

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DECEMBER 2021

It goes without saying that we're living through extraordinary times here at the IRC. Everywhere we look, the work itself is both challenging and inspiring. Very fortunately for us, each day we see extraordinary resilience being modeled by the individuals and families we're serving right here in San Diego County.

This moment in our history is marked by several evolving factors at play. COVID-19 still presents a host of new challenges for our clients, which as a result continues to shape our thinking about service delivery. Nevertheless, we have found creative ways to build out our programs where we've needed it the most this last year—including helping small business owners obtain critical COVID-19 relief, as well as helping clients access information and resources remotely through our "Digital Inclusion for All" initiative. This year we also welcomed a new presidential administration—one that has already shown its dedication to rebuilding the United States' Refugee Admissions Program. With this commitment, we are now fully engaged in the critical and ongoing Afghanistan evacuation response.

Every day is a new day. And still, we persist...

It cannot be overstated that everything we've been able to accomplish at the IRC has happened in partnership with our community. One of our strongest offerings in San Diego has been the work of the Center for Financial Opportunity and the IRC Small Business Development Center. Partners like the San Diego & Imperial Valley SBDC, the City of San Diego, Women's Empowerment International, Price Philanthropies, and the San Diego Foundation are critical in helping us meet our clients' needs—including women—often entering the workforce for the first time.

As San Diego is a border site, our office is also the only office in our IRC network that continues to sustain an intensive case management program for asylum-seeking families. We are especially grateful for the visionary contributions from the University of San Diego this past summer when they provided on-campus housing and so much more for newly arriving asylum seeker families over 4 months during the spring and summer. We are now talking with USD about ways that we can further expand this model partnership in supporting additional families in this next year.

Now in its second year, the work of our Women's Resilience Center has been essential to women who felt even more isolated in their homes during the pandemic, as we seek to provide a safe space to serve the unique needs of women and girls who may not have had the opportunities of their male counterparts in their previous circumstance. I encourage you to read our full Safety & Wellness Snapshot Report—which you'll find linked in the Safety & Wellness section that follows.

If you can imagine it, we're looking out on a new horizon with extraordinary hope for the future. We are moving at incredible speeds to build our capacity in preparation for an even greater diversity of clients than we've seen in a while. And as we continue to ride the ebbs and flows of surges and new variants, ongoing international response, or anything else that comes our way—we have never been clearer that our only responsibility is and will always be to provide robust welcome and community-driven, client-centered support to newcomers...today, tomorrow, and the day after that...

Thank you for your partnership.

In service,



Donna Duvik
Executive Director
International Rescue Committee in San Diego

OUR IMPACT

IRC SAN DIEGO 2021

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

6,861

PEOPLE SERVED, INCLUDING

174

NEW REFUGEE ARRIVALS

RESETTLEMENT AND PLACEMENT

Provided case management support for 174 newly arrived refugees & asylees to help families become oriented and connected to resources in their new community.

Afghanistan: 87
Burma: 6
Dem Rep Congo: 12
Iraq: 21
El Salvador: 4
Pakistan: 4
South Sudan: 4
Sweden: 3
Syria: 33

45.4%

of new arrivals
were children
under 18



IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES

Department of Justice-accredited legal representatives provided quality, low-cost, and free application assistance and legal representation to 2,480 refugees, asylees and other immigrants.



470

people became
U.S. Citizens



202

successful Deferred
Action for Childhood
Arrivals (DACA)
renewals filed



125

petitions filed
that resulted
in reunited
families



200

citizenship
Education
Program
Students

YOUTH PROGRAMS

This past year the IRC in San Diego supported in-school and out-of-school refugee youth in City Heights and El Cajon to gain the academic, work-readiness, and social-emotional skills needed to reach their goals.

100%

of youth involved with IRC's Summer Program attended a field trip to a new place in San Diego they had never visited before!

\$15,000

distributed for the IRC Youth Scholarship to 15 seniors involved with IRC Youth Programs.



GPA

88%

participants in
mentorship
sessions showed
improvement in
at least one class



71

mentorship sessions
offered to those
struggling with
remote learning



158

tutoring sessions
offered to those
struggling with
remote learning



302

youth served



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IRC SAN DIEGO 2021

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

SAFETY & WELLNESS

[View FY21 S&W Snapshot Report here](#)

The IRC's Safety & Wellness Program offered case management support for those whose safety has been threatened, connecting them to needed resources to stabilize their lives and reach a place of security.

128

personal safety plans created for domestic violence survivors to ensure individuals were prepared for and able to respond to crisis situations

237

asylum seekers received assistance to secure housing, access legal aid, and meet basic needs

68

distributions of emergency financial assistance (including basic needs support, COVID relief funds, transportation, rent support, security deposits, cell phone payment, legal fees, and behind the wheel lessons)

100%

of Safety & Wellness clients surveyed stated that they felt more prepared to cope with their emotional, psychological, or physical needs

MARIA,

a survivor of domestic violence from Mexico who fled with her 5 children for their safety and protection, enrolled in IRC's Domestic Violence Survivor services in April 21. Soon after, Maria was diagnosed with cervical cancer. As an asylum seeker, she did not have full medical coverage, any financial resources, or other family for support in the U.S. Maria urgently needed help in navigating medical and social services. She also needed permanent housing for herself and her children. IRC's Survivor Advocate connected Maria with medical resources and a legal service partner that provided pro bono assistance in starting Maria's U-Visa application. The IRC provided Maria with emergency financial assistance to cover rent expenses, costs for doctor visits, monthly bus passes to address transportation barriers, and more. Through one of IRC's housing partners, Maria and her children were provided transitional housing. Finally, the IRC provided Maria with financial coaching and budgeting guidance to further stabilize her family. Today, Maria continues to receive critical medical treatment, her children are enrolled in school, and she has renewed hope for a safe new home as she awaits approval of her U-Visa.

WOMEN'S RESILIENCE CENTER

Launched in February 2020, The Women's Resiliency Center (WRC) is a safe, creative place where the diverse needs of all women and girls are respected and where they have opportunities for self-expression and community connectedness. It is also a responsive environment where women and girls can seek, share, and obtain information about their rights and inherent potential for safety, health, education, economic wellbeing, and power. The WRC's intended goal is to provide safe spaces for women to achieve holistic wellbeing as a state of physical, mental, social, and economic wellbeing.



72

women participated in WRC programming that included wellness workshops on topics like 'Coping with Stress' as well as weekly sessions of yoga, dance, gardening, and English conversation



10

diaper deliveries from Baby2Baby, which often included deliveries of larger items like cribs, strollers, and bedding. Baby items were also generously donated by Gently Hugged, which included baby clothes and blankets



18

sewing machines distributed in 2 cohorts of Sewing Sisters, a new project developed at the request of WRC members where participants both share and learn new skills - choosing projects like embroidery, knitting, and mask making



5

cohorts of a caregiver support (10 sessions each) for a total of 15 participants, facilitated in 5 different languages

IRC SAN DIEGO 2021

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ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

The IRC's Center for Financial Opportunity offers employment, career development, vocational ESL, small business development and digital inclusion services - as well as financial education to help families move out of poverty and achieve lasting financial self-sufficiency. The IRC Small Business Development Center has served 742 unique clients including but not limited to refugees, immigrants, and US nationals - 453 of whom were women.



\$1,149,890

Total amount of 67 loans/grants:

- Covid-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan (SBA)
- Covid-19 Paycheck Protection Program (SBA)
- Covid-19 Other SBA Disaster Loan
- Micro-Loans



\$759,888

State or local grants (in the amount of 179 grants to 159 unique clients) including grants provided by IRC and our partner Women's Empowerment International



29

Career Development clients earned a degree or credential, and on average saw a \$1,008 increase in net income



53

enrolled in Career Programs - of that 27 were female and 26 were male



80%

of clients still employed after 90 days



MEET ABDUL

Abdul, his wife, and two sons fled religious persecution in Pakistan in search of safety and protection in the U.S. Along with helping the family get settled into San Diego, the IRC helped Abdul apply for a driver's license. Two weeks after arriving in San Diego, Abdul landed his first job and the IRC was able to secure a donated vehicle to support his new commute to work. As Abdul and his family rebuild their lives in our welcoming community, they show strength and dedication to one another as they turn their new city into a new home.

DIGITAL INCLUSION FOR ALL

The IRC in San Diego has long recognized that refugees and new Americans must have the opportunity to develop the necessary foundational skills to operate effectively in today's digital environment. To support this goal, the IRC in San Diego began implementing a Digital Inclusion Project, which provides access to essential technology. To date, the initiative has been successfully integrated into all of the IRC's educational and economic development services to help participants build the necessary skills to address digital inclusion barriers head on. Our efforts to expand digital support services include one-on-one in-language digital literacy coaching and responsive support, and this past year the IRC began collaborating with the City of San Diego as a strategic partner in the development of the Digital Navigator program centered around promoting digital equity and access for all!



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2021 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

IRC SAN DIEGO

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

In Fiscal Year 2021, the IRC in San Diego's total operating budget was \$8.3M, comprised of federal, state, and local funding, as well as private support from corporate, foundation, and individual donors. Financial support was further leveraged by the contribution of thousands of hours from community volunteers and interns who gave their time and expertise to support the IRC and our clients.

STAFF, VOLUNTEERS, AND INTERNS

90

staff across two office locations in City Heights and the City of El Cajon

174

community volunteers gave 7,502 hours

91

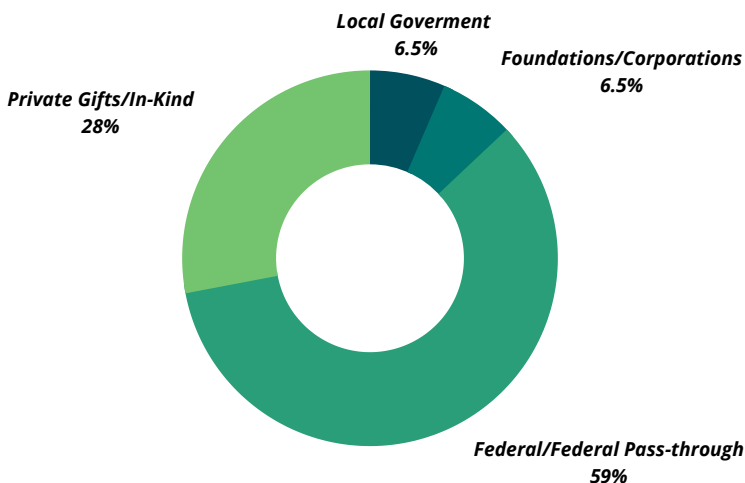
interns gave 14,970 hours, including 8 MSW interns who provided 2,507 hours of case management support

FUNDERS

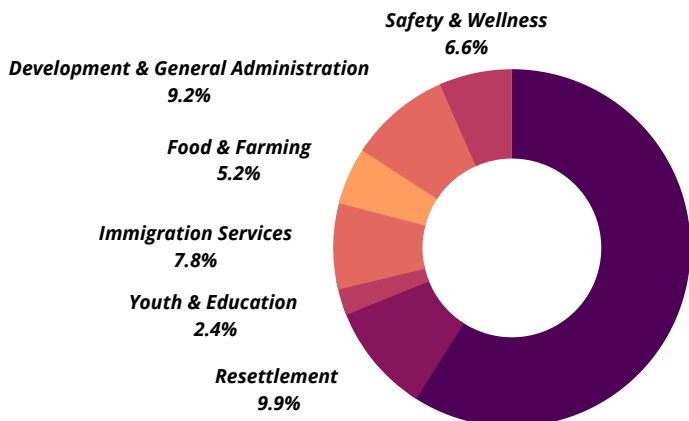
2-1-1 San Diego
Asian Business Association San Diego
Bank of America Charitable Foundation
Cajon Valley Union School District
California Department of Social Services
California Governor's Office of Emergency Services
Capital One
Catholic Charities, Diocese of San Diego
Chicano Federation
City of San Diego
County of San Diego
CVS Health
Employee Rights Center
Grossmont Union High School District
Herb Block Foundation
Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
IRC's Center for Economic Opportunity (CEO)
Jewish Family Service
JPMorgan Chase Foundation
Kaiser Permanente
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
Mid-City CAN
Open Society Foundation
Otto Family Foundation

Price Philanthropies
The San Diego Foundation
The San Diego Foundation/ Hervey Family Fund
San Diego Gas & Electric
San Diego Grantmakers
San Diego Jewish Community Foundation
San Diego Unified School District
San Diego Women's Foundation
San Diego Workforce Partnership
Southwestern Community College District
Target
United Way of San Diego County
University of California, San Diego (UCSD)
US Bank
US Department of Homeland Security-US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)
US Department of Justice, Office of Victims of Crime (OVC)
US Department of State-Bureau of Population, Refugee, & Migration (PRM)
US Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR)
Wells Fargo Foundation
Women's Empowerment International

REVENUE BY SOURCE



EXPENDITURES BY PROGRAM AREA



Funders listed above represent contributions received (during or covering FY21) from institutional donors between October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021.