

New American Pathways®

On the Path



The Right Path is Everything

Dear Friends,

Lately I have been reflecting on a part of a refugee's journey that we don't often consider, the long flight across the ocean on their way to the United States. That long flight is likely filled with worry and with questions of what their new life will be like. It is a huge leap of faith to get on that plane and travel to a place where they may not know a single person and have no idea who will be waiting for them when they arrive. There also have to be moments on that plane ride where one dares to dream of the future and think of the possibilities that are waiting on the other side of the ocean—a place where there is safety, a chance to become a citizen, raise children and create a new life. That plane ride, despite its worries and uncertainty, holds a glimmer of hope and the discovery of dreams that previously seemed far away.



Refugee:

A person who flees his or her homeland because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on the basis of race, religion, political belief, ethnicity, or belonging to a certain social group.

Upon their arrival, new refugees jump into the resettlement process, which is a hectic set of tasks that must be accomplished in a short period of time. Adults are expected to find employment very quickly and organizations like New American Pathways connect new arrivals with employers to ensure self-sufficiency happens within the first few months. We aim to take away that insecurity and worry that families may face as they come to a brand new place. These services are vital to the survival and self-sufficiency of new Americans.

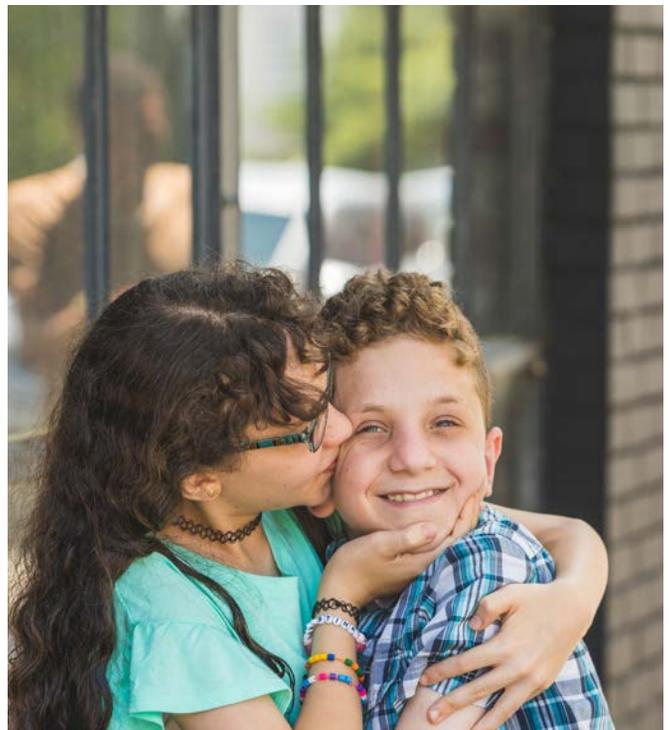
However, we know that the families we serve deserve more. They deserve to see those faraway hopes on the plane ride to seem closer every day. We are working to be a place where dreams become reality, where new Americans can come to get the tools they need to create a home here. The past five years have shown that supporting newcomers on their pathway from arrival to citizenship, focusing on important milestones along the way, helps refugees and Georgia thrive. We are working to create programs and communities in which our clients discover the America of dreams.

The New American's Pathway ensures new Americans in metro Atlanta can become successful, contributing, and welcomed members of Georgia's communities.

We can provide services and support but we rely on Georgia's communities to create a welcoming environment where New Americans can truly thrive. We are inspired by the individuals we serve as we look towards the future. We invite you to join us.

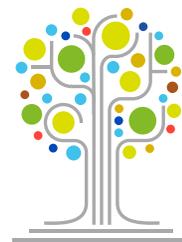
Sincerely,


Paedia Mixon
Chief Executive Officer



Forging a New History

Beginning with the merger of Refugee Family (RFS) Services and Refugee Resettlement and Immigration Services of Atlanta (RRISA) in 2014, we have helped refugees, from the moment of their arrival at Hartsfield-Jackson Airport through their journey to citizenship, self-sufficiency and success



5,000

We walk side by side with more than 5,000 refugees and immigrants each year on their individual paths to becoming successful, contributing, and welcomed members of Georgia's communities

RRISA and RFS each shared a deep legacy of service to the refugee community in metro Atlanta. For more than two decades, RRISA and RFS provided complimentary services ranging from initial resettlement to literacy, employment, youth education and school services, immigration and citizenship assistance.

As each organization began to consider ways to better serve Georgia's vulnerable refugee population, the inspiration for a more formal partnership emerged. With support from The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, in 2012, RRISA and RFS embarked on a thorough and deliberate two-year process to explore partnership options. This course culminated in the decision to form a single organization that would improve the quality of service and deliver comprehensive services more efficiently under a single roof.

A New Vision

Since coming together as New American Pathways in October 2014, each year we have provided more than 5,000 refugees and immigrants with the necessary tools to rebuild their lives and achieve long-term success.

Our proven pathways to self-sufficiency and success help ensure that new Americans contribute their special skills and talents to strengthen the American workforce and help Georgia succeed. In an unpredictable and ever changing climate for welcoming new Americans, we are

committed to preserving our ability to successfully deliver needed programs and services, building competencies, and becoming more flexible, innovative and strategic in our response to meeting the needs of Atlanta's refugee and immigrant community.



On the
Path



Family Portraits by Joseph McBrayer

FIVE

Stories of Success

New Americans are tenacious and strong, resilient and brave. They are dedicated to learning, working hard and creating a home for themselves and their families. They overcome obstacles and are focused on building their own versions of the American Dream. New AP walks on a pathway with the new Americans we serve as they grow and succeed, and we are grateful to be a part of that journey. The following stories paint a picture of five unique pathways of success as a representation of the many contributions and strengths of new Americans.

◀ Ahmed Adam and Samira Hirsi

U.S. arrival: 2017

Services

- Resettlement and Resource Navigation
- Employment Readiness
- Job Placement
- English at Home
- Intensive Case Management
- Forward Vocational Counseling
- Immigration Services

Ahmed Adam, Samira Hirsi and their sons Yosef and Abdulaziz “Aziz” arrived in Atlanta in 2017. Ahmed is a medical professional and worked as a hematologist in Kuwait after fleeing war in Somalia. Ahmed was eager to get to work soon after arrival, and faced the disappointment of starting over in his field with a positive attitude. He worked with New AP employment specialists and was able to secure a job as a Medical Laboratory Technician. Youngest son Aziz was born with cerebral palsy, and in addition to working towards self-sufficiency, the family had to navigate the oftentimes complicated U.S. medical system to ensure Aziz received all the services and care he needs to thrive. The New AP Intensive Case Management team helped the family navigate through referrals and appointments, but Aziz and his parents demonstrated their determination through the whole process. Both boys are now in middle school and are doing well. The family is on track to apply for citizenship in 2022. This family has faced the challenges that come with resettlement with optimism and resiliency and have accomplished great things in their first two years here.



Michael and Rose Bawi

U.S. arrival: 2015

The Bawi family was among the first families resettled by New American Pathways. Michael, Rose and sons Emmanuel and Peter arrived in 2015 ready for a fresh start. Soon after their arrival, they connected with English at Home volunteers who had children about the same age as theirs. The families are still friends to this day and enjoy spending time together. Michael got his first job soon after arrival and completed forklift certification in 2017, leading to a promotion at his job. He recently participated in New AP’s Forward Vocational Counseling Cohort Program and received another

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- Immigration Services

promotion soon after completing the program. Michael worked hard to develop his English skills and now serves as a contractor at New AP, helping welcome new arrivals. Within their first few years here, their third child, Alouishious, was born and the family navigated the US healthcare system as new Americans, and welcomed their baby with joy and excitement. They recently purchased their first home and are on track to apply for citizenship in 2020. This family is tenacious and have accomplished tremendous things in their time here, and are an incredible example of new American success.



FIVE
Stories
of Success

Services

- Resettlement and Resource Navigation
- English at Home
- Employment Readiness
- Job Placement
- Pathways to Bright Futures
- Parents as Teachers
- Financial Literacy
- Immigration Services

Karna Dhoj Rai and Summima Ingnam

U.S. arrival: 2016

Karna Dhoj Rai, Summima Ingnam and their son Jonish arrived in Atlanta in April of 2016. Their daughter Johanna was born in 2018. The Rai/Ingnam family are dedicated to learning as much as possible and helping their children succeed. They are taking advantage of the many opportunities the United States has for their family to grow and advance in their education. Summima continues to meet with an English at Home volunteer regularly and is committed to becoming fluent in English. She and Johanna enjoy their weekly Parents as Teachers home visits from their New AP Parent Educator and Summima is learning how she can help Johanna get a head start in her toddler years. Karna not only found a job quickly but is working hard to obtain his GED and advance in his career. Jonish is an active participant in the Pathways to Bright Futures afterschool and summer programs, and advanced 8 reading levels over the course of his time in the program. The family will apply for citizenship in 2021. Coming to a new country is challenging but this family has taken it in stride and have found success as they continue to learn and grow as new Americans.



Marwan Alshehabi and Haifaa Bassout

U.S. arrival: 2017

Marwan Alshehabi, Haifaa Bassout and their children Fatima and Mohammad arrived in Atlanta in 2016 after fleeing civil war in Syria. Resettlement is a challenging process, but this family demonstrated their strength and determination from the beginning, despite unique obstacles they faced. Marwan is deaf and has other physical limitations and both children have special needs, so in addition to the task of self-sufficiency it was vital to ensure their other needs were met. The family was co-sponsored by a local faith community and volunteers from the church helped provide English at Home Services to the family, along with other support and assistance. Volunteers can truly help encourage and support new families as they

Services

- Resettlement and Resource Navigation
- Employment Readiness
- Job Placement
- English at Home
- Intensive Case Management
- Pathways to Bright Futures
- Immigration Services

walk their pathway to success, and the family maintains a relationship with this group to this day. Marwan and Haifaa are doing well and are working towards their goals, and both Fatima and Mohammad are active participants in New AP's Pathways to Bright Futures After School program. The family is on track to apply for citizenship in 2021. Marwan, Haifaa, Fatima and Mohammad are strong and focused on continuing to find success in their journey as new Americans.



Suk Tamang and Sukmati Rai

U.S. arrival: 2015

Suk Tamang and Sukmati Rai arrived in Atlanta in 2014. Their family has grown over the past five years as their two sons, Sharif and Shalev were born. But in addition to welcoming their sons to the world they have also opened their home to extended family members who needed refuge. They cared for an elderly family member and then welcomed Suk's younger brothers to their home when their mother died. They also are legal guardians to their niece and nephew, Shavia and Sujan. Through this time of their family growing exponentially, Suk and Sukmati continued to work tirelessly to create a future here in the United States. Suk is still employed at the

Services

- Resettlement and Resource Navigation
- English at Home
- Employment Readiness
- Job Placement
- Financial Literacy
- Pathways to Bright Futures
- Parents as Teachers

company where he got his first job and was recently promoted to supervisor. Sukmati has dedicated her time to learning English and participating in the Parents as Teachers program, where she has gained parenting skills and learned about child development. Recently she has begun to work part time and has shown her resourcefulness in juggling her many responsibilities. Sharif Tamang is excited to enter Kindergarten this year and Shavia and Sujan attend New AP's Pathways to Bright Futures Afterschool Program. The family will apply for citizenship next year. Suk and Sukmati have demonstrated much hospitality and have shown that success in a refugee family extends to all members of the family, even in the face of challenges.

A Path Toward the Future

A clear guide toward a successful future

We provide a continuum of services that supports new Americans on their individual pathways from arrival through citizenship. We focus on key milestones along the pathway that build on one another and contribute to long-term success.



1. Safety and Stability

▶ New American Pathways has welcomed over 2,000 refugees to Georgia since October 1, 2014.



93%

of our refugee families are self-sufficient within 180 days of arrival.

180+

refugee youth receive homework help, literacy support and academic enrichment in our afterschool and summer programs each year.

2,550

We have assisted 2,550 people apply for Green Cards.

2. Self-Sufficiency

▶ We have placed more than 1,300 people in jobs.



3. Success

▶ We have helped over 965 people obtain U.S. citizenship.



4. Service

▶ We have helped over 26,000 new citizens register to vote.



Programs that Serve

Our programs focus on walking with new Americans on a pathway to success and service, empowering them to reach their goals and dreams. We offer the most comprehensive, fully integrated continuum of services targeted to meet the specific needs of refugees and other immigrants in Georgia.



Resettlement and Resource Navigation

With decades of experience, our case management and employment team members, many of whom are former refugees themselves, know how to help refugee families achieve safety and stability in their new home. Our team provides housing and basic needs, case management and employment services to new arrivals in their first few months, as well as ongoing services and connections to community resources for any refugee who may be in need.

Family Empowerment

Our Family Empowerment Program ensures women and young children have the support they need to be successful. For parents this begins with our award winning Parents as Teachers (PAT) early childhood home visiting program. Through our PAT program, trained parent educators from the communities we serve empower parents to support healthy

development as their children's first and most important teachers. Our Women's Program provides culturally relevant and linguistically appropriate services to refugee and immigrant victims and survivors of domestic violence in a supportive and trusting environment, as well as employment services targeted specifically to meet the needs of refugee and immigrant women.

Education and Youth

Refugee youth face unique challenges and our Pathways to Bright Futures program provides young people with the tools they need to succeed. Led by experienced professional educators, our Bright Futures afterschool and summer programming and parent liaison services work with school aged children and their parents to ensure students are able to succeed academically and that parents are equipped to support their children in their educational achievement.



Forward Adult Education

New Americans come from a variety of backgrounds with different skills and professional experience. Whatever the starting point, our Forward program ensures that refugees build on their individual assets and have access to the opportunities that will help them realize their American dream. The Forward Program includes ESL instruction through our English at Home program, Financial Literacy, Advanced Job preparation, educational and vocational counseling.

Immigration

Ensuring new Americans understand their rights and have access to affordable immigration services is vital to their success. Our Immigration Services team helps new Americans

navigate the complicated immigration system through application assistance and consultation on immigration issues, including status adjustment/renewal, green card, citizenship, family reunification and travel documents.

Civic Engagement

We are committed to supporting the civic participation of refugees. This includes outreach to encourage participation in the U.S. civic and political system, leadership development, and cultivation of refugee-led initiatives and groups that help refugees meet their own needs. As community experts on refugees and resettlement, we also play a critical role in promoting public awareness of the stories, achievements, and assets refugees bring to our state.

The Path Ahead

Our country has a rich history of resilience and tenacity. We have a proud tradition of welcoming the world's most vulnerable people and giving them the opportunity to rebuild their lives and contribute their skills and talents.



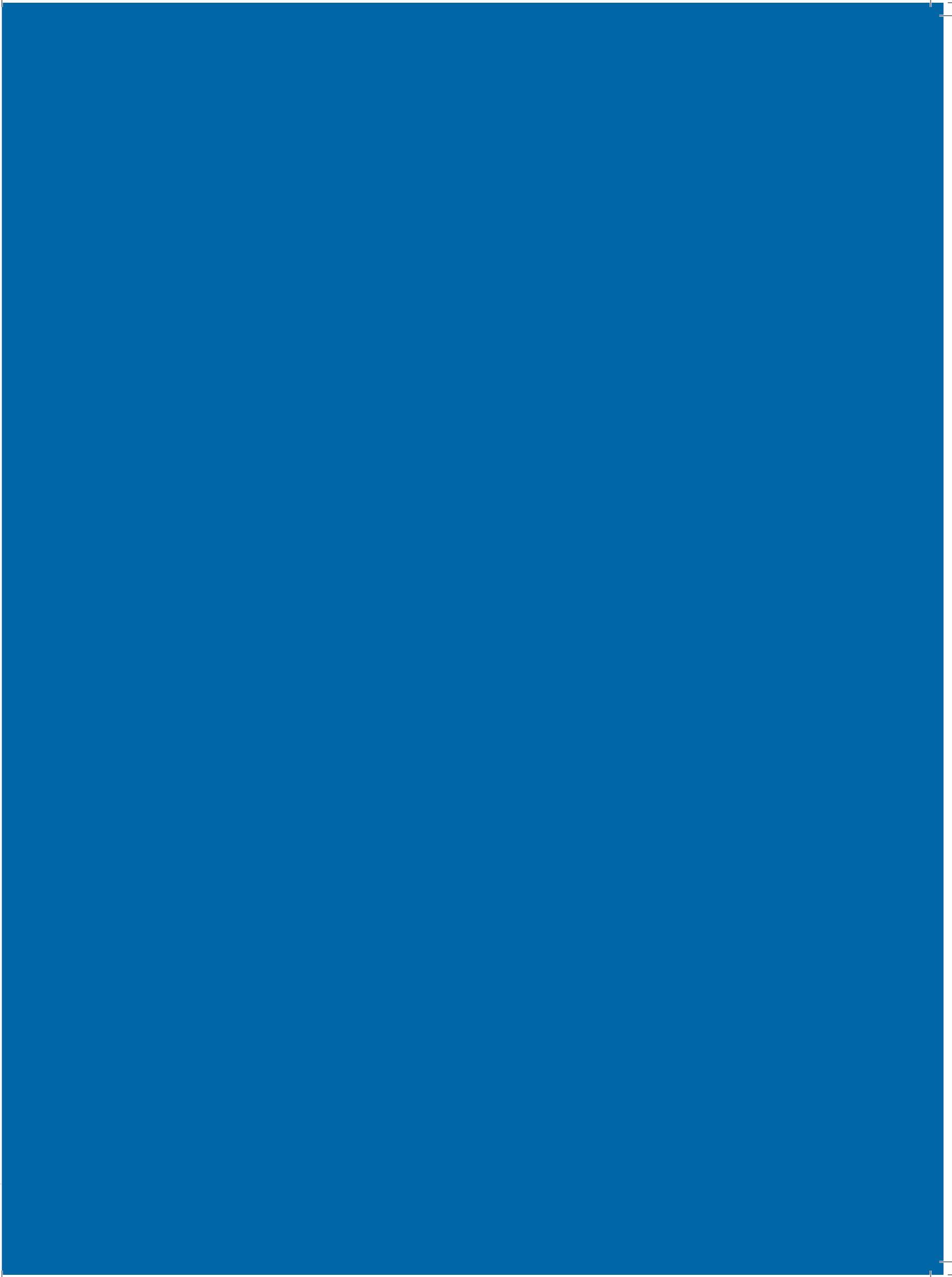
Like all new Americans we serve, the families featured here have accomplished remarkable things in the face of adversity. They are shining examples of strength and determination.

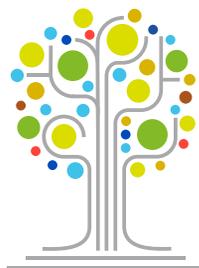
In the midst of a volatile and unpredictable climate affecting refugees, New American Pathways will **advocate** for a robust refugee resettlement program that cares for the world's most vulnerable populations without discrimination. We will continue to **welcome** refugees into communities across Georgia. We will **speak up** on behalf of refugees and immigrants and continue to help new Americans who are already here realize their dreams.

As we look ahead, our organization continues to be a path driver and serve newcomers to our community, through:

- **Innovative and collaborative models of resettlement** and service delivery.
- Expanded programs to ensure **full integration of new Americans**.
- Advocacy for national and state policies to **allow for new Americans to fully contribute to their communities**.

We are excited to continue to lead in this space of welcoming new Americans in the next five years and beyond as we work towards seeing refugees and Georgia thrive.





New American Pathways®

HELPING REFUGEES AND GEORGIA THRIVE