

Riverview

INTERNATIONAL CENTER

Bus Trainings & Laptops



L: COTA bus sitting in front of Masjid Omar mosque while Ginny, from COTA, teaches how to use the public bus system. R: Hamida and Columbus Library staff check in 100 neighbors so they can receive a laptop and 6 months of free wifi.

Lack of transportation is a real need for our new neighbors when they arrive. We tackled that problem this month by offering 2 bus trainings. We learned from our COTA trainer, Ginny, how to use the bus. We even took a trip to visit one of our friends at Roots Natural Kitchen where some of our Riverview neighbors work. In all, about 35 people now have a new way to get around Columbus!

The RIC is hiring! Executive Director



**FUND OUR
COMMUNITY
BUILDERS**
A FUNDRAISER BY THE RIC

**NEEDED: FT EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**

APPLY HERE

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.

- April 6, 6:00-7:00 PM
- May 11, 6:00-7:00 PM
- June 8, 12:00-12:45 PM
- July 6, 6:00-7:00 PM
- August 3, 6:00-7:00 PM
- September 7, 6:00-7:00 PM
- October 5, 12:00-12:45 PM
- November 2, 6:00-7:00 PM
- December 7, 6:00-7:00 PM



ARRANGE A VISIT

Riverview Afghan Network (RAN)

On Dec. 5:
RAN began to help connect Afghan refugees in need with those people who wanted to help. Volunteers Kristi Williams and Kevin Vereide got things started by collecting items from many RIC volunteers and friends. Volunteer Laura Wilcox began delivering items to neighbors every Friday.

Jan. 5:
We met Joanna Leitch, a friendly Dublin resident who started helping her new Afghan neighbors. We also met Natasha Sherzai, lead volunteer at My Project USA. Both have been instrumental in finding Afghans in need in Columbus and connecting them with help.

Feb. 14:
CRIS staff began offering in-person cultural awareness training and digital literacy classes at the RIC

Feb. 24:
Volunteer Mike Renne and Paige Chupp spearheaded the formation of welcome teams to be matched with Afghan neighbors on Riverview

Mar. 5:
The need for items greatly lessened, so RAN efforts have pivoted to creative problem solving and connecting neighbors with services

Mar. 17:
RIC staff & interns delivered our Afghan neighbors gift bags containing ingredients donated by YOU to make the holiday favorite "haft mewa" to celebrate the Persian new year on Mar. 20

Thank you to all of you who stepped up to give items, time, gifts, and kindness in the flurry of this initial crisis!



Joanna Leitch and Sarah Cummings organize items for a RIC free giveaway



Ian, OSU intern, helps deliver haft mewa gift bags to Afghan neighbors for Nowruz celebrations.

Kiwanis & United Way Grants for Kids!



The RIC is pleased to announce that we received a grant from The Columbus Kiwanis Club. The grant gives preference for those organizations serving children living in the city of Columbus. We are happy to use the funds towards our summer programming for kids, which focuses on reading and math. We are also thrilled to be chosen by the Columbus Foundation to be a host site for a Summer Fellow this year! Our Summer Fellow will be leading our summer reading program, academic program, and field trips for children starting in June.

RIC Wishlist

We still have a few needs. Check out the latest wishlist to help RIC programs or our neighbors.

[CLICK FOR WISHLIST](#)



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

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**United Way
of Central Ohio**

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