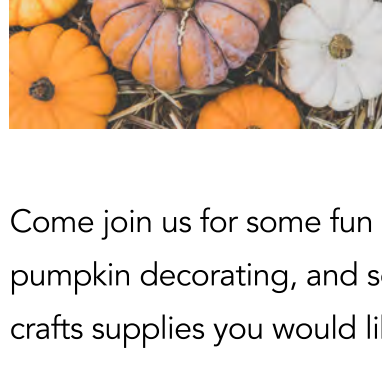


## Upcoming Event: Fall Festival



**When:**  
Thursday, October 20th from 5-7PM  
**Where:**  
Old Montibeller Pavilion at Montibeller Park  
4305 Ellsworth Rd. Ypsilanti, MI 48107

Come join us for some fun in the Fall! We will have cider, doughnuts, pumpkin decorating, and so much fun! Feel free to bring any arts and crafts supplies you would like to share. If you are able to attend, please [RSVP](#).

We are also working on a Thanks-For-Giving Event later in the year, so keep your eyes peeled for an email on that later.

## Arrivals

While refugee resettlement isn't back up to its usual pace, it has really picked up lately.

### The numbers

#### United States

The presidential determination for FY2023 is 125,000 refugees settled in the US but the realistic expected number is closer to 65,000 as there are still many overseas operations and processing issues.

#### Michigan

The Department of State hasn't released specific expected numbers for Michigan yet but those should come out in October.

Through mid-August, there were 1,785 refugee arrivals in Michigan and, if we count the Special Immigrant Visas and walk-ins, it's close to 2,000.

By the end of July, Michigan had gotten 874 refugees, and expects to end the year at around 1,200 (which isn't back up to "normal" but definitely way more than the past few years.)

#### Washtenaw County

The projected capacity for FY2023 is 500 for the county, but it's unlikely we'll hit that number.

A total of 449 individuals have been resettled here so far this year, including:

- 157 refugee individuals (just the ones with refugee status)
- 292 APA cases (the asylee cases from Afghanistan)

### Ukraine

Due to the Russian military's invasion of Ukraine, millions of Ukrainians lost their homes and were forced to flee the country. The United States agreed to accept 100,000 of these Ukrainians escaping violence, not as refugees but as parolees. The important distinction is that parolees must have a financial sponsor in the US, and are noncitizens allowed to be in the country for no more than two years (during which they are eligible for work authorization to be employed). They are still required, like refugees, to complete vaccinations, pass the biometric screening, and undergo advanced security vetting; also, if they are approved and authorized to travel to the US, Ukrainian parolees are responsible for arranging and funding their travel (booking their own tickets for commercial flights from Europe to the US), which means they must have valid passports. As Michigan currently has a significant Ukrainian population, we anticipate many Ukrainian parolees arriving in our state in the upcoming year, but due to the nature of parolee status (arranging their own travel, not through an agency like refugees) it is more difficult to coordinate assistance for these individuals and families, and to ensure that they and their financial sponsors who brought them here (whether family, friends, churches) are aware that we are here and ready to support them.

In terms of the Ukraine arrivals, there have been 100,000 applications submitted to the US so far. Over 75,000 have been approved, and over 30,000 have already travelled.

There have been 3,334 applications for Michigan from Ukraine, and 80% have been to southeast Michigan. There have been 71 applications in Washtenaw County.

### Other countries of origin

Individuals resettled in Washtenaw County so far this year have been from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Syria, Guatemala, Honduras, Afghanistan, and Ukraine.

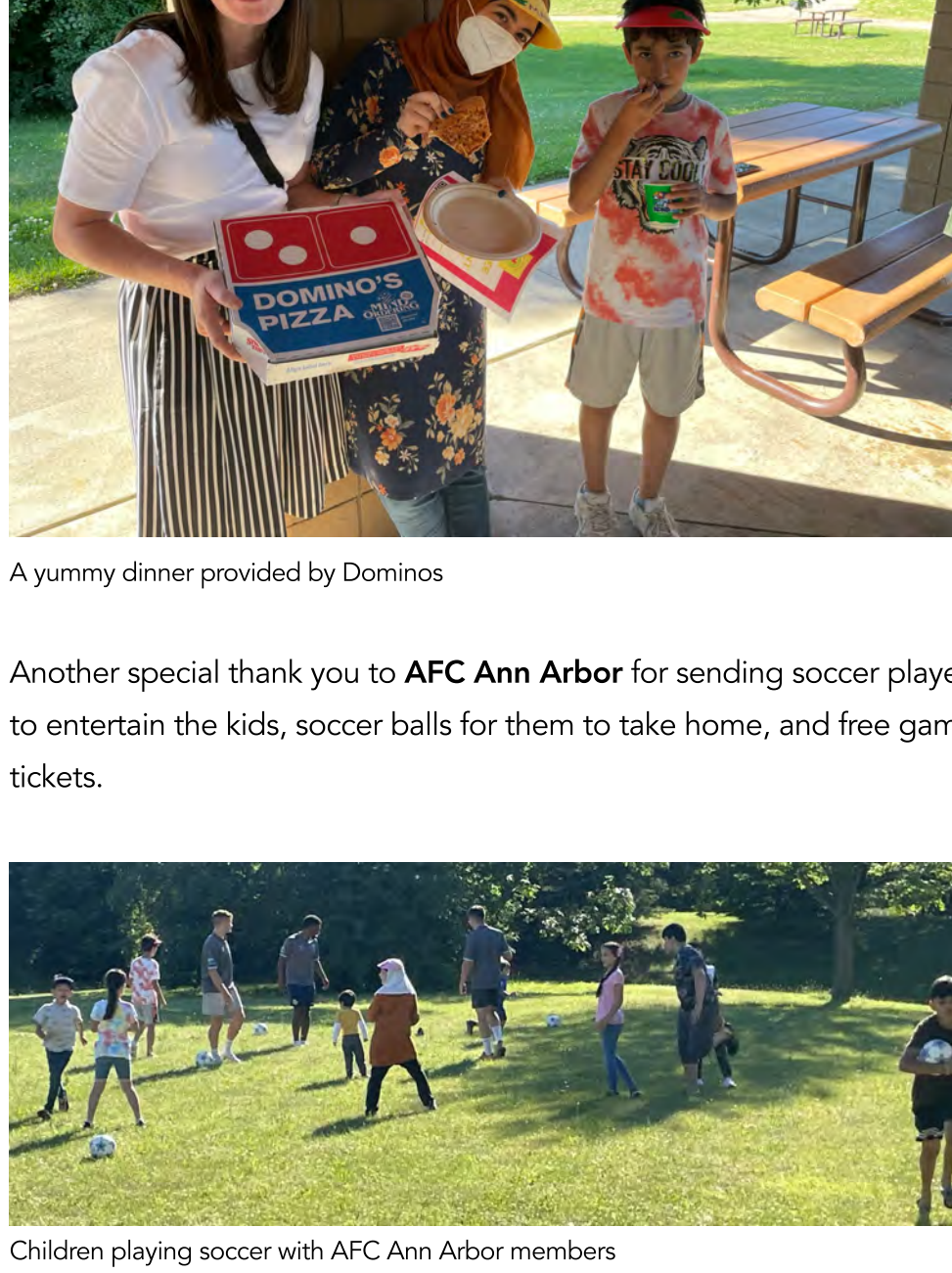
Michigan had around 1,000 Cuban arrivals, 2,000 from Afghanistan, and 3,000 from Ukraine, so it was close to 5,000 arrivals just with those alone, and none of those are even technically refugees. Like Ukrainians, Cubans also arrive alone (without a resettlement agency) so the number is probably way lower than the actual arrivals, because this count is just based on those seeking services from the government; there's no way to find out about the rest. Mostly those arrivals have been going to Grand Rapids, Lansing, Flint, and Kent County, but JFS has had some referrals for Cuban families in Jackson County, Hillsdale County, and Livingston County.

There have been unprecedented Cuban arrivals both in the US as a whole but also in Michigan, and it looks like the largest population we get next year in the state might be Congolese and Syrian (we are the top state for both of those refugee populations). Also, a lot of the Iraqi cases that were put on hold are now back to processing and headed for Michigan (the past few years they've been sent to Texas and California more, but historically, MI is a top state for that population, too). There's also been a new focus on refugees from Nicaragua and Venezuela so we may see more from there too!

Also, by late 2023 there may be a sudden surge in South Sudanese refugees and Rohingya from Burma (also possibly even some Ukrainian refugees who actually have refugee status).

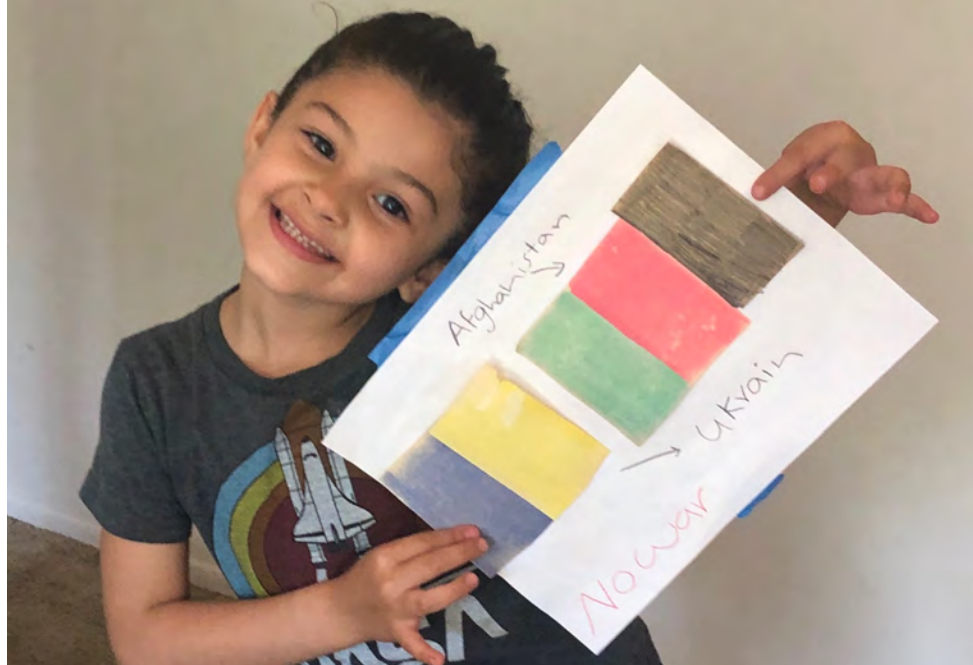
## Event Recap - Summer Spectacular Celebration

WRW had an excellent turn out for our first in-person event in over two years! New friendships were made at our summer picnic on June 23rd as families enjoyed pizza and ice cream, played soccer and other yard games, did craft projects and just visited.



Refugee children enjoying crafts at the WRW summer event

A special thank you to **Dominos Pizza** for donating dinner. There was so much pizza leftover that refugees were able to take whole pizzas home with them.



A yummy dinner provided by Dominos

Another special thank you to **AFC Ann Arbor** for sending soccer players to entertain the kids, soccer balls for them to take home, and free game tickets.



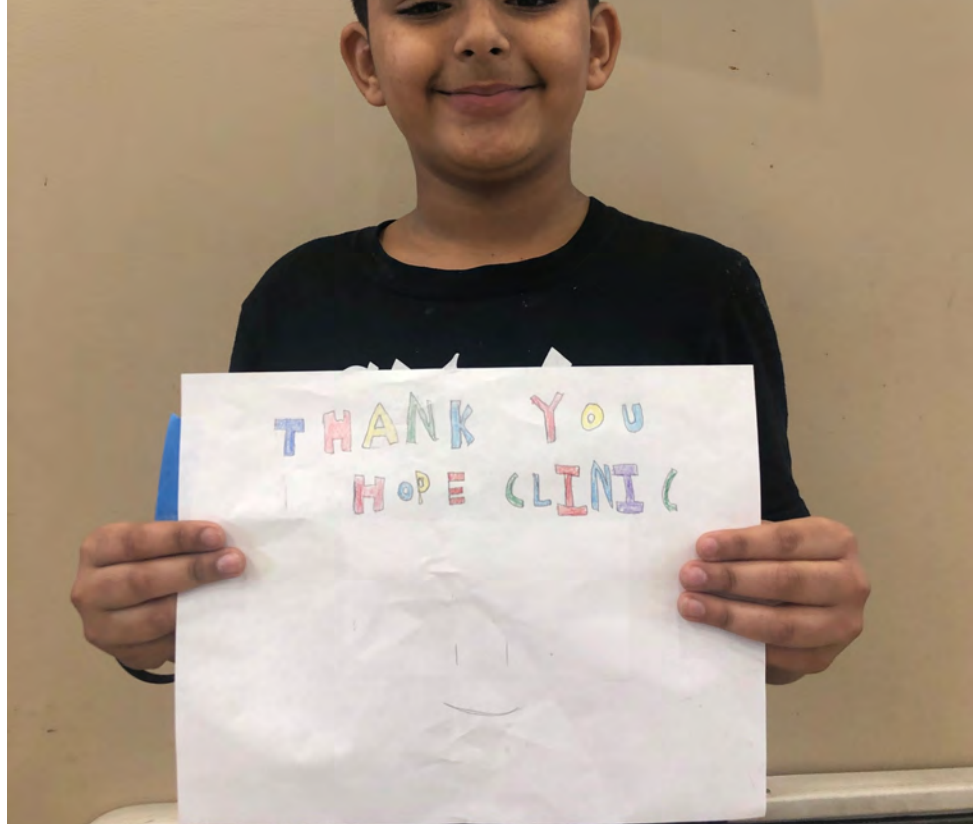
Children playing soccer with AFC Ann Arbor members

## Artists in Residence

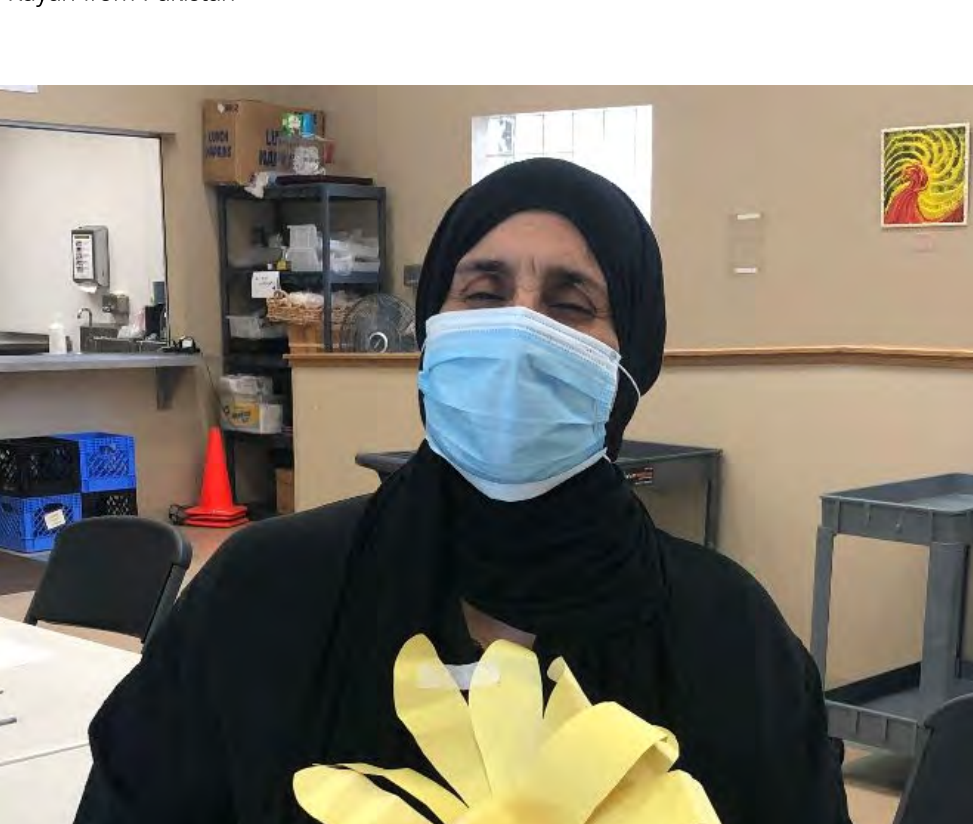
Our friend at Hope Clinic hosted an art show this summer and many refugee families participated!



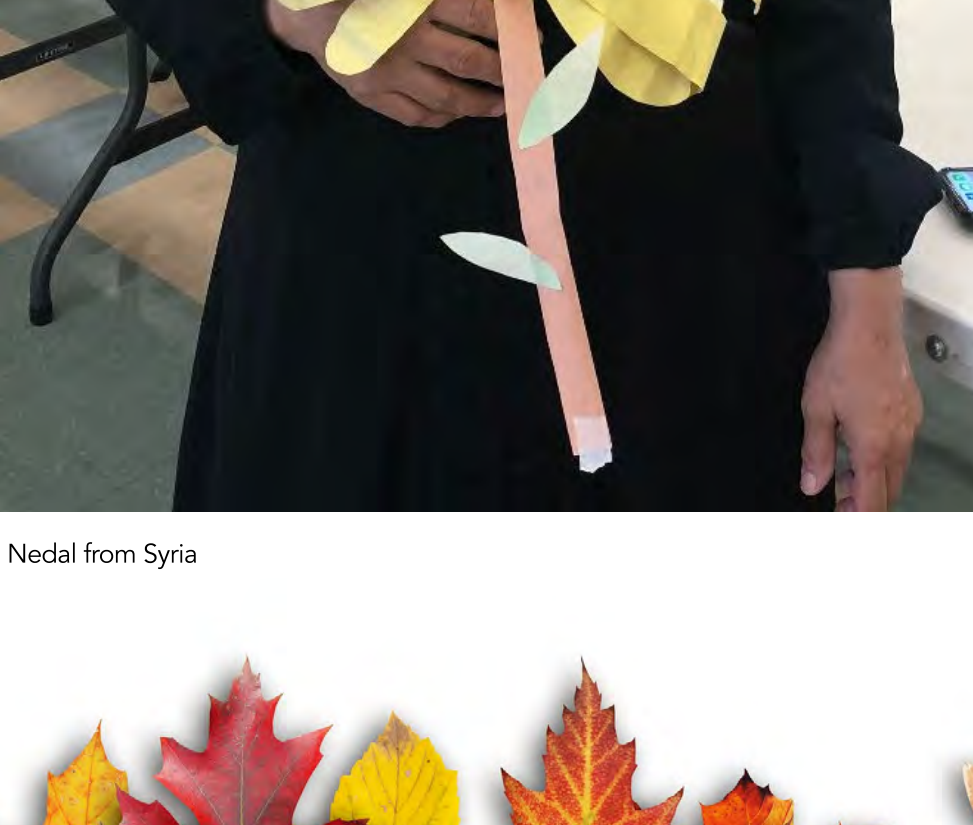
Mahya from Afghanistan



Rabeeta from Pakistan



Rayan from Pakistan



Nedal from Syria

## Donations

Washtenaw Refugee Welcome is a 501(c)(3) organization. We keep overhead fees at a minimum so that the majority of your donations go to directly supporting refugees in the area.

To send a donation, go to [washtenawrefugeewelcome.org](https://washtenawrefugeewelcome.org) or send a check to 1501 W Liberty St. Ann Arbor, MI 48103.

## Donation Stats

Since our last newsletter, we were able to deliver the following thanks to your generous donations:

- Diapers, laundry detergent, dish soap, and toilet paper for 53 families
- New baby supplies to 11 pregnant refugee women

## Other Support We've Been Providing

Our board member Maryam Tout has been busy! She helped families apply for the section 8 voucher program when the waitlist opened for just four days a few months ago. She's also been working with families to renew benefits through DHHS like food stamps and Medicaid. She has also continued to provide refugees with medical appointment coordination and communication with schools.

## Needs Update

Thank you so much for continuing to support our refugees needs by donating the items they need!

If you can donate any of the items listed below, please contact [wrccommunications@gmail.com](mailto:wrccommunications@gmail.com) to arrange drop-off.

### Needed items

- Diapers
- Baby wipes
- Laundry detergent
- Dish soap
- Shampoo
- Toilet paper
- Dish soap
- Hand soap
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Fans
- Big Wheels and Tricycles
- Countertop microwaves (clean and in excellent condition)
- Electric water kettles
- New blankets
- Gift cards

## Needs - Dental Work & Housing

We regularly have refugee needs for affordable dental work and affordable housing for refugees. If you have any leads, please contact

[wrccommunications@gmail.com](mailto:wrccommunications@gmail.com)

The State Refugee Coordinator Ben Cabanaw has announced that the Office of Refugee Resettlement is working with MSHDA (MI State Housing Development Authority) on housing at the state level for long-term solutions, hiring consultants on community revitalization and housing projects. The goals are more likely to have an impact about 5 years from now, so immediate housing needs will remain.

## Help Needed!

We used to have a great ESL program for refugees, and we would like to get that started back up again. In order to do that, we need 1 or 2 people committed to taking the lead. If you're interested, please reach out to [wrccommunications@gmail.com](mailto:wrccommunications@gmail.com)

## Upcoming Refugee Event in Chelsea

The Chelsea Human Rights Commission will be presenting a panel discussion titled "Refugee Resettlement in Washtenaw County." The Chelsea District Library, Faith in Action and One World One Family are co-sponsors. The event will be **November 17, 2022 from 6-7:30 pm** in the **McKune Room** of the **Chelsea Library**.

This panel will focus on issues facing refugees in our area, including housing, transportation, employment and family well-being. Presenters will discuss the refugee resettlement process and ways in which Chelsea residents can be involved. Panelists to date include Mira Sussman, Director of Resettlement Programs for Jewish Family Services and Joyce Deren from Washtenaw Refugee Welcome. Questions in advance are encouraged. Please email questions to: [HRC@city-chelsea.org](mailto:HRC@city-chelsea.org)

## More Thanks

We would like to thank the following for their incredible support of our refugee families:

- **Common Cycle** for providing bikes to children and adults
- **Corrigan Moving Systems** of Ann Arbor and **St. Luke's Episcopal** in Ypsilanti for providing storage facilities