

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Riverview Community,

I began drafting this letter not on Riverview Drive, nor in my home on Columbus' north side, but while sitting on the shore of Florida's gulf coast. Yes, you read that right. While I was on a beach vacation, I was thinking of the RIC. Specifically, I was thinking of the staff of the RIC, and my hopes for a new year with them. It occurred to me that, after six years of working in Riverview, I love this place and its people more than ever, enough to miss them from the beach, or from anywhere else I go. This community just gets into your heart.

In 2022, the RIC grew in several important ways. Firstly, we won a grant from the City of Columbus to help pay for medical and retirement benefits for our staff for the next three years. As inflation and costs of living continue to rise, it is more important than ever to compensate our staff according to their value and hard work. *Without them, we could not have served more than 1000 individuals from 43 countries in 2022.* By the end of the year, our office had been visited by newcomers to Columbus nearly 11,000 times! For each one of those visits, one of our dedicated staff was present, ready to serve and meet whatever needs our neighbors brought.

Thanks to funding from Columbus Public Health, we were able to add another staff member, Iman, and greatly increase our health-related programming and services. Iman and Hamida now together provide an average of 120 health-related services each month in our office. These services include helping neighbors schedule doctor's appointments, pay medical bills, apply for benefits, and set up MyChart accounts. Additionally, both Iman and Hamida lead empowerment groups for women that meet each week to socialize, learn about a mental health topic, and just support each other. More than 25 women are directly benefiting from these groups.

We've entered 2023 now and are already experiencing more, and are ready for more! More New Americans are coming to our office than ever, with brand new families and individuals arriving weekly. More staff have been added to support the growing community, and more will need to be added. We have maxed out our current space and have begun the search for what's next.

More relationships. More community. More support and connection. What a gift to be here, now, and on this journey of welcoming New Americans with you.



**Emelia Sheeley**  
Interim Executive Director



2023 RIC staff, L-R  
Emelia, Angelica, Rachel  
Diane, Hamida, Iman  
Walid, Wahidullah

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emelia Sheeley".

Emelia Sheeley

***Our Vision is that all New Americans are welcomed and empowered to thrive.***

We value: welcome for all, service with humility and integrity, intentional collaboration with each other and the community, active listening, and respect for each other and ourselves.





## SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS

All of our staff, interns, and even some volunteers are acquainted with Simrin, who began coming to the RIC as a young teen with her mom, and now as a young adult. We have witnessed her grow into a self-assured, proactive college student who cares for her family and community. We continue to see her at Eid celebrations in her home, driving her siblings to school, and occasionally in our office, seeking guidance with college scholarships and passport applications. She has accomplished so much in her short time in America and we are honored to support her dream of becoming a nurse!

**66** I moved here almost 6 years ago. RIC first helped me with my homework, my volunteering hours, which I needed for my graduation. I'm majoring in pre-nursing, and my dream job is to get work in a hospital."  
– Simrin from Bangladesh



## STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

When Mohand and his family moved to Columbus from Algeria in 2019, he was grateful to secure a job with Stanley Electric making \$15/hour. But with degrees in biology and engineering, Mohand sought a new career path. He faithfully studied English, was promoted at Stanley Electric, and enrolled in an electrician apprenticeship program. Within nine months, he had passed his journeyman electrician's test with a perfect score! Now, Mohand makes \$59/hour plus overtime and is on his way to securing a better future for his family. Says Mohand, "The people at the RIC encouraged me to be patient, earn recognized certificates in the U.S. and try to look for new career paths to reach my goals. Now I'm able to open doors for better opportunities for my young children."



## NURTURING COMMUNITY

Rachida and her family moved from Algeria to Ohio in 2019, speaking no English. When they came to the RIC, we helped them job seek and enroll in school and English classes. Within months, their oldest daughter, Dyna, became the interpreter for the family. Rachida's language skills also improved, and she got a job at the Marriott as a lobby attendant. As her English skills continued to grow, she was moved to a new position involving use of a walkie-talkie. Initially, this was daunting for her, but she did it! For Rachida and Dyna, the next step was giving back. Rachida befriended and became a resource for other moms from Algeria on the street, who often congregated on the grass, chatting while their children played nearby. Dyna volunteered at the RIC, helping children with their homework and reading. Both Dyna and Rachida speak to visiting groups touring the RIC office. A year ago, they bought a home in Hilliard, and Dyna recently graduated from high school and is studying to become a pilot. Rachida is volunteering weekly at the RIC, still nurturing the community where her American story began.



**12,340** OFFICE VISITS



**1,045** INDIVIDUALS SERVED



**2,472**

HEALTH-RELATED  
PROGRAMS  
& SERVICES



**1,056**

JOB HELP &  
COMPUTER  
APPOINTMENTS



**1,018**

ENGLISH  
LEARNING  
VISITS



**43**

COUNTRIES  
OF ORIGIN\*

\*The top 3 countries of origin were Algeria,  
Afghanistan, and Bangladesh.



**1,186**

SUMMER READING  
& HOMEWORK  
HELP VISITS



**3,190** VOLUNTEER HOURS



**142** JOBS SECURED

## COMMUNITY SPONSORS & PARTNERS

augustwenty

Boulevard Presbyterian Church

CMTA

First Congregational Church

Grange Insurance

Here & There Around OSU

Northwest Christian Church

Ohio Living Westminster Thurber Spiritual Life Committee

Olentangy Community Church

Overbrook Presbyterian Church

Rasoul Law Office

Advocating Opportunity

CAS, A division of the American Chemical Society

CoHatch

Columbus City Schools

Columbus Diaper Bank

Columbus Metropolitan Library

Community Refugee and Immigration Services

ETSS: Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services

Franklin County Board of Commissioners

FRINGE22 Design and Creative Strategy Studio

Godman Guild Association

Heart to Heart Food Pantry

Hello Neighbor Network

Mid-Ohio Food Collective

MYProject USA

NBC4

Neighborhood Services, Inc.

North Community Counseling Center Inc.

The Columbus Foundation

The Legal Aid Society of Columbus

The Ohio State University

The Period Pantry

United Way of Central Ohio

Value Life and Transitions Ministries of Vineyard Columbus

## 2022 STAFF

**Diane Linton**

Executive Director (JAN - JUL) &  
Director of Philanthropic Engagement

**Jeremy Ellison**

Executive Director (JUL - DEC)

**Emelia Sheeley**

Director of Programs and Volunteers  
& 2023 Interim Executive Director

**Emily Miller**

Career Specialist (JAN - OCT)

**Rachel Maino**

Career Specialist (NOV - DEC)

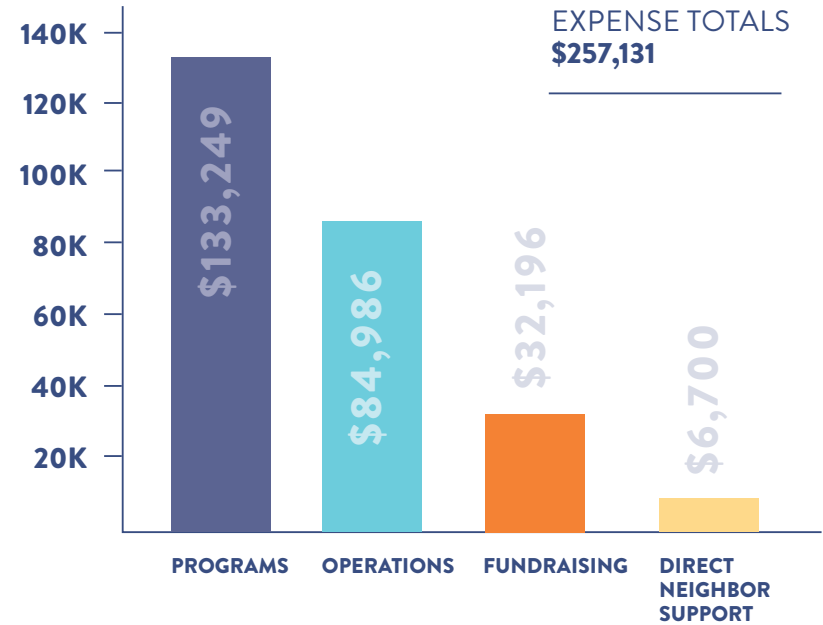
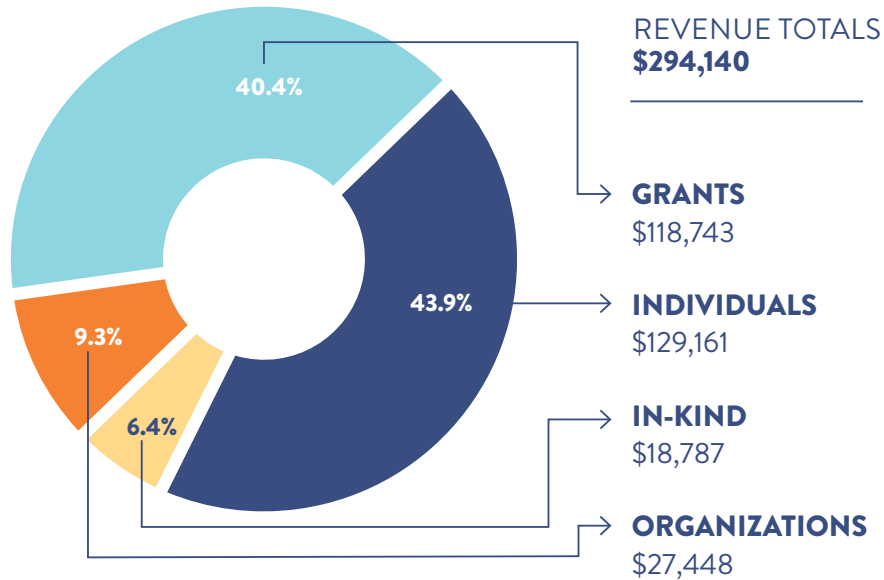
**Hamida Ouali**

Community Care Advocate

**Iman Shehabi**

Community Health Coordinator

# FINANCIALS



## 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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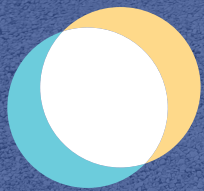
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**Riverview**  
INTERNATIONAL CENTER

[WWW.RIVERVIEWINTERNATIONALCENTER.ORG](http://WWW.RIVERVIEWINTERNATIONALCENTER.ORG)

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