



OPEN HEARTS OPEN DOORS

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



Our mission is to partner with the local church to build a welcoming community for Toledo area internationals, to share the hope and love of Jesus Christ and to empower internationals with skills to become successful.

www.waterforishmael.org

20 Arco Dr. Toledo, OH 43607

419-720-8089

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear friend of the stranger,

Before 2020 began, we launched goals for the coming year - our "20/20 Vision for 2020." With you, we committed to work to see immigrant and refugee families learning, finding jobs, engaging in the community, developing deep cross-cultural relationships, and experiencing the love of Jesus.

Just as we were building momentum, **Corona Virus shut everything down.**

Life since March has been hard for everyone, but immigrant families faced so many risks. Because of you, even though our doors were closed, the mission of Water for Ishmael moved forward.

With open hearts, **WFI staff and volunteers never stopped serving immigrants.** As time was of the essence, our staff had to get creative. Families watched teacher-made videos to explain masks and health orders. Students studied in online classes. They filled out unemployment applications on the phone. School-aged children worked with tutors online. They knew they were not forgotten.

Now, our physical doors are open in our new building. More importantly, school-aged children are here being supported. Preschoolers are preparing for kindergarten. Mothers are learning English. All this following COVID-19 safety protocols.

Because your hearts were open to support immigrant and refugee families, they did not face 2020 alone. Our 2020 vision was impaired, but **GOD SAW CLEARLY.** He met 20/20 vision 2020 goals in ways we never dreamed existed. He made provision for strangers and neighbors to be welcomed and loved.



Thank you for
persevering
with us!

JANELLE METZGER

Services provided

TAM, WE'RE PROUD OF YOU!

50



Ministry leaders learning about racial reconciliation with Brandon Cleaver

Adult students in ESL programs

96



Women completed Workforce Development Program

4



Elementary-aged children getting help with homework and English

22



Preschool children

39



Internationals and American Conversation Partners

132



Tam didn't choose to come to America.

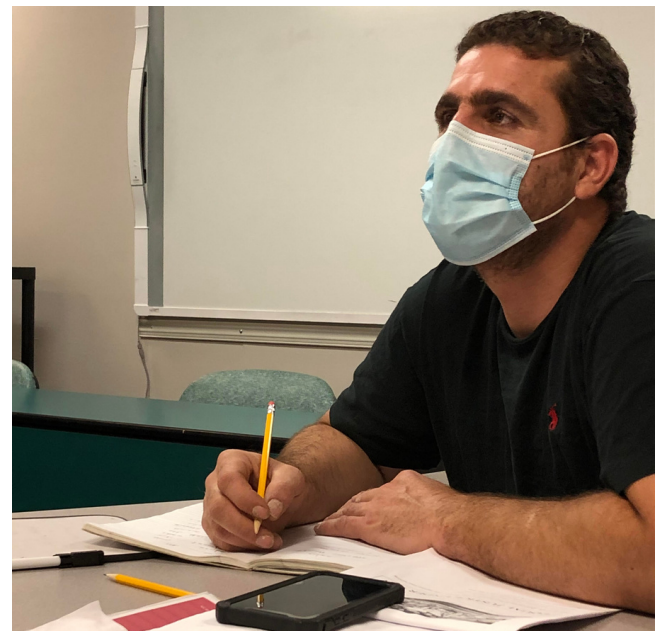
He was resettled here by a combination of international and federal organizations.

In fear, he had left the country he loved. Now Tam loves his new country. He wants to be a good citizen. To do that he needs to pass The Citizenship test.

"Without you, I couldn't do this." he told his American School Evening teacher.

Tam is no longer intimidated by one hundred questions about American government, civic responsibility, history, and geography.

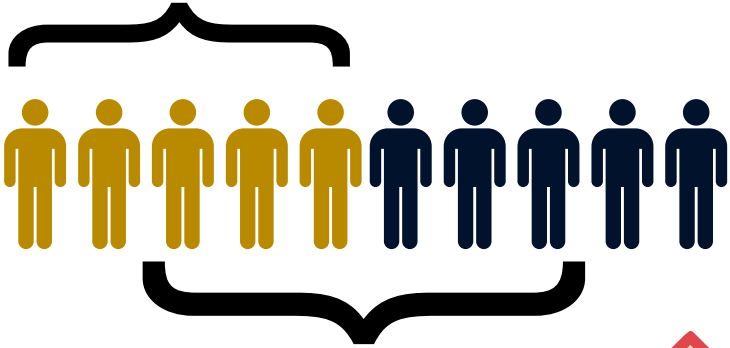
He will soon be a contributing citizen of the United States of America.





5 New American citizens

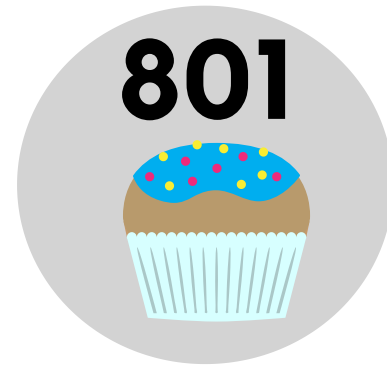
Covid Specific:



families purchased their first US home **10**



contacts with those we serve, texts, phone calls, letters, activity packets, front yard visits



22 cakes
168 cupcakes
611 cookies baked and delivered



YOUR SUPPORT CHANGED HENRY

Henry, a cute 2-year-old, arrived from Saudi Arabia with unique challenges. His mother did not speak English and was fearful of the community around her. She could not attend English classes because she did not have childcare for Henry. Then she found American School for Women designed for families like hers. She could learn English and have Henry in onsite childcare. Little did she know that American School for Children is so much more than babysitting.

Henry spoke no English, and had never been separated from his mother. He could go from friendly to aggressive, even violent, in seconds. His mother, at a loss, told his teachers, "That is just the way he is!"

ASC teachers believe in each child's value. They knew that Henry could not just change but thrive in a nurturing environment of structure and safety. Daily, teachers loved, corrected, and patiently taught Henry. They worked with Henry's mother, giving her tools for positive change. Henry's Mom gained confidence, too. In a year's time, Henry speaks some English, plays with others, and has few outbursts. His future is changing.

Serving ENTIRE Families

Programming for Immigrants 6 weeks old to elderly

American School Kids (ASK)

- Grade-school-aged children
- Designed for children of English Language Learners
- Homework help, English language enrichment

American School Evening (ASE)

- Mixed-gender English as a Second Language Program
- Preparation for living-wage employment

American School for Children (ASC)

- Ages 0-5
- Kindergarten Readiness
- Affirming environment for dual language learners



American School for Women (ASW)

- Women-Only English as a Second Language Program
- Connections that lead to life-giving relationships

Conversation Partners (CP)

- International students practice spoken English
- Builds cross-cultural understanding and friendships

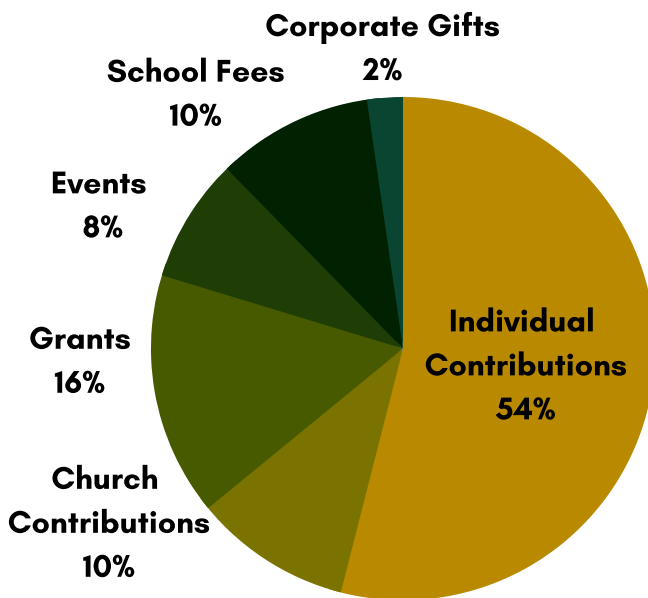
Church Engagement

Encouraging, training and providing outlets for church members to engage with internationals in respectful and life-giving ways

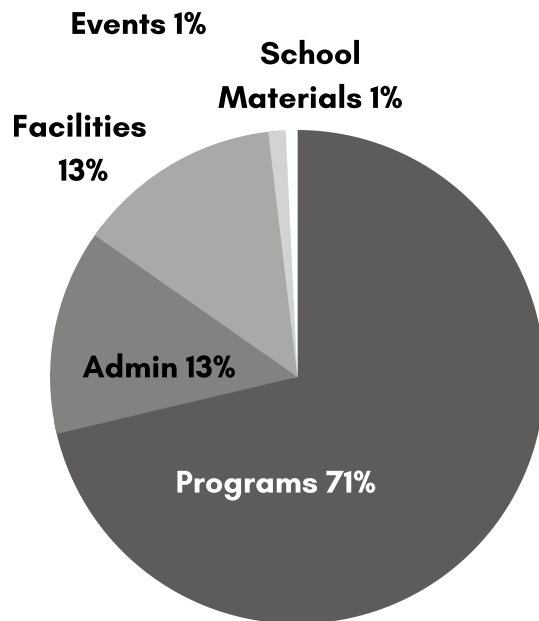
Workforce Development

Training limited-English immigrants to work in the childcare field

Where the money comes from:



Where the money goes:



YOU, OUR VOLUNTEERS...

have open hearts!

You have been there for immigrants, refugees, international students, and their families in 2019-2020.

You have welcomed. You have helped them learn. You have shared the love of Jesus.

59 Teaching/Tutoring Volunteers

98 Building Renovation Volunteers

8 Board Members:

Tim Alley, Esq, Rev. Wes Blood,
Mr. Mike Metzger, Pastor Moses Rodriguez,
Mrs. Betsy White, Mr. Paul Munn,
Pastor George Williams, Pastor June Price

LOOK FORWARD WITH US

As difficult as 2020 has been, our immigrant friends have learned, grown, and deepened cross-cultural friendships. They are deeply grateful. Water for Ishmael now has a beautiful, functional, dedicated space to serve the needs of the immigrant community.

WE ARE HOME.

Our doors were closed for a time, but our hearts remained focused on our students.

Now, that our doors are open wide, we have more space and can serve more families. Students are in awe that this space is **“for them.”** It is an expression of the value Jesus places on each person who walks through our doors. We want to provide a healthy environment that nurtures growth – educationally, economically, relationally, emotionally, and spiritually. Our dream with this new building is to be a place to learn, safely ask questions, find support for emotional healing from trauma, grow as a whole person, and be a part of a healthy community. We desire to see every person connect, belong and become all that God created them to be.



More than ever, people from the nations that God has brought to America need to be welcomed, respected, and valued as image-bearers of the Creator.

You can be a part of helping immigrant families learn English, succeed in school, find living-wage jobs, become informed citizens, find true friends, and encounter others who follow Jesus and show his love no matter who they are.

Please give today.

Your gifts keep our doors open.

<https://waterforishmael.kindful.com/>