

# Riverview

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER

### Community Fridge Grand Opening!



Ribbon cutting with Emelia Sheeley (left), RIC Executive Director, one of our Youth Volunteers and Iulia Poe, [Food 4 All Cbus](#) Director.



The community's little ones gathered 'round get a treat from the fridge and enjoy hot cocoa and snacks

It's official! [Food 4 All Cbus](#) opened its first **community fridge** in front of the RIC office, and it is up and running!

Saturday, December 16, RIC staff, Food 4 All Cbus volunteers and neighbors came together in a beautiful display of generosity and support. We were so excited by the turnout of donors, volunteers, and community members who joined us for the ribbon cutting.

We saw neighbors meeting new neighbors, sharing stories, and leaving with groceries in hand. Kids enjoyed hot cocoa and delicious treats as they learned about the fridge.

*"The warmth and enthusiasm shared at the launch inspired and humbled us. A huge THANK YOU to everyone who made this day possible! Your kindness will nourish not just bodies, but also the spirit of our community."*

---Iulia Poe, Food 4 All Cbus

**What is a community fridge?** A place for neighbors to give food, and to receive food, at will, as needed, no questions asked.

**Why?** Every one deserves access to food. And there is no one size fits all way to address the food scarcity issues that plague our city.

**How does it work?** The fridge is unlocked and open 24/7. Anyone can drop off food and anyone can take the food. *We are asking for all meat donations to be halal.* If you bring a dish you prepared or fresh leftover, mark it clearly with the date and ingredients. [Detailed rules can be found here](#)

Stop by anytime, 24/7, to donate fresh foods like produce, milk, eggs, or halal meat:  
552 Riverview Drive

## Good News on the Street

The RIC office opened again on Oct. 30



No more orange "Keep out sticker" on the door. Enjoying being back home at the RIC for things like backpacks distribution and craft nights

We are grateful that the construction on the 552 building was completed a little early! We MISSED Riverview! We learned that being off of Riverview, even just 3.5 miles away (a 30 min bus ride), kept 50% of our neighbors from being able to attend their appointments! At our return on October 30, we opened the doors and were greeted by many happy neighbors!

We are extraordinarily grateful to our friends at Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS) for allowing us to work in their office during this time. Without them, there wouldn't have been ANY services for those weeks of construction!



We're famous in Egypt! One of our neighbors, Souad, is a journalist and recently wrote a piece about the RIC's annual Community Festival that was published in a journal in Egypt!



Atia helps her daughter Tahira decorate holiday cookies.

**NOTE:** Next "cozy warm drinks and craft day" is Jan. 16, 5:30-7:30pm. [Email Angelica here](#) if interested in helping





Staff member Hamida, stands with her former high school student from Algeria. He just arrived to the US and now she is teaching him again!



Children also made crafts like cocoa cups and snowman bookmarks. Thanks to our volunteers who cut many pieces of paper!

### More News on the street:

Shout out of gratitude to Iman, our Community Health Advocate, who worked for 2 months helping two different individuals secure a financial assistance plan to reduce the cost of their essential medications through OSU and Walmart pharmacy.

## Help the RIC meet its 2023 goal of **\$80,000** to welcome and empower more New Americans in 2024

### Excerpt from Director Emelia Sheeley's end of the year letter:

*"Today, I met new families who couldn't get an appointment to see our community care staff until January 10th! It is so difficult to turn people away, and I watched everyone scramble to find a solution. These delays are a strain on us all, and in response, the RIC is working hard to shorten the wait time for help by expanding our Community Care program again. **We are still \$11,000 short of our \$80,000 goal**, and I am inviting you to share in the experience of giving and welcome by supporting our Community Care program."*

[Read more here >>>](#)

GIVE HERE

### Estimate of IMPACT by the RIC in 2023:

- Met neighbors from 47 countries (most came from Algeria and Afghanistan)
- 1,498 Individuals served & empowered
- More than 8,855 office visits

More of an overview of the RIC Impact can be found in our [2022 RIC Annual Report](#)

# We are thankful for you. Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

*Note: The RIC office is closed December 22-January 2 for an end of year break*



## Our Contact Information

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