



2019 YEAR IN REVIEW



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“ I started teaching ESL to the refugee community, and what I heard was a desire for self-sufficiency, just being able to truly take care of yourself.

Meg Erskine, Co-Founder & CEO

WHAT IS THE REFUGEE EXPERIENCE?

Upon arrival in the United States, refugee families have the support of local resettlement agencies for 3-6 months, on average. Newly arrived refugees immediately search for a job and begin the hard work of integrating into a new culture. While many refugees come to the U.S. with experience in agriculture and sewing, making a livelihood in these industries in the United States can be difficult.

refugee [ref-yoo-jee]

“Someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war, or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group.”

Who Are We?

MULTICULTURAL REFUGEE COALITION is an innovative nonprofit organization blending skills-based education with social entrepreneurship to connect refugees to dignified, fair-wage work in Austin, Texas.



OPEN ARMS STUDIO is a textile manufacturer employing refugees at a fair wage in Austin, Texas through advanced sewing training and fair-wage employment.

NEW LEAF AGRICULTURE connects refugee families to the land, by operating a community garden and training skilled farmers to contribute to our local commercial farm.

SHARED VOICES LANGUAGE SERVICES offers professional interpreter training courses to both refugees and other bilingual community members.

We believe in the potential of **all refugees** to support their families & contribute to their communities through **meaningful, dignified, living-wage work.**



Why Austin, Texas?

Since 2010, more refugees have been resettled in Texas than any other state. In 2019 alone, Texas led the nation in **resettling 2,458 refugees.**



Our staff is made up of refugees and immigrants from Burma, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Eritrea, Mexico and Democratic Republic of Congo

OUR TENTH YEAR

In 2009, MRC began with a goal to support newly resettled refugees in Austin. In our tenth year, we grew to employ 22 refugees and immigrants in dignified, fair-wage work, making several milestones along the way and built a diverse community of people that are passionate about creating livelihood opportunities for refugees.

MRC and The Open Arms Studio opened the doors to a brand new studio and administrative space, nearly six times bigger than our first studio!

New Leaf Agriculture launched our very own Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program

Open Arms kicked off a new partnership with Project Repat, giving us the opportunity to expand both our studio space and team

We celebrated our 10th anniversary at A Cause for Celebration, featuring unique bites from local chefs and a sold-out crowd of long-time supporters and new friends

Shared Voices began working with California Rural Legal Assistance for our first ever out-of-state interpreting training assessments



MULTICULTURAL REFUGEE COALITION

19,612

hours worked by
refugees in fair-wage,
dignified jobs

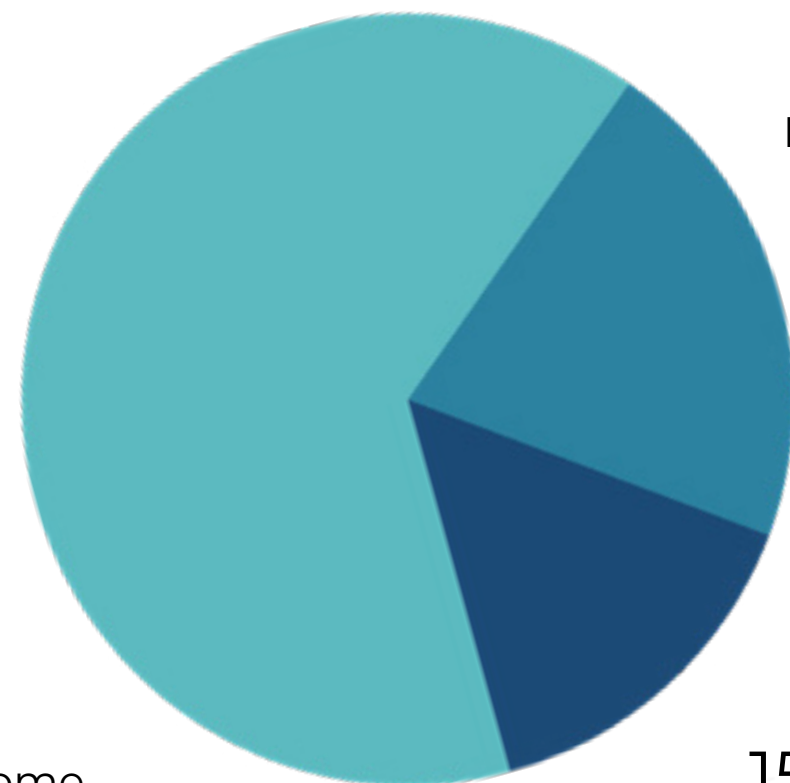
300 refugees*

impacted through trainings,
employment, and community
gardens

2019 Operating Budget

\$858,554.75

Through our progressive financial model,
social enterprise revenue makes up
more than **half of our annual income.**



64%
Earned Income

21%
Donations

15%
Grants

*estimate based on family size

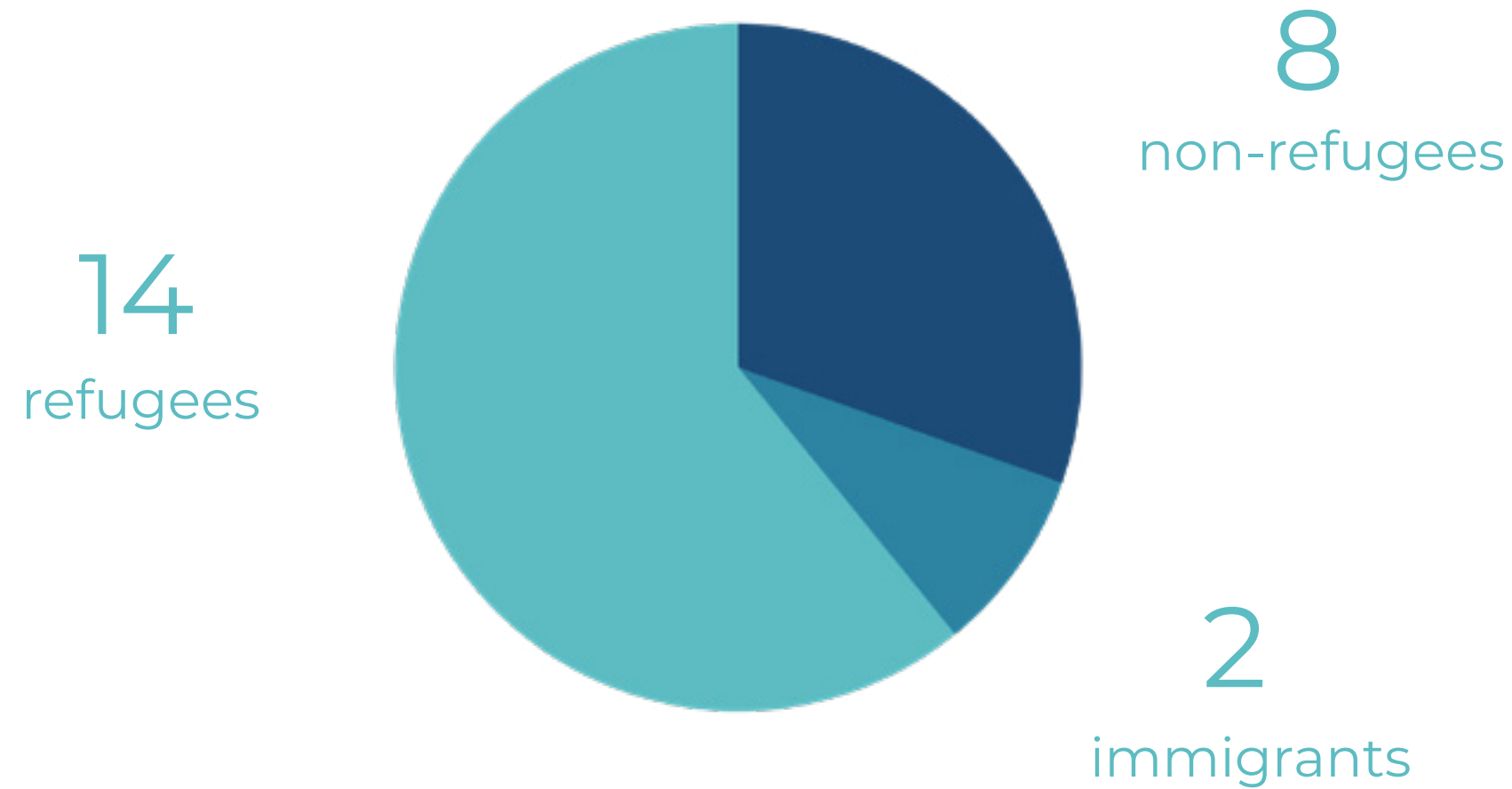




Open Arms Studio

A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE OF MRC

In 2019, Open Arms Studio expanded to employ **24 people**, in dignified, fair-wage textile work.



Total hours worked by Open Arms refugee staff in 2019:

14,503 hours



“ One thing in 2019 that I’ll remember is how exciting our first day in the new space was, and getting to work with a lot more people.

Sam, Design Team Seamstress





During our second year of operation, New Leaf Agriculture employed 6 refugee farmers growing with organic, regenerative practices.



360 shares
of farm-fresh produce
delivered to families
through our CSA



1,898 bunches
of local produce sold
through our weekly
farmer's market stand

Total hours worked by New Leaf refugee staff in 2019:

5,109 hours



“ Growing food is part of the culture for some people, especially [those of] us who come from Africa. You are born and raised growing stuff.

Wandaka, Volunteer and Market Coordinator





In 2019, Shared Voices trained a total of **79 individuals** as professional community interpreters across **11 languages**.

Spanish, Arabic, Chinese,
Korean, Vietnamese,
Burmese, French, Hebrew,
Azerbaijani, Nepali,
Swahili



3 refugees trained through Shared Voices in 2019

*2 out of 3 at **no cost to them**



“It is great to see interest from local interpreters in more specialized interpreter training, because it really shows that we care about serving our Limited English Proficiency community well.

Flor, Shared Voices Director



IN THE CLASSROOM

ENGLISH AS SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL):

ESL courses are led each week by experienced volunteers at The Open Arms Studio. Courses range in content and difficulty depending on the ability and needs of our staff. In some cases, our refugee staff is not just learning a new language, but being taught literacy for the first time.

DIGITAL LITERACY:

Digital literacy training provides the ability to use information and communicate using digital technologies, such as email and spreadsheets. This year, we began training one member of our refugee staff in Google Suite programs.



In 2019, we taught **263 hours** of ESL courses and **6 hours** of digital literacy to refugee staff at the Open Arms Studio.

THANK YOU

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GRACIAS

حرسى



MULTICULTURAL
REFUGEE
COALITION