

Greetings Washtenaw Refugee Welcome supporters,

Q: What makes WRW so special?

A: It's neighbors helping neighbors!

As a 100% volunteer organization, we want to help YOU find the place where your skills and resources intersect with the needs of families who have joined our community in the last few years. Here are a few opportunities to help:

Host Thanksgiving 2023!

Before the COVID-19 Pandemic, WRW hosted an annual Thanksgiving potluck and our families LOVED it. We are looking for a community space or local faith congregation to host our re-launch of this event in late November/early December. Ideally the host will have capacity for 100+ guests and be able to provide volunteers and some traditional American Thanksgivings meal fixings. Please contact wrvcommunications@gmail.com if you and your community are interested in partnering with us to host this event!

Donate home/hygiene items

Newly arriving families need basic household supplies to get started! Refugee families are on a VERY tight budget, especially when first stocking and equipping their new homes. Consider buying something off of our [Amazon Wish List](#) or or contact wrvcommunications@gmail.com if you want to arrange a drop off of diapers, laundry detergent, soap, etc.

Online Communications volunteer needed

We need help maintaining our online presence, and are looking for volunteers who are excited to communicate about the work volunteers are doing through WRW and the joys and challenges families face as they resettle in our community. Respond if you are interested in championing our website, social media and newsletter efforts (and maybe send us some examples of work you've done before) or managing our email inbox.

Financial support

WRW is a small org with no paid staff - so we don't fundraise very actively. Your generous gifts have kept us going for a long time, but we're starting to run low on funds to cover our basic operating expenses, and more importantly, to respond to urgent needs from refugee families, such as rent assistant requests. Please consider a donation to keep WRW operating, and supporting families. www.washtenawrefugeewelcome.org/donate

Civil Surgeon support

WRW is exploring how we can help refugees who have been in the US for more than one year apply for their permanent residency in the USA. A major barrier is the medical exam that each family member must undergo to get a green card. These exams must be performed by a civil surgeon and local cost is a minimum of \$400 per person (not covered by insurance). This is far more than most of our families can afford, especially families with multiple children. We are looking for a physician who would be willing to work with WRW to become certified and perform exams at a discounted rate. Please reach out if you are an MD willing to help, or if you could support recruitment or referral efforts. wrvcommunications@gmail.com

Graphic design help

We're looking to create some WRW merchandise to help with fundraising, and we could use help designing them. If you're interested, please contact wrvcommunications@gmail.com.

Thank you for continuing to welcome our refugee neighbors!

Event Recap: WRW Summer Spectacular Celebration

We had a great time at our annual summer event! Lots of refugee families attended, and we shared Dominos Pizza, Kona Ice, and crafts. AFC Ann Arbor was also there to play soccer with the kids and give out tickets to their games.

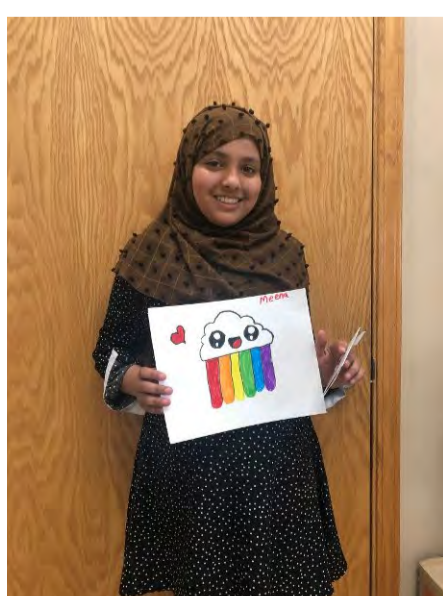


Refugee Winners of the Hope Clinic 2023 Art Show

Our friends at Hope Clinic hosted their annual art show this summer and many of our refugee families participated! Here are some of the artists and their work.



Roua



Meena



Mahya



Rezwan

Thank you!

Thank you to all of our regular donors. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity.

Continuing thanks to **Corrigan Moving Systems** and **St. Luke's Episcopal Church** in Ypsilanti for providing storage space for WRW.

Thank you to **Common Cycle** for providing bikes, helmets and locks to refugees.

Also, thank you to **Domino's Pizza** and **Ann Arbor AFC** for helping to make our summer event a great success.

Upcoming Event: Pumpkin Painting Party



We will be gathering at Southeast Area Park (2901 E. Ellsworth Rd) to welcome the fall weather and our newest neighbors on **Saturday 9/23** from **1-3PM**. We will be painting some pumpkins and enjoying cider and donuts together! Join us for all the fun! Please [RSVP](#) if you can make it.

Resettlement Update

In 2023 so far there have been around 300 individuals who arrived in Washtenaw County (over 100 cases), and there are still 59 more (16 families) that should arrive by October 1 (end of the fiscal year), with around 140 individuals in the pipeline to arrive in months to come. Next year's capacity has been set at 450 so about the same as this year's, and the main countries have been Somalia, Ukraine, Yemen, Palestine, Syria, Guatemala, Iraq, Burma, El Salvador, Eritrea, Afghanistan, DRC, Colombia, Venezuela, Pakistan, and Iran.