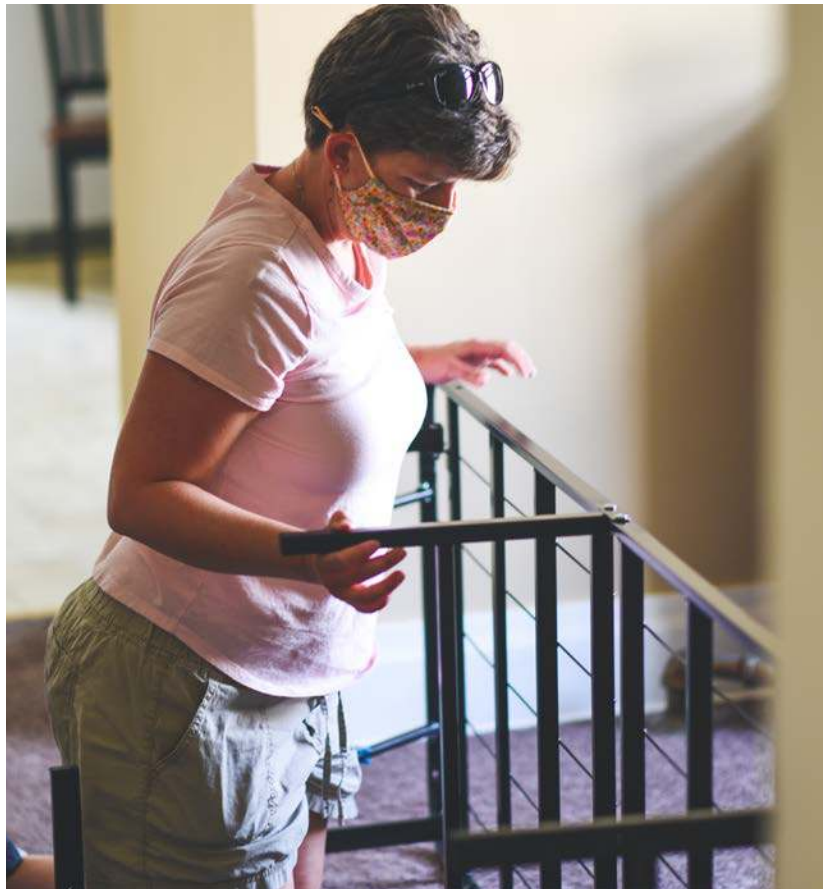
Read about Max and Daniel's story at worldrelief.org/volunteer-and-refugee-friends

World Relief Chicagoland is so grateful for volunteers like Max who walk alongside immigrants and refugees to help them overcome barriers and succeed!



CHURCHES

For more than 40 years, churches throughout Chicago and the surrounding suburbs have partnered with World Relief. These church partners mobilize small groups and entire congregations to welcome immigrants and refugees through acts of service, sacrificial giving, and friendship to new neighbors. In 2021, more than 400 churches were part of World Relief Chicagoland's mission to serve those in vulnerable situations and showed up in bold ways—gathering Welcome Kits, setting up refugee apartments, and spending countless volunteer hours serving together.



This is only the beginning of our involvement. The story continues. We are happy to partner with World Relief and bless refugee families with God's love.

Linda Koh, Living Water Evangelical Church

WELCOMING NEW ARRIVALS

Living Water Evangelical Church in Naperville was formed by a group of first-generation Chinese immigrants, many of whom are first-generation believers, who have been praying for a way to get involved in response to the Afghanistan crisis. To welcome those arriving to their neighborhood, several small groups joined together to build eight welcome kits and twelve people signed up to become part of a Good Neighbor Team.

GIVING JOYFULLY

Wheaton Bible Church responded to the Afghan refugee crisis and embodied “holistic” partnership—giving generously, rallying volunteers, and helping provide for the greatest needs, such as housing for new arrivals.

PRAYING FOR GOD'S POWER

Grace Presbyterian Church in Winnetka partnered financially while remembering that it is God who sustains all good work by making prayer a priority. Monthly prayer nights invite the congregation to lift up prayer for World Relief and for the impact of the church's giving.

Each of these church partners and so many more played a vital role in World Relief Chicagoland's mission this year. Thank you!

Visit worldrelief.org/Chicagoland/Church-Engagement to learn more about how you and your church can answer God's call to welcome our immigrant and refugee neighbors by partnering with World Relief Chicagoland.

FOUNDATIONS AND CORPORATIONS

World Relief Chicagoland's foundation and corporate partners play a vital role by investing in the future of immigrants and refugees and the entire community. From funding innovative programs to responding to community needs, each of our partners share a vision for more welcoming and just communities. We are grateful for the partners listed below as well as for others who prefer to remain anonymous.

Boeing Global Engagement	 The Chicago Bar Foundation Ensuring access to justice for all	 THE CHICAGO COMMUNITY TRUST AND AFFILIATES
 duly HEALTH AND CARE	 DuPage Foundation IF	 ILLINOIS BAR FOUNDATION
 Northwestern Medicine	 LAWYERS TRUST FUND of ILLINOIS	 United Way United Way of Metro Chicago
 Tyndale Foundation	 WILDER FOUNDATION	

GRANT PARTNERS

Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration at the U.S. Department of State

City of Aurora

DuPage County

DuPage County Workforce Development Division

Illinois Community College Board

Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights

Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

Illinois Department of Human Services, Office of Welcoming Centers for Refugee and Immigrant Services

Illinois Department of Public Health

Illinois State Library, a division of the Office of Secretary of State

Jewish Federation of Metro Chicago

Office of Refugee Resettlement at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

United States Department of Labor



BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

300+

PAID AND VOLUNTEER INTERPRETERS

speak dozens of languages and help World Relief Chicagoland staff communicate with immigrants from around the world.

221

LOCAL BUSINESS PARTNERS

hired new employees through World Relief Chicagoland's Employment Services program.

6,500+

TOTAL CLIENTS SERVED

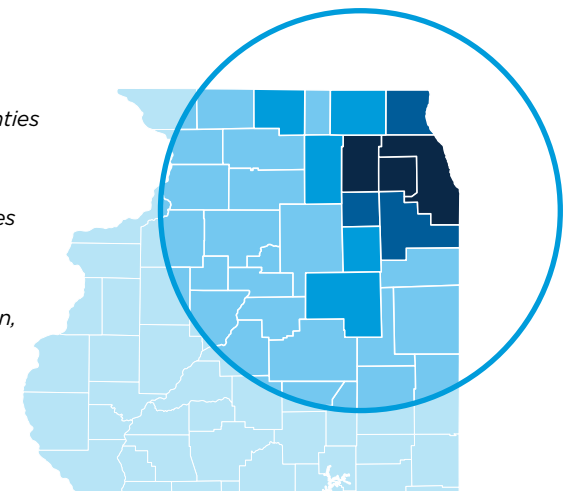
WHERE IN THE WORLD PEOPLE COME FROM



WHERE PEOPLE ARE LIVING NOW

(BY COUNTY)

- Most people live**
Cook, DuPage, Kane Counties
- Fewer people live**
Kendall, Lake, Will Counties
- Least people live**
DeKalb, Grundy, Livingston, McHenry, Winnebago Counties



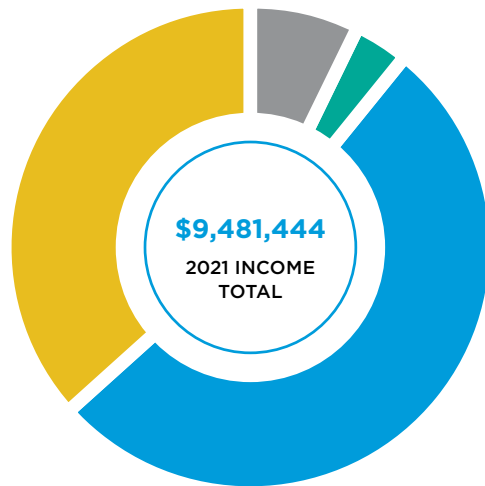
3,419 people were served through
Immigrant Family Services

2,859 people were served through
Immigration Legal Services

511 people were served through
Education Programs

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2021 INCOME



7.38%

Gifts in kind

3.64%

Earned income

52.56%

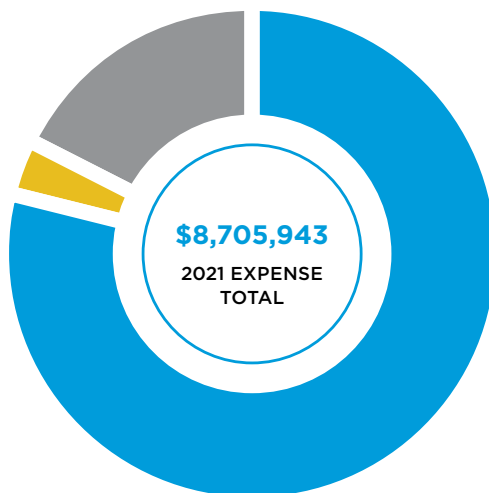
Public funding

36.41%

Private funding

- 25%** Churches
- 25%** Corporations
- 25%** Foundations
- 15%** Individuals
- 10%** Other

2021 EXPENSES



79.0%

Program expenses

3.5%

Fundraising

17.5%

Administration and other indirect costs

WORLD RELIEF CHICAGOLAND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

2021 Fiscal Year (October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021)

Income	Actual		Budget	
Public Grants	\$	4,983,571	\$	3,962,700
Private Income	\$	3,452,317	\$	2,441,710
Earned Income	\$	345,556	\$	305,000
U.S. Ministry Funds	\$	-	\$	10,000
Use of Cash Reserves	\$	-	\$	290,500
Gifts in Kind (GIK)	\$	700,000	\$	700,000
Income Total	\$	9,481,444	\$	7,709,910

Expenses

Salaries	\$	4,909,260	\$	4,831,070
Other Direct Costs	\$	1,971,633	\$	1,358,495
Indirect Costs	\$	1,125,050	\$	795,250
Gifts in Kind (GIK)	\$	700,000	\$	700,000
Expense Total	\$	8,705,943	\$	7,684,815

Surplus Carried to FY22* **\$ 775,501**

* Thanks to World Relief Chicagoland's generous supporters, 2021 income exceeded program expenses, with a budget surplus allowing for greater flexibility and innovation in the following fiscal year.



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DUPAGE COUNTY

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