

## 2022: A Year of Challenge and Unprecedented Growth

2022 marked a year of challenge and unprecedented growth for New American Pathways (New AP). We welcomed more refugees in the first six months of 2022 than in the prior two years combined. During fiscal year 2022, we resettled 543 individuals, including 351 Afghan evacuees.

With the collapse of the Afghan government in August 2021, New AP found itself on the front lines of the massive effort to resettle evacuees fleeing bloodshed and chaos, along with hundreds more escaping violence and persecution from other parts of the world.

New American Pathways' response to the Afghan refugee crisis was swift. Our ability to act quickly, purposefully, and proficiently would not have been possible without the compassion, commitment, and resounding support of our many donors, volunteers, and partners. In September 2021, New AP launched a special fundraising appeal to assist with the massive resettlement effort. We were overwhelmed with the outpouring of support, raising more than \$500,000 in cash contributions, upwards of \$350,000 of in-kind support, and over \$100,000 in gift cards.

With the increase in arrivals, our biggest challenge continues to be finding affordable housing that's spacious enough to accommodate large extended families and located in areas with access to public transportation—the resource newly arriving individuals and families require for their integration and participation in the community. Many Afghan families were temporarily placed in Airbnb's and hotels. New AP has since secured long-term housing for all the Afghan evacuees we have welcomed. Through our partnership with The Welcome Co-op, we have equipped each home with furniture, appliances, household goods, hygiene supplies, and culturally appropriate foods.

As the cost-of-living skyrockets and rental rates rise across metro Atlanta, much of the funding has filled gaps while new arrivals seek employment. Monies have been used to secure housing, provide rent subsidies, cover the cost of basic needs, medical and mental health services, and hiring staff, to include Interpreters, Case Managers and Employment Specialists.

Several recent arrivals from Afghanistan come with specialized skills and professional credentials. New AP's Forward vocational counseling team is stepping up efforts to empower and equip this group to seek and secure comparable, sustainable career opportunities. We have placed 243 individuals in jobs with a minimum wage of \$16.00/hour, are providing vocational counseling and other professional job placement services to fifty-seven clients, and more than 90% of the families we resettled have become financially self-sufficient since arriving.



Since February 2022, an estimated 2,000 people have made their way to metro Atlanta fleeing the war in Ukraine. Most are not eligible for refugee status, which includes permanent residency, a pathway to citizenship, and an avenue to

2,000
Ukrainian refugees have arrived in Atlanta since February 2022

reunite family members who remain abroad. Newly arriving Ukrainians must apply for employment authorization in order to legally work in the U.S., a process that can take up to nine months. New American Pathways began assisting many of these individuals and families this past summer. Our services include working with them to navigate our complex health care, social services, public education, employment and immigration systems so they may

access and obtain the benefits and services for which they are eligible.

## The Year Ahead

In the year ahead, **New AP** is on track to welcome more than 500 refugees from all over the world. As we look forward, New AP will build capacity across our programs to manage increasing refugee arrivals, deliver exceptional services that fulfill the needs of the refugees and other immigrants that we serve, and sustainably grow the number of New Americans we serve while intentionally expanding the ways we serve them. We thank and value you, our donors, volunteers, and partners, who have done so much to further enrich the lives of the clients we serve by continuing to ensure that Georgia remains a welcoming community for all new Americans.

# The New American's Pathway







#### **Welcoming Life's Moments**

We rushed to welcome more than 350 Afghan evacuees, starting in August of 2021, and had to act quickly to receive such a large influx of arrivals. As we began to get to know these families, we realized that many of the women were pregnant or had recently given birth. We knew we needed to find a way to welcome these newborns, too.

Throwing a baby shower seemed like the perfect opportunity to celebrate new life while also supplying families with much needed baby supplies. Together with the National Council of Jewish Women-Atlanta Section, we began planning. There were many logistical challenges we had to solve like finding a space in Clarkston large enough to accommodate more than 60 mothers and their other children, how to get the moms and their families to the event, and finding a time most mothers could attend. The NCJW generously assembled goody bags for each mom including diapers, clothing, pack and plays, baby bathtubs, lotion, baby wipes, and other baby needs. We wound up supplying baby items to 87 appreciative households.

As part of the baby shower festivities, representatives from the CDC and Georgia State University Prevention Research Center, together with New AP's Family Empowerment Team, provided information on COVID vaccines, well-baby visits and other community health resources. The baby shower (a first for many of the attendees) was a rousing success and we loved finding a new, creative way to assist our newly arriving families!

543
arrivals welcomed including 351 Afghan evacuees

volunteers were engaged, serving a total of 7,314 hours

students were enrolled in our Bright Futures elementary and middle school afterschool program

45K
people reached via
voter engagement
efforts

98% of citizenship applications approved



## Our Approach

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

Secure safe housing
Have basic needs
Access healthcare
Orient to community
Learn English
Enroll children in school

2.
SelfSufficiency

Have a household budget Start job Pay own bills Navigate the community Parents involved in school Children adjusting Apply for green card

3. Success

Enroll in training or college Become a citizen Reunite with family Grow in a career Children excel in school

On the Path

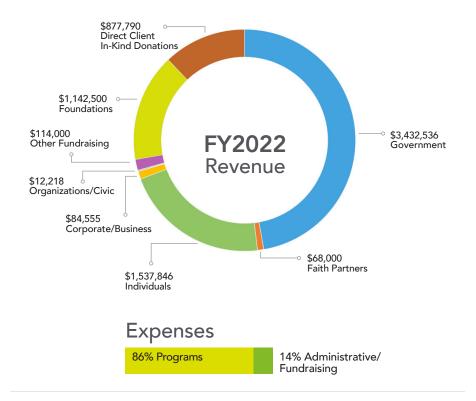
4. Service



- Be a leader in the community
- Participate in civic life
- Vote



Advocacy and community engagement support the continuum by ensuring that Georgia continues to be a welcoming place where New Americans can thrive.



### Leadership



#### **Donal Graham**

Human Resource Director

#### Annika Lowgren

Associate Operations Director

#### Prabodh Devkota

Director of Community Support Programs

#### Tony McCoy

Director of Business Management

#### Nancy Gaddy

Chief Advancement Officer

#### Paedia Mixon

Chief Executive Officer

#### Carey Serafin

Director of Family Support Programs



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