



**Refugee
Women
Rising**

THANKS TO ALL OF YOU!!

As we tiptoe into 2022, I doubt any of us thought we would still be dealing with a pandemic which has repeatedly tried to thwart our efforts to move ahead in serving refugees. Yet our work and relationships prevailed!

As the chairwoman of Refugee Women Rising (RWR), I continue to be amazed at how much we accomplished in 2021. Although it happened later than we thought, we launched our new mission and programming aimed at serving refugee women.

Pamela Font-Gabel, our executive director, spent countless hours interviewing groups of refugee women. These listening sessions were vital to discover what opportunities women were interested in pursuing in moving toward self-sufficiency.

The results showed high interest in learning to drive, female health and wellness, and becoming culinary certified. Thus RWR is implementing a collective impact model, including partnerships with instructors that are by and for refugee women and allies.

Classes were going smoothly when in mid-August, Afghanistan was taken over by the Taliban, causing thousands of Afghans to flee for their lives. As more and more families left their homeland, it was clear that Refugee Women Rising would assume a greater role as partners with local resettlement agencies and service providers. In September, we held a gathering space/program for Afghan women, allowing them to voice their concerns with other women in their community. This was a crucial outlet as most still had family in Afghanistan. It was very moving to be together, sharing tea and tears, as women expressed stories and shared resources.

The Omaha community embraced these families and reached out in countless ways to RWR asking how they could help. It has been amazing to see how the depth of giving by our supporters and how willing you are to share your fortune and friendship with these families. Our board is aware that supporters are the foundation of our non-profit and we thank you so much for your continued donations and offers to help in any way possible.

We hope that at some point you will come visit our office on the campus of Joslyn Castle (3902 Davenport Street), especially in spring when the gardens are blooming. Our simple and welcoming office represents how thankful we are for opportunity and joy in joining with refugee women because of your support.

Happy New Year,

Janet Gilcrist, Chairwoman
Refugee Women Rising Board