

Riverview

INTERNATIONAL CENTER

Teacher–Sister–Friend



"My favorite aspect is being able to welcome new families every week" - Heather Reeves



"We love coming here. She is more than a *teacher*, she is a *sister* and a *friend*," one of our Afghan moms said to Jeremy as she was leaving the preschool class. The RIC is fortunate to have 2 volunteers leading a parent and child preschool class each week. Heather Reeves and Sarah Gyde are both moms, and former teachers. RIC neighbors live in small apartments with very little room for toys. It's difficult for moms to get to know one another if languages aren't the same. These preschool classes are another way to welcome newly arrived immigrant families and introduce them to friends while enriching their childrens' lives. Heather and Sarah are leading their students in songs like "The More We Get Together", making crafts such as puppets to practice language skills, creating tactile art with items like cotton balls, play dough and leaves. Sarah says, "I really enjoy seeing the kids interact with each other and get excited about the activities we do".

Jeremy & Dr. Zerrouk on NBC4 Daytime Columbus



Building is safe, and we are full!



This former bedroom is the community care office with 2 desks and chairs for neighbors



View from the front entrance. Dividers for Jeremy's office and 2 desks to greet people or other work

You may have heard that the RIC office and our apartment building neighbors had to evacuate in December for 10 days due to an issue with the upstairs walkway. We are happy to report the building is safe with new solid reinforcement beams. There were several updates inside our office as well. We have worked as a team to come up with creative solutions for 7 staff and 2 interns to have their own space inside our 2-bedroom apartment. More staff = more neighbor appointments, so the office gets really full! We refuse to allow our space limitations to hamper us from helping our neighbors!

2022 was a great year!

Riverview International Center 2022 Wrap Up

10,935

Total services

1,018

English class
attendance

442

School enrollment
& questions

979

Homework help &
Summer reading

993

Job help
appointments

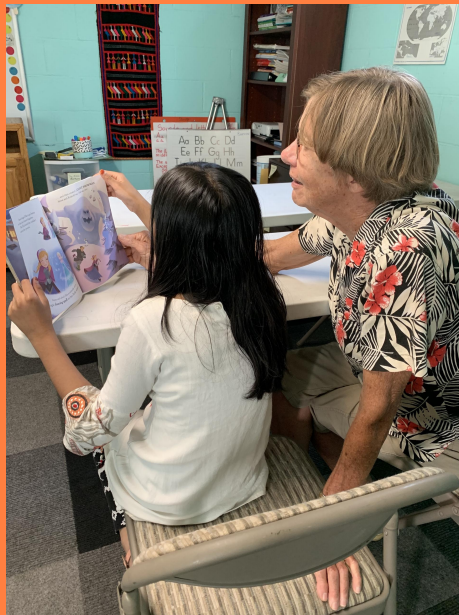
860

Food pantry
boxes distributed

Help kids succeed in school

Our neighbor kids could use your help to understand their homework or to have someone listen to them read. Most students are in grades K-5. Homework help is offered
Mon - Wed, 5:30-7:30pm

(right) Gail Messick listens to a student read



Bikes for Refugees



Several neighbors try out the bikes from Franklinton Cycle Works to choose which one fits best



"Is my bike here yet?" was a question we fielded every week once we announced the campaign to raise money for bikes. After completing the 2 month-campaign through The Columbus Foundation's Better Together program, we were able to answer, "YES!" Our goal was \$6000. Thanks to generous supporters we received \$7000! This enable us enabled us to purchase 20 bikes, locks, baskets, safety equipment from our partner Franklinton Cycleworks. (3 more bikes will be purchased in the spring as the weather improves). In addition, some people brought their only gnetly used bikes to donate. When the bikes arrived we heard "THANK YOU" after thank you and saw many smiles. At the RIC, we aren't working alone: it takes a caring community outside of the RIC to work "Better Together". Thank you all!

COME AND SEE the RIC!

Meet our neighbors, see our apartment, learn about immigration in Columbus, all in 60 minutes. Bring your friends or come alone. You are welcome here!

All tours are on Wednesday.

- January 25, 12:00-1PM
- February 8, 6:00-7:00 PM
- February 22, 12:00-1PM
- March 8, 6:00-7:00 PM

[SIGN UP FOR A TOUR](#)



Mohammad enjoys ice cream at the end of the summer reading program



Our Contact Information

{{Organization Name}}
{{Organization Address}}
{{Organization Phone}}
{{Organization Website}}

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