



# REFUGEE CONNECT

NAVIGATING ONE GREATER COMMUNITY



## IMPACT REPORT

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<https://www.refugeeconnect.org>



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# A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends:

As 2022 comes to an end, RefugeeConnect has much to be thankful for. We've already supported over **670 refugees from 22 countries**, and we continue to expand our programming to connect more refugees to resources they need to rebuild their lives right here in Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky.

I am especially proud this year because, despite these uncertain times and increasing economic challenges, we were awarded an Impact 100 grant to expand our Community Navigator program and we were able to fully launch a Health Navigator program in July, funded in part by bi3. Our Health Navigator program builds off of the success of our Community Navigator model to address social determinants of health, support the long-term goals of refugees, and increase health equity so that our vibrant community can thrive!

Our growing team of navigators (10 and counting!) are really the heartbeat of RefugeeConnect. Each day, this group of cultural leaders steps up to support newcomer families, connecting them to resources and services while advocating for equitable access for all.

As we move forward into 2023, our goal remains to reach more refugees in need by expanding our navigator program. We could not accomplish our mission without our generous supporters and we are excited to have you join us in creating a more welcoming community for all!

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristin Burgoyne".

Kristin Burgoyne



# OUR MISSION AND VISION

**OUR MISSION IS TO CONNECT REFUGEES (PEOPLE FORCED TO FLEE THEIR COUNTRY TO ESCAPE PERSECUTION OR WAR) WITH RESOURCES TO REBUILD THEIR LIVES AS UNITED STATES CITIZENS**

## **WE WORK TO ACHIEVE OUR MISSION BY:**

- UTILIZING A COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR MODEL,
- FOSTERING A COLLABORATIVE NETWORK OF RESOURCES,
- COLLECTING AND PROVIDING INFORMATION RELEVANT TO REFUGEES, AND
- ADVOCATING FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC EQUITY OF REFUGEES.

## **OUR VISION:**

REFUGEECONNECT'S COLLABORATIVE NETWORK OF RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY NAVIGATORS IS THE MODEL FOR THE SUCCESSFUL INTEGRATION OF REFUGEES.





# Who We Served in 2022



Families speak 22 languages

Amharic • Arabic • Bambara • Chin • English • French • Fulani • Kibembe • Kinyarwanda • Kirundi • Kiswahili • Lingala • Mam • Nepali • Oromo • Pashto • Persian – Farsi • Quiche • Spanish • Swahili • Tigrinya • Urdu



Families come from:

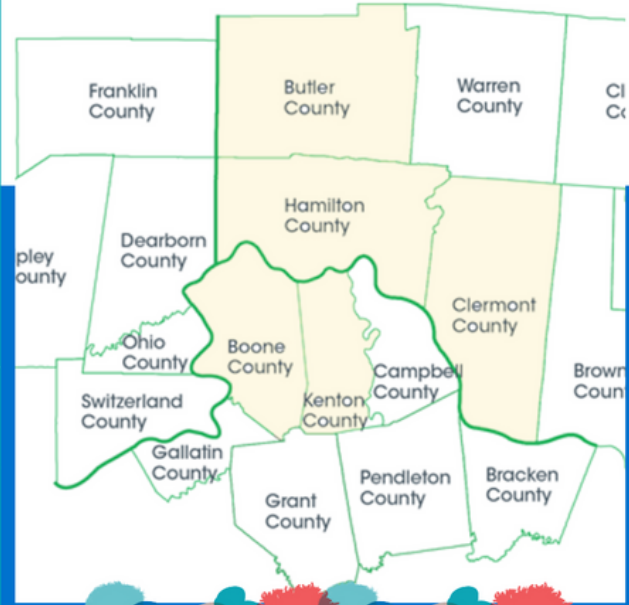
Afghanistan • Bhutan • Burma • Burundi • Colombia • Cote d'Ivoire • Dem. Republic of Congo • El Salvador • Ethiopia • Guatemala • Guinea-Conkary • Haiti • Honduras • Iraq • Jordan • Mali • Mauritius • Nicaragua • Rwanda • Senegal • Syria • Venezuela



171 families with 672 individuals

Families have been in the United States for an average of 6.5 years.

Families have been connected to over 200 community resources.

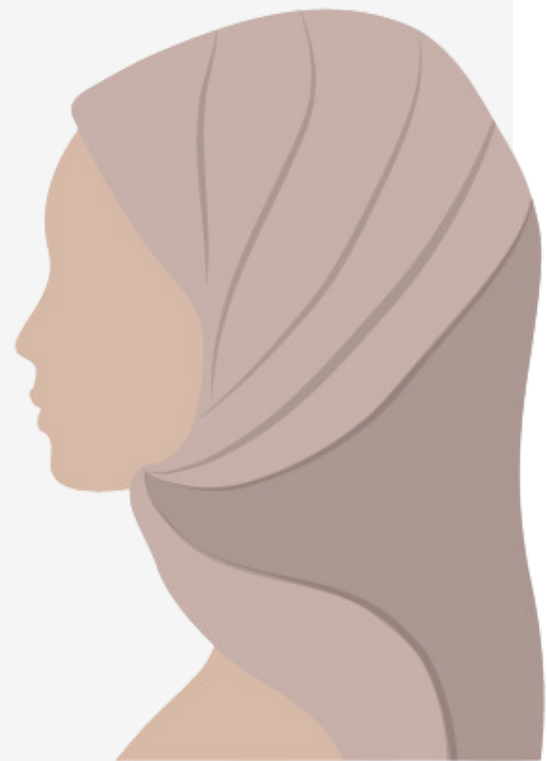


**Yellow text also reflects Navigator staff members**



## FAMILY FINDS ALLY IN COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR

Isatou met her Community Navigator, Murielle Kalenga, after she separated from her husband and had been living in a homeless shelter for some time. Murielle was able to talk with Isatou about her goals for herself and her family and work together with Isatou and the shelter staff to work toward these goals. First, Murielle worked to get Isatou out of the shelter and into her own housing and then her children back into a regular routine with school and childcare so that Isatou could work to support her family. When she was ready, Murielle helped Isatou with her housing search for a larger, more permanent apartment near her faith and cultural community members for her and her children and helped her apply for Family Stability Funds to support the deposit for her new apartment. Isatou is now back on her feet, has a job she loves that supports her family, and knows that she has an ally in Murielle for whatever are her next goals.



\*client name changed for privacy

# 2021- 2022 FINANCIALS



2021

2022

## Revenue

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$95,836.54	\$40,883.24
CORPORATE GRANTS	\$3,657.79	\$199.14
FOUNDATION GRANTS	\$107,417.50	\$185,372.05
GOVERNMENT GRANTS	\$36,867.18	\$59,989.04
PROGRAM REVENUE		\$4,000.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$243,779.01	\$290,443.47
GROSS PROFIT	\$243,779.01	\$290,443.47

## Expenditures

PAYROLL EXPENSES	\$129,117.97	\$265,354.55
CONTRACTORS & INTERNS	\$42,737.00	\$17,111.85
TAXES & LICENSES	\$2,092.12	\$5540.64
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$3,930.02	
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING	\$6,200.00	\$1204.60
BACKGROUND CHECKS		122.50
PROGRAM EXPENSES	\$8,925.25	\$17,080.60
ADVERTISING, MARKETING & WEBSITE	\$801.28	\$5,554.51
OFFICE & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	\$24,074.29	\$17,788.93
FUNDRAISING EXPENSES		\$1,192.38
RENT & LEASE	\$3,238.80	
ELECTRONIC DEVICES		\$116.58
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$221,116.73	\$331,067.14
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$22,662.28	-\$40,623.67
NET REVENUE	\$22,662.28	-\$40,623.67

\*RefugeeConnect operates on a cash basis. In 2022, we reached our fundraising goals but due to a post office delay, our largest annual donation of \$50,000 was not received until January 2023.

# LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023

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RefugeeConnect is experiencing a period of rapid growth and we have a lot in our plans for the future! We look forward to continuing to build from the successes of our Community Navigator program and you can be a part of our commitment to help every refugee feel safe and welcome as they call Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky their new home by volunteering at our family day events or by donating to support our Community Navigator program. Connect with us now!

## Programming

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2023 promises to bring new partnerships with school districts to increase parent engagement through our newest program: Parent Academy. We will continue to co-locate Navigators in local school districts for family support and college and career readiness Navigation. Our Community Navigator and Health Navigator programs will continue to expand allowing us to accept more referrals and to work toward addressing social determinants of health for newcomers by linking families to medical, public health, and community resources.

## Family Day Events

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This year is packed with community building and friend-raising events to bring the families that we serve together with community members, partners, and resources. We will kick off January with a visit to the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden's Festival of Lights, celebrate the resilience of the global and local refugee community at World Refugee Day Cup 2023 in June, we will join community members and partners on The Walk with Little Amal in September, and have some Fall fun at Parky's Farm in October. We welcome partner and volunteer involvement in our Family Day Events!

## Increased Impact

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This coming year, as with the last two years of our Community Navigator program, we anticipate creating connections for even more newcomer families. We anticipate adding a Navigator Services Coordinator to support the high rate of incoming referrals and the supervision of our growing Navigator team. In partnership with our coaches from SVP, we are working to identify ways to build organizational capacity and look forward to hiring a Finance Manager to support the financial operations of RefugeeConnect. By the end of 2023, our staff is projected to continue to grow so that we can respond to the ever changing communities of Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky.

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# PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATION

THE IMPORTANCE OF COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP IN RESULTS  
DRIVEN OUTCOMES FOR REFUGEE AND ASYLEE COMMUNITIES



RefugeeConnect works to achieve its mission by fostering a collaborative network of resources and valuing the shared benefits of a mutually collaborative community. We believe that in order to support a growing refugee and asylee community, we must all work together to coordinate efforts that promote equitable access to resources, services, and benefits. In 2022, we became a United Way System Change partner, which helped us align our strategic plan to a larger community conversation about best practices for eliminating barriers to economic well-being. As part of portfolio 6: Responding to Community Needs, we are helping to ensure community members can access the right service at the right time by improving the responsiveness and effectiveness of the nonprofit service system of care through coordination, information sharing and data-informed approaches. We look forward to continuing our work as a United Way partner in 2023 and beyond!

In addition to our United Way partnership, RefugeeConnect is also partnered with the YWCA to support families affected by intimate partner and domestic violence. We are also formal partners with Boone County Schools, Oak Hills Local School District, and Cincinnati Public Schools to increase student achievement and parent engagement. We are also partnered with Hamilton County Educational Services Center and the Title III Consortium to offer Parent Academy to participating schools and we work closely with our regions refugee resettlement programs to coordinate services so that newcomers can thrive in their new community. Lastly, we offer free training and consultation to our partners so that people working with refugees and asylees have the tools to offer culturally responsive services.

# STAFF MEMBERS



**KRISTIN BURGOYNE**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**MEGAN IVERSON**  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR



**CHRISTEL WOZUFIA**  
HEALTH NAVIGATOR



**KOFFI AYITSEWOU**  
COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR



**MURIELLE KALENGA**  
COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Community at Large

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Director | Pricewaterhouse Coopers, LLC

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Healthcare

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**MIRSADA KADIRIC**

Market Research Manager |  
Kao USA, Inc.

**MARTHA STEIER**

community at Large



WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE  
IT WITHOUT YOUR  
GENEROUS *support.*

**Thank you!**

to all our donors and  
volunteers.

To learn more about how to get involved with  
RefugeeConnect, use your phone camera to  
scan the QR code to the right.



[info@refugeeconnect.org](mailto:info@refugeeconnect.org)



<https://www.refugeeconnect.org>



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# Our Funders

**bi3** a philanthropic initiative to *transform* health



SYSTEMS CHANGE PARTNERS 2022-2024

United Way of Greater Cincinnati



The Donald C. and Laura M. Harrison Family Foundation