

Riverview

INTERNATIONAL CENTER

Mansoor's Story & Career Path



"I had no English. People said 'hi' and I said, 'what is hi?' Everyday I came and they helped me in this office."

Mansoor's story shows how the RIC is continually available to help our neighbors with their needs, even as their questions move from basic survival to seeking higher level jobs.

From the time Mansoor left Afghanistan in August, 2021, ten months passed before he was able to be resettled in Columbus. "I had a big headache, because my family [was still] in Afghanistan." After a month of living in the Staybridge hotel down the street, he moved to his first apartment on Riverview Drive. Mansoor's resettlement case manager brought him to the RIC, where they could "help [him] with everything."

"I had no English. People said 'hi' and I said, 'what is hi?' Everyday I came and they helped me in this office. All here are [like] my brothers and sisters. I find the office is my family."

When Mansoor first arrived at the RIC, he recalled receiving help with groceries and gift cards. Our team helped him get his first job in America, at Skyline Chili, and then he later started working at OSU doing custodial work for more than one year. Then, in October 2023, Mansoor, who by now could now speak conversational English, worked with our Career Specialist, Rachel, to find a higher-level job with better pay. Because of his friendly personality and demonstrated work ethic, he was hired by AC Hotels Downtown, where he currently works full time as a Maintenance Technician.

"In my job now I am very happy. I have no problems." Mansoor is still waiting to be able to bring his wife and children from Afghanistan, but when he talks about the future, he is more hopeful both for his life here in the US and his home country. "I love Afghanistan and if everything can become relaxed there, it will be good. I look to the future and I see myself as a person of this country [the US]."

"I want to work with my abilities and to have a good life with everyone here, whatever it takes."

The staff and many volunteers at the RIC know Mansoor and are warmed by his enthusiastic and positive personality. "Whenever I see Mansoor, he brightens my day," says one staff member. Mansoor's career journey is a good example of how we envision RIC programs to work; we want to educate and empower our New American neighbors to achieve the life they want. We can help with the connections and answer questions, but our neighbors are showing up, doing the work and reaching their goals. Congratulations, Mansoor!

Welcome to our new staff and interns!



We warmly welcome **Red Yasar** as the latest intern to join our team. Red is a sophomore from the College of Wooster with a focus on Economics and Statistical Data Science. His Bangladeshi heritage marks him as our first intern from the region, bringing a fresh, diverse perspective to our initiatives. Red's dedication to the mission of the RIC is palpable, and we are excited for the mutual growth and learning that lies ahead.



Joining us this year, **Fatoumata Sow** steps into the role of Career Specialist with a wealth of experience and a passion for service. Her journey from Guinea to Granville, and her educational path through Denison University, have equipped her with the skills to guide our community members in their professional endeavors. Fatou's approach to her work is rooted in a profound respect for cultural diversity and a dedication to honest, heartfelt communication. She stands ready to enrich the Riverview community with opportunities that promise a better tomorrow.



Charlie Andorka steps into our internship program with a background that perfectly aligns with the values of RIC. A Columbus native and graduate from The Ohio State University, Charlie is pursuing a Master's in Social Work. His commitment to cultural humility and empowerment promises to bring new insights into our work with New Americans, fostering an environment where every individual can thrive.

Did you know?



In the state of Ohio, the immigrant population reaches 514,000, a testament to the state's role as a welcoming hub for new Americans! Through initiatives like ESL classes, job help, and cultural integration activities, the RIC plays a crucial role in empowering these individuals to thrive in their new communities.

Columbus is home to 156,000 immigrants, representing the vibrant diversity and potential of our city. At the RIC, we offer our support through educational services and community programs that cater to the newest Americans.



Good News on the Street



Home Sweet Home!
Mohamed and his family celebrate the exciting step of becoming homeowners. Congratulations!



A very Happy Birthday to Hamida and Iman! Your smiles light up the RIC! May the year ahead be filled with laughter, learning, and growth.

More good news:

- Zuhail, a single mother from Afghanistan, received her asylum approval! We share in her joy and anticipation as she now starts the application to bring her husband to America.
- The RIC staff and volunteers are now meeting an average of **7 new families each week**. One individual drove from Akron (2 hours away) to the RIC because he heard we would help people from Afghanistan!

Thank you to our partners: BESA & LIFE Vineyard Church



A young friend dons a new winter coat, a gift of warmth from **LIFE Vineyard Church**. The church connected with the RIC last month to bring 150 new winter coats and a variety of household items for our neighbors.



Volunteers from BESA join forces with the RIC, turning simple materials into smiles and a stronger community, through crafting evenings for kids.

Since April, the RIC has partnered with **BESA**, a nonprofit that "brings diverse groups of people together to drive innovation and change". BESA has participated in a variety of RIC community gatherings and events.

Volunteer Needs

The RIC thrives on the spirit of volunteerism, and we have many opportunities for you to make a difference in the lives of our neighbors. Whether you're looking to engage directly with the community or support from behind, we have a place for you:

In-Person Opportunities:

1. **Craft Making Evening:** Join us for an evening of crafts with the children in our neighborhood on Tuesday, February 13 from 5:30-7:30PM. Families are encouraged to volunteer together for this event. **To sign up, please text Angelica at 614-636-0506.**
2. **Homework Help:** Starting January 22, lend a hand with homework and be a part of a child's academic journey. Your guidance can light the way to their success. **Sign up here**
3. **Office Support:** We need helping hands for 1-2 hours a week in the office. Your assistance with service data entry, welcoming our visitors, and administrative tasks will keep our operations smooth.

Remote Opportunities:

1. **Craft Preparation:** Love crafting but prefer to do it from home? Help us prepare for events by cutting materials, organizing supplies, and crafting sample products. All tools and supplies will be provided.
2. **Grant Writing Assistance:** If you have a way with words and a passion for philanthropy, assist us in grant writing to secure the necessary funds for our programs.

Interested in joining the RIC family? [Contact Angelica!](#)

[VOLUNTEER HERE](#)

Come visit us!

Step inside the world of the RIC and experience the pulse of our community firsthand. Come meet with us — see our space, hear from one of our neighbors, and learn about immigration in Ohio. You are welcome here!

Our doors are wide open on the following dates:

- **Wednesday, February 7**, 6:00 PM - 7PM
- **Wednesday, February 28**, 12:00 PM - 1PM
- **Wednesday, March 13**, 6:00 PM - 7 PM



Our Contact Information
{{(Organization Name)}}
{{(Organization Address)}}
{{(Organization Phone)}}
{{(Organization Website)}}

{{(Unsubscribe)}}



United Way
of Central Ohio

PARTNER

