

WATER FOR ISHMAEL



ANNUAL REPORT



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.

CONTACT

WWW.WATERFORISHMAEL.ORG
20 ARCO DR. TOLEDO, OH 43607
INFO@WATERFORISHMAEL.ORG

Thoughts FROM THE DIRECTOR

Statistics are great, but sometimes, they can cause us to lose sight of *the One*.

Jesus fed, taught, and healed multitudes. BUT, sometimes he stopped and “wasted” a lot of time on just one person. He used the parable of the lost coin to demonstrate this for us.

This report is filled with great statistics on the overall work that God allowed us to accomplish in this past year. There are also a few stories of people who have been helped because of your generosity. We praise God for his love and faithfulness to us and to the “strangers” here in Northwest Ohio. I’d like to take a minute to tell you about a few of *the “Ones”* that your gifts are serving right now:

- “Leah,” a seventy year-old woman who lost her home because she decided to follow Jesus. Your support allowed her to begin learning English. She can write her name now, and she has a supportive community surrounding her.
- A grieving family who lost an infant son, found hope, and a safe learning environment for their preschool daughter.
- “Raj,” a university student who lost both of his parents to COVID. He couldn’t go home to grieve. He found a family here to walk through life with him.

Every number listed in the statistics in this report represents a life, a family, and a future that you are helping to change for the better. These individuals matter to their Creator. They were made in His image.

Thank you for being part of the Water for Ishmael family of care. Together, we’re embracing the world!



Janelle Metzger
Executive Director



A PRAYER IN HER HEART

When you walk in the front door of Water for Ishmael, it is likely you'll be greeted by the smiling face of Jan. If she's not at the front desk, she's in class helping our students prepare for their Citizenship test.

Jan moved from California to Ohio with a prayer in her heart to continue to serve internationals. When she heard about Water for Ishmael, Jan jumped in with both feet.

When asked what Jan's favorite part about serving as a volunteer was, she laughed and said; "While the most obvious answer is the women, it's the way the women are served. From caring for their children, to caring for the whole person; the staff and volunteers really care about these women and their families. My values are so aligned with the ministry, that's why I have stuck around for so long. The care doesn't stop when the students go home. Whether it's a meal or a play group, staff, volunteers, and students alike are living in community. Most importantly, the space between internationals and the church is bridged with an organization like Water For Ishmael."

Jan is *one person* making a difference.

IMAGINE TRYING TO READ....

...in a totally new language! You go to the library, but even the children's books are full of words you don't know about topics that are captivating to 5-year-olds.

But adults, not so much!

We now have our very own American Schools Library. Shelves of books selected with our students in mind--namely adults at all different stages in learning English.

Thank you Chick-fil-A and Dollar General Literacy Foundation and our Volunteers for making this dream a reality!

Thank you



SERVING ENTIRE FAMILIES

FAMILIES

Programming for
Immigrants 6 weeks old
to 99 years

American School Kids (ASK)

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



American School Evening (ASE)

- English as a Second Language for men and women
- 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

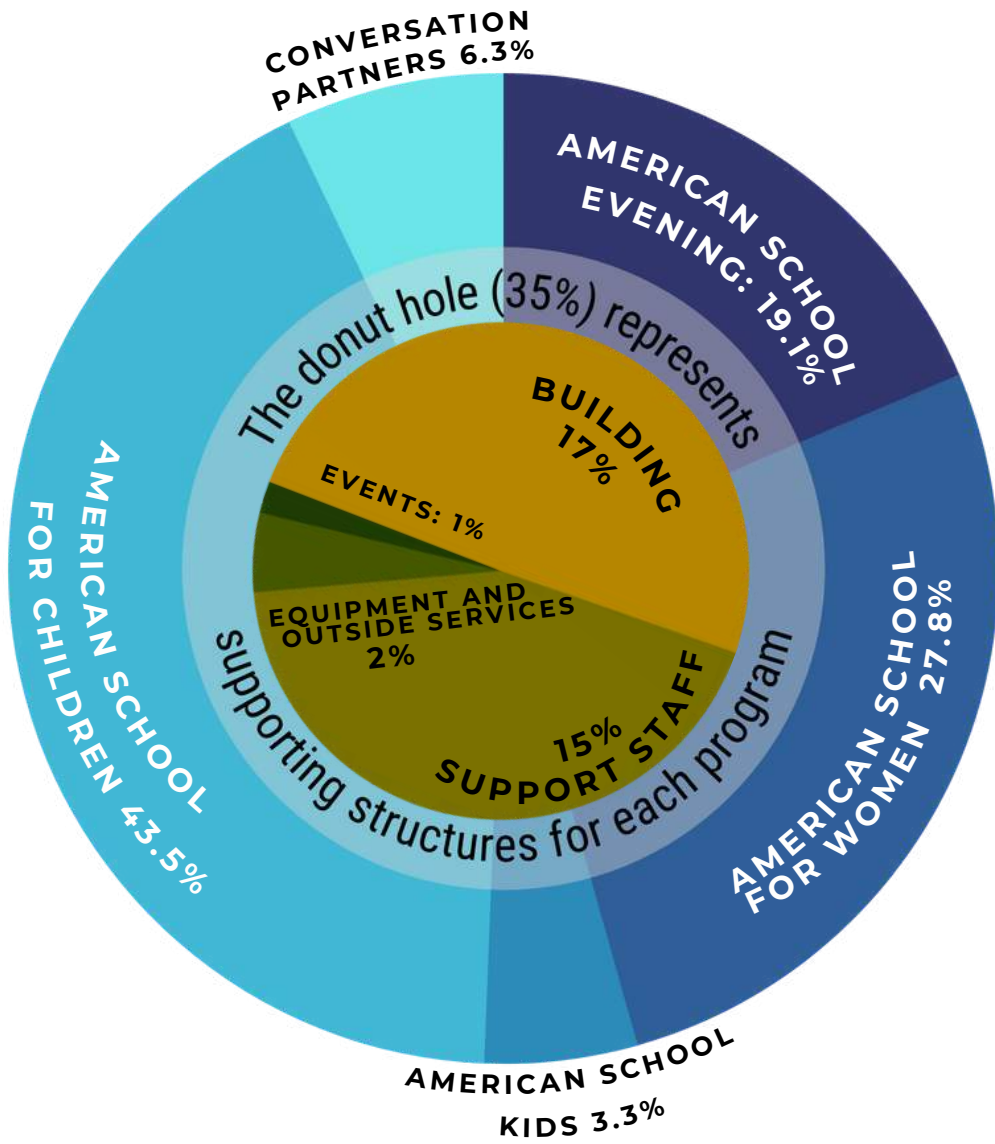
Church Engagement

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

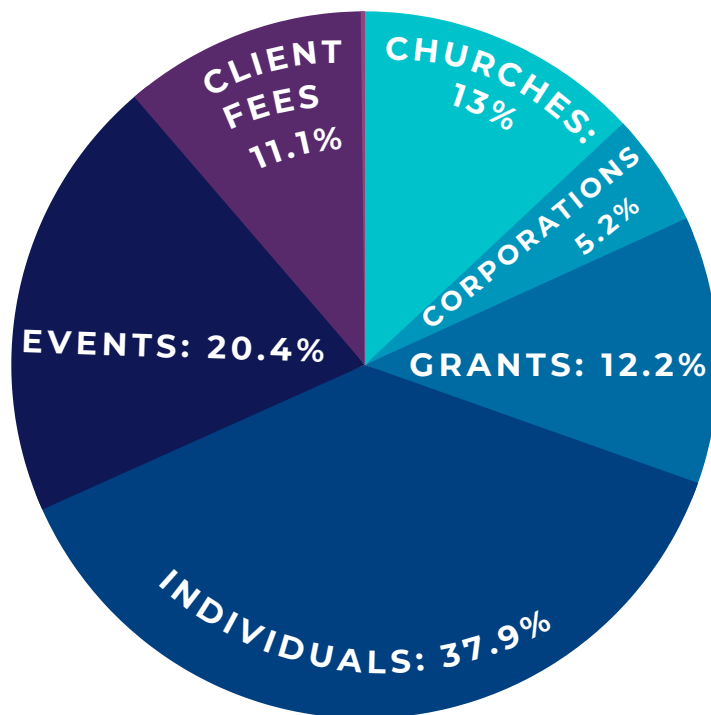
Workforce Development

Training limited-English immigrants to work in the childcare field

WHERE THE \$\$ GOES:



WHERE THE \$\$ COMES FROM:

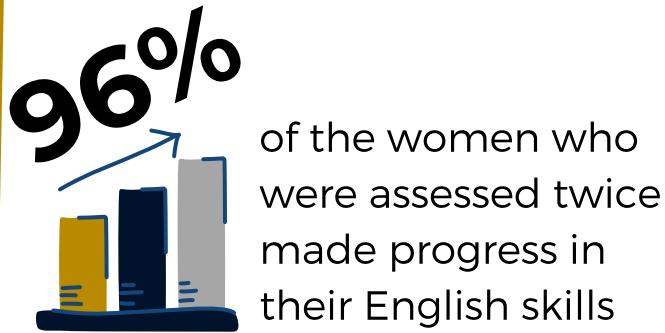


STEWARDSHIP

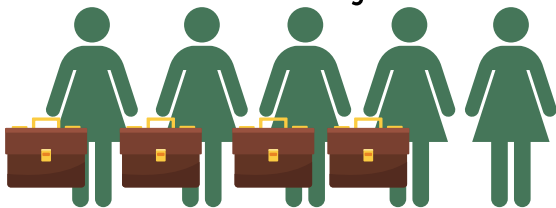




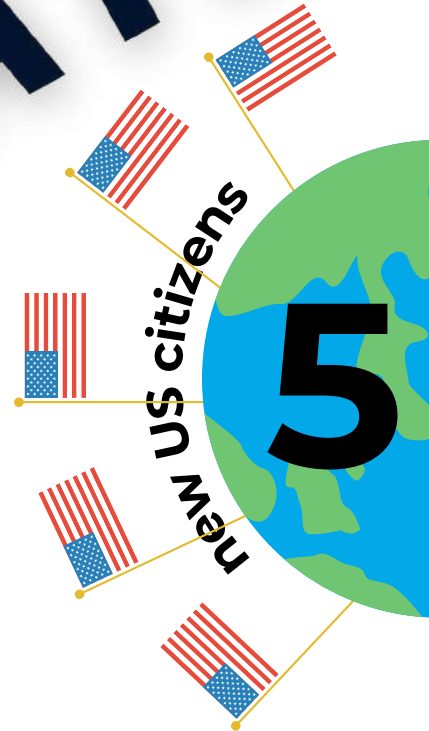
1593 volunteer hours
in a Covid year



4 out of 5 women trained in Workforce Development have new jobs!



STATS



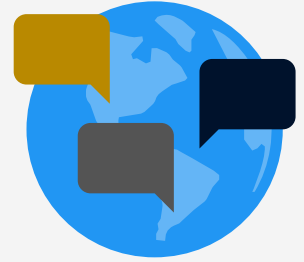
\$97,324 in scholarships from our donors given for adult women to learn English



24 elementary students from 7 school districts helped onsite with remote learning during pandemic



88 adult ESL and citizenship students
19 countries represented



552 views from clients who watched "Stories from God's Word" created by WFI staff members

WE PRAY FOR



250 people read these words of Jesus last year:

“ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life. ”

JOSEPH IS GETTING STRONGER

American School for Children is so much more than babysitting while moms study English. Our teachers make sure each child is developing and learning - even the littlest ones.

Joseph is the baby in his family with two very loving older sisters. At home, he cried a lot, so they always held him. But this hampered his muscle development.



When Joseph came to school with his mother, **his teachers quickly saw that he had a problem.** Although he was almost a year old, Joseph could only sit for a short time before he fell over. He could barely stand with support - let alone walk. So throughout this last year, his teachers worked to strengthen his back muscles. They worked with his mother to know how to help him at home. **Day-by-day he got stronger!**

Joseph continues to get physically stronger. His brain is developing in foundational ways. He is hearing two languages. He is learning to trust people - to feel safe. He is interacting with other little friends from diverse cultures.

Joseph is only *One little Boy*, but he is on his way to success in Kindergarten!

ANA'S PREGNANCY

Ana is learning English. BUT, at Water for Ishmael, she has found so much more...

Ana has found a community where she belongs. She has made friends - not just her American teachers, but friends that cross language, culture, and religious barriers. She has found a place where it is safe to share her life.

Ana moved to America 9 months ago. Soon after starting to study English, she found out that she is pregnant. She was worried and scared. Far from any of her family - with very little English ability - without a clue about hospitals in America - she did not want to have a baby now!

Ana's teacher and classmates cheered and celebrated this new life when she was not ready to. They encircled her, and her teacher prayed for her in Jesus' name. Then, they began to plan together to welcome this baby.



It doesn't matter what she doesn't know or have here in America. Ana has friends who will walk this road with her.

Teachers and volunteers in Ana's life reflect the love of Jesus for her because she and her baby matter!



OUR OWN PLAYGROUND

American School for Children has a playground! From a track to a playhouse. From easels to bikes. This space is awesome.

Thank you to the Toledo Rotary Club Foundation, Water for Ishmael donors, and the many volunteers who have made this new playground possible!

Aimee squealed with delight as she jumped up and down.

She had just finished Water for Ishmael's Childcare Workforce Development program. The director of our childcare was so impressed with her during the training that she offered Aimee a job.

Aimee said, "Yes." She is from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in her 30's. In a lovely French accent she repeated over and over,

“THIS IS THE FIRST JOB IN MY LIFE!”



Thank you!



OUR BOARD





When you think of "*the one*" perhaps you think of your spouse, your go to favorite restaurant, or that friend you can call on day or night.

What Jesus Christ has taught us about "*the one*" is something far more beautiful and solid. If the parable of the lost sheep or the lost coin has taught us anything; we are worthy to be found. Each person is worthy to be found - seen - valued.

Immigrant families whom we serve have experienced many firsts with us. Some firsts have been uncertain; first day of school, taking a test, finding a new doctor, purchasing their first home in the United States. Other firsts have been worthy of rejoicing; first job, driver's license, obtaining citizenship, and being able to attend a parent teacher conference without a translator are just some examples of how some of our students have found their voice.

Without your support, it would be fair to say that many of our students would feel lost without the genuine love and care that they receive from the Water for Ishmael community.

There have been times, past and present, when there is only one student who shows up for class at Water for Ishmael. We are committed to serving that one student. Your commitment to continually pray and financially support allows us to help "*the one.*"

Give today at
www.waterforishmael.kindful.com

Your gift now will help immigrant families who are facing a world of "firsts."

