

2023

ANNUAL REPORT

world relief® 
DURHAM



WRD staff, November 2023

ABOUT WORLD RELIEF DURHAM

World Relief Durham's purpose as a faith-based humanitarian nonprofit is to see refugees and other immigrants in vulnerable circumstances thrive in the Triangle with the help of churches, immigrants themselves and the wider community working together. We walk alongside new refugee families arriving through the U.S. resettlement system, immigrant youth in the public schools and immigrants seeking the protections and benefits of immigration legal services.

By mobilizing the church and wider community to work in tandem with and for our newest such neighbors, we catalyze a more welcoming Triangle that embodies some of our community's best values, true Southern hospitality and God's call to followers of Jesus Christ in scripture to work for justice and welcome the stranger.



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Did you know that because of your support and our work together, in 2023 parents who had been separated from their children tearfully held them again right in RDU airport? Spouses were reunited after years apart. Refugee mothers received culturally-appropriate, multilingual medical care and doula support, protecting them and their babies.

Thanks to your support and our work together, children who have endured education loss, displacement and persecution received multilingual academic and social-emotional support on-site in Durham Public Schools.



Many students enjoyed their first summer camp experience, entirely free and made possible by your generosity. Hundreds of misinformed and under-served immigrants found clear answers, caring attention and a path forward in their legal cases for immigration — all of which they could not afford without the support of this community and our incredible team.

Thanks to this community, our clinical team provided therapy for individuals and groups, targeting some of the deepest effects of persecution and trauma and starting the process of healing. Volunteers and community groups from across the Triangle built friendships, opened their homes and set up apartments, while dozens of churches embodied the active love of Jesus for hundreds of newcomers.

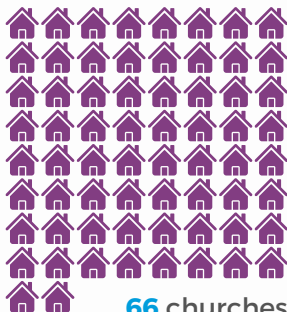
No matter what surprises may come, Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever (Heb 13:8) and I'm grateful to be able to serve alongside each of you in his body and our wider community yesterday, today and every day!

ADAM CLARK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WORLD RELIEF DURHAM

2023 IMPACT



1900 refugees and other immigrants were served directly (**800+**) and indirectly (**1100**) across all programs



66 churches partnered with us in advocacy, giving and volunteering



419 individuals resettled from **19** countries

"To hear [refugees'] stories is just incredible and profound. ... Life is about stories compounding with each other as we come together. I'm grateful to be a small part of somebody's story."

- Naoshi Y., WRD Volunteer

140 volunteers & interns served for **3000+** hours and drove **1900+** miles this year



Immigration Legal Services team worked on **221** open cases and conducted **110** consultations for immigrants and their families

Employment Services Team enrolled **230** persons in classes & found employment placements for **128** persons



402 persons received Health & Wellness services



241 students & parents benefited from youth services & programs

"I feel like we have built a really genuine friendship over the last few months and I look forward to knowing [my friendship partner] for a really long time."

- Morgan G., WRD Volunteer



In January, WRD, Duke campus ministries and the Duke Divinity Center for Reconciliation cohosted the second annual prayer service for immigration.

World Relief Durham could not have had such sustained impact this year without the active love and generosity of our local churches, organizations and community members.



City of Medicine Volunteer Medical Corps conducted vision and hearing screenings for dozens of clients in June.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

From free health screenings to speaking out about God's call to welcome the stranger; from homework help to donation drives; our community creates a place of belonging for newcomer families.



In July, Refugee and Immigrant Student Enrichment (RISE) Camp supported elementary and middle-school students through academic and social-emotional learning activities.



Pastors and ministry leaders from Eastern NC met with Representative Murphy to share their biblical convictions about immigration policy in August.



The Gathering Church held a donation drive of essential supplies for refugee families in September.



In October, WRD partnered with Iglesia La Semilla to connect with the wider Spanish-speaking community in Durham and share information about immigration legal services.

ADVOCACY REFLECTION

World Relief advocates for immigration policy solutions that both guarantee secure national borders and protect the God-given dignity of every person. Learn more: evangelicalimmigrationtable.com.

In 2023, World Relief Durham's Advocacy Coordinator at the time, Hunter West, reflected on her visit to the southern border along with pastors and ministry leaders. Excerpt below; read the full reflection here: <https://bit.ly/3P9GqRe>



[H]eadlines often do not give the fullest sense of the issues that plague the southern border. Oftentimes we hear of the border being an issue of national security though these problems go beyond security conflicts. There is an abundance of humanitarian issues that must be addressed as well.

During our trip we discussed the complexities of immigration policy. Questions arose as to how we can have a compassionate and just response to a family of undocumented parents and documented children. We talked to border patrol agents about how they are overworked and underappreciated. (The attrition rate of border patrol agents is twice that of other federal agencies.) We also learned that a broken immigration system leads to even more broken lives as between 14,500 to 17,000 individuals are trafficked into the United States each year.

However, the most memorable portion of the trip was visiting El Buen Samaritano, a migrant shelter in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. As one of the 23 shelters in the city, it offers a place of rest and restoration for weary travelers who typically stay an average of two weeks to two months waiting for their asylum requests to be processed. It also is one of many shelters run by a church, showing that Christians are on the frontlines of the issue at the border, offering our immigrant neighbors physical and spiritual nourishment in such a desperate time of need. ...

Most of my visit was spent talking to a young girl who took a journey from southern Mexico along with her brother and mother. ... While stereotypical descriptions of people approaching the border may cast them as drug traffickers or individuals determined to break U.S. law, neither my new friend nor the other residents I met at El Buen Samaritano resembled that caricature. The details of their stories may differ, but all of them were seeking a legitimate way to enter the United States and build something good for their families as part of a safe community. ...

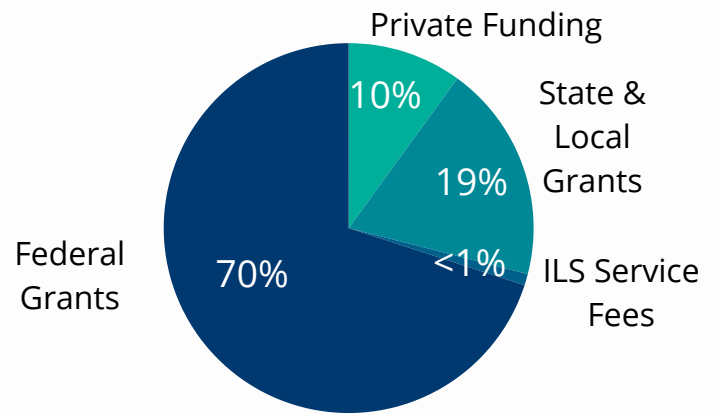
Instead of balking at our brokenness and forsaking us to fend for ourselves, Jesus moves toward us in compassion and willingly becomes our advocate. Similarly, may we not forsake the thousands of individuals coming to the southern border, considering them a national security issue. Rather may we move toward them in compassion, ready to receive them.

YOUR GENEROSITY IN 2023

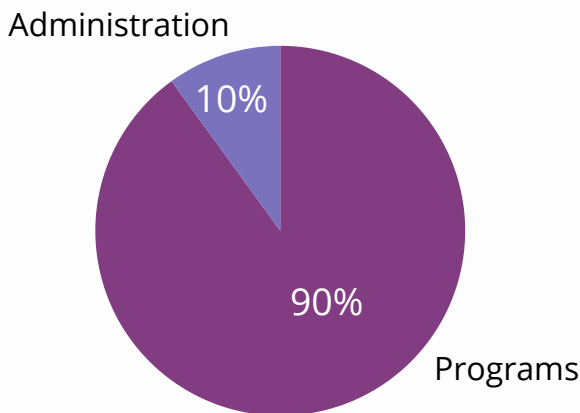
\$4,577,604
Total Revenue

\$4,501,603
Total Expenses

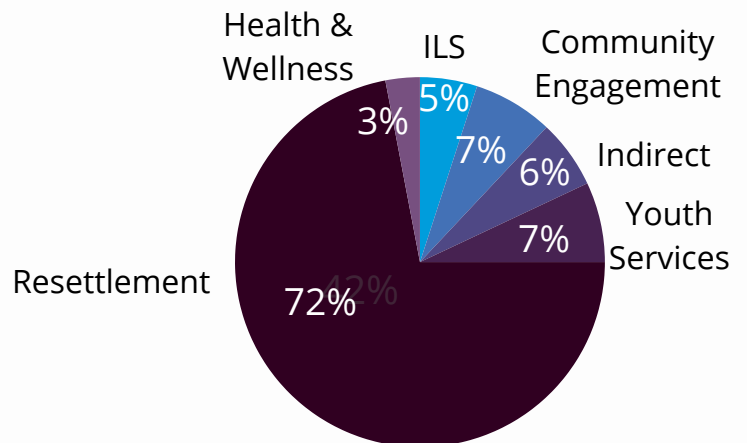
2023 Income



2023 Expenses



2023 Program Spending



Thank You!

Our work is made possible by the generosity of many individuals, churches, foundations, community organizations and businesses. The growth of private revenue allows World Relief Durham to continue expanding and creating programs to holistically serve our refugee and other immigrant neighbors.

Thank you for your partnership. Your compassionate financial gifts, donations of material goods and hours spent volunteering allow our program participants to thrive in welcoming communities. We are humbled by how God has blessed this work in the past year, and look forward – together – to the year ahead.



worldrelief.org/durham

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