“We at New American Pathways walk side by side with refugees and other new Americans on their individual pathways to becoming successful, contributing and welcomed members of Georgia’s communities.”
HELPING REFUGEES AND GEORGIANS THRIVE

New American Pathways is an Atlanta-based non-profit that helps refugees from the moment they arrive in Georgia through their journey to citizenship. Not just an organization for refugees; we are also an organization of refugees. Our staff, many of whom are former refugees themselves, represents the cultures and experiences of those we serve.

We focus on four key milestones – Safety & Stability, Self Sufficiency, Success and Service - through programs that build upon one another and provide a continuum of services that support new Americans from arrival through citizenship. 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.

Our comprehensive model is unique. We begin with resettlement services and offer steady guidance, support and advocacy for each individual and family as they pursue jobs, education, cultural integration, individual and female empowerment, civic engagement and other resources to empower them to realize their goals and dreams.

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. New American Pathways is a place where we celebrate the remarkable contributions that refugees and other new Americans make in our communities each and every day.

New American Pathways looks forward to rebuilding the refugee resettlement program in the coming years. We will quickly increase our capacity to welcome and serve newly arrived refugees so that we can provide safety to those who need it the most. We cannot rebuild the resettlement program alone and are grateful for partners who continue to come alongside us to ensure that each new American we meet along the path can become a successful, contributing and welcomed member of Georgia’s communities.

Paedia Mixon
Chief Executive Officer
A PATH TOWARD THE 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

2. SELF SUFFICIENCY

3. SUCCESS

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

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.

Since coming together as New American Pathways in October 2014, each year we have provided more than 2,500 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.
**OUR PROGRAMS**

Programs work in concert to walk with new Americans down a pathway to success and service.

**Resettlement and Resource Navigation:** Refugees Newly-arrived refugees, who represent a wide range of cultures and languages, are under tremendous pressure to adapt quickly to American life and culture. Our experienced team of case managers and employment specialists walk with new Americans on their journey to self-sufficiency through Ongoing Services for up to five years from the date of arrival, with case management and career support.

**Education and Youth:** Our Bright Futures Afterschool program provides afterschool and summer school programming to students in DeKalb County, Georgia, as well as school liaison support for parents and families of school age children. By engaging with students and their parents, we are able to ensure students are able to succeed and the whole family is supported.

**Forward:** Our Forward Adult Education Program provides support to refugees and immigrants who are looking to grow in their English language ability and career development. English at Home matches volunteers with new Americans for one on one English Tutoring, and our vocational counseling services help refugees and immigrants develop the skills they need to advance in their careers.

**Family Empowerment:** The concept of “family empowerment” varies in meaning in different parts of the world. Our experience demonstrates that refugee parents want to lay a secure foundation for their children’s success, but that they sometimes need additional support, skills, education, and encouragement to do so. Our programs ensure that refugee women, men, and their children are safe, stable, self-sufficient and ready to learn.

**Immigration:** Navigating the United States Immigration system can be overwhelming. Our Immigration Services team provides low-cost high-quality immigration legal services to new Americans, including citizenship workshops and applications and a variety of immigration services for any refugee or immigrant with financial need.

**Civic Engagement:** We are committed to supporting activities that promote the civic involvement of refugee communities and build their self-sufficiency. This includes outreach to encourage participation in the U.S. civic and political system, leadership development for refugee leaders, and cultivation of refugee-led initiatives and groups that help refugees meet their own needs.
REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

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.

What is a refugee, and what does ‘refugee status’ mean?
The United Nations Definition of a refugee is “A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. Most likely, they cannot return home or are afraid to do so. War and ethnic, tribal and religious violence are leading causes of refugees fleeing their countries.” Refugee status in the United States means that a refugee has applied for resettlement abroad and has been granted the opportunity to resettle here. Refugee status is a type of immigrant documentation in the United States.

How do refugees get here?
After an individual flees their home county and is identified as a refugee by the United Nations, if given the opportunity, they may apply for resettlement in the United States. What follows is a rigorous screening process that can take two or more years to complete. After they are accepted, they are assigned an agency and location for resettlement, and then are booked to travel to their new home. Refugees’ airfare costs are a loan and they are expected to pay back their travel in a timely manner.

What is Refugee Resettlement in the United States?
After a refugee is approved for resettlement in the United States and travels to their new city, a resettlement organization like New American Pathways greets them at the airport and helps them settle into their new home. This includes securing housing, basic needs, registering children for school and adults for ESL, and helping adults find their first job. The initial resettlement period is 90 days but all refugees are expected to be fully self-sufficient- working and paying their own expenses- by 180 days post arrival. New American Pathways helps refugees in those initial days and beyond.
How do refugees get to Georgia?

After a refugee undergoes the screening process and is accepted into the United States resettlement program, their case is assigned to a national resettlement organization (also known as a VOLAG or RA). New American Pathways has a partnership with one of those organizations, Church World Service (CWS). CWS assigns new cases to each of their affiliate organizations across the country. If a refugee has a family member or close friend in Georgia, called a U.S. Tie, they can indicate that in their application process, which will allow them to be resettled in Georgia to be close to their U.S. Tie. When New AP receives a case, we accept it and wait for notification of travel.

What is Georgia’s relationship with Refugee Resettlement?

Refugee resettlement has existed in Georgia since the program was established in 1980 and has a strong tradition of welcoming newcomers to our state.
THE REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT SCREENING PROCESS

The rigorous screening process takes place over several years and includes the following steps:

1. A person receives refugee status through the United Nations after fleeing their country of origin.
2. A refugee that meets the criteria for resettlement is referred to the US Government.
3. A Resettlement support center (RSC) through the US Department of State, compiles the person’s information for the security clearance process.
4. With information collected by the RSC, refugees undergo several different security screening processes, including fingerprints.
5. Refugee applicants are interviewed by an officer from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).
6. If the USCIS officer finds that the individual qualifies as a refugee, they receive a conditional approval for resettlement.
7. All applicants then go through a medical screening.
8. Refugees are assigned to a Voluntary Agency in the US (VOLAG). Each agency has a network of affiliates to refer new cases throughout the United States. New American Pathways is an affiliate of Church World Service.
9. Refugees who are approved then go through Cultural Orientation while waiting for final processing.
10. Refugees have one additional security check prior to be approved for final travel.
11. Upon arrival, refugees receive an additional security check to ensure they are the same person and are approved for admission to the United States. They are then met by the resettlement organization.

(Adapted from the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, www.refugees.org)
## A LOOK AT THE 2020 NUMBERS

| **89%** | of newly arrived refugees were working and paying their own expenses within 180 days of arrival |
| **102** | Refugees placed in jobs with an average wage of $12.43 an hour |
| **480** | Volunteers served a total of 7,314 hours |
| **140** | Refugees welcomed to Georgia |
| **90%** | of children enrolled in Bright Futures Afterschool programming met their individual learning goals |
| **98%** | of Citizenship Applications were approved |
| **5,943** | New United States Citizens registered to vote |
| **118** | Domestic Violence survivors served, with 85% meeting their goals |
| **90%** | of all vocational counseling clients achieved one of their career goals |
| **80%** | of children enrolled in Parents as Teachers advanced to a Pre-K or Early Learning Program |
**OUR COVID-19 RESPONSE**

New American Pathways is responding to urgent needs related to COVID-19 in the refugee and immigrant community in Atlanta, including case management, resource navigation, and educational supports.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$113,523</td>
<td>emergency assistance funds distributed, supporting 73 families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000+</td>
<td>Refugees and immigrants assisted with COVID-19 case management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>167</td>
<td>families received donated items such as food, electronic devices, diapers, or clothing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>605</td>
<td>individuals were assisted with accessing unemployment or stimulus payments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>new refugee families were given an electronic device to assist in accessing remote services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>388</td>
<td>388 afterschool and summer school support packets distributed to students to support virtual learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150</td>
<td>students were given daily and weekly homework help during virtual learning</td>
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Financial information is pre-audited data.
LEADERSHIP

PAEDIA MIXON
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

PAULA SCOTMAN
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

NANCY GADDY
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