2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Welcoming refugees. Defending immigrants. Supporting survivors. Enriching communities.

Opening Doors to all.



A message from Opening Doors' CEO

Dear friends,

We entered into 2021 still grappling with COVID-19, continuing to help our neighbors maintain stability in these uncertain times. We provided emergency assistance, connected families to critical services, and supported immigrant- and refugee-owned businesses to navigate the ongoing pandemic.

Then, news broke of the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, prompting one of the largest airlift evacuations in history. By August, more than 120,000 people had been evacuated. Our community mobilized to welcome an unprecedented number of refugees – resulting in our busiest year in our 30-year history.

At the same time, we continued the important work of defending immigrants from countries like Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras fleeing violence, hardship, and lack of opportunity. I'm proud of our work to provide immigrants with the services they need to find security and safety.

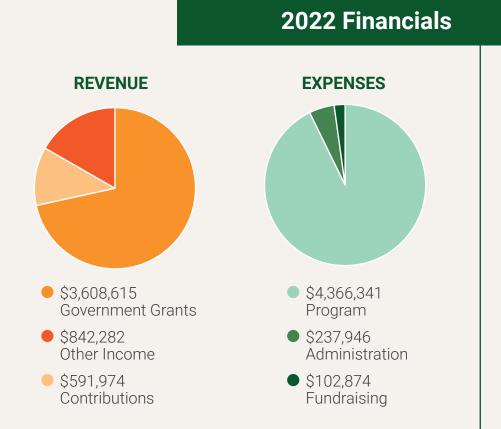
Despite the challenges of 2021, we have many reasons to remain hopeful. Witnessing the courage and resilience of immigrants, refugees, and survivors of human trafficking grounds us in our mission. Being surrounded by our compassionate and dedicated community fuels our drive to make sure every client who walks through our doors feels the full weight of your support.



We know that together, we can ensure that immigrants, refugees, and survivors of trafficking prosper.

Sincerely,

Jessie Tientcheu, Chief Executive Officer



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Welcoming Refugees

Providing case management, housing, and other vital services to refugees as they establish their lives in their new communities.

888 refugees resettled in the greater Sacramento area

\$163K in COVID related assistance distributed to refugees

Brothers Reunited

When Kabul fell, Amir – who had been waiting years for a Special Immigrant Visa – and his wife Giti quickly fled to the airport hoping for seats on one of the few evacuation flights.

In Sacramento, Amir's brother, Bashir, worried for his brother and wondered if he'd ever see him again. After several anxious days, Bashir was elated to learn Amir and Giti were evacuated – only to be frustrated by their long wait at Fort Lee.

Finally, in late October, Amir and Giti were connected with Opening Doors and began the final leg of their long journey to Sacramento where he and Bashir, after many years apart, were finally reunited.*



Supporting Survivors of Trafficking

Promoting survivors' self-sufficiency through case management, skills-building, mental health care, and other supportive services.

- clients supported after fleeing trafficking situations
 of clients connected to mental health services
- **70%** of clients connected to employment services and benefits

Helping to Heal Past Trauma

Empowering immigrants' and refugees' health through online support groups and individual and family counseling.



graduates of our Afghan Womens' Wellness program

124 hours of counseling facilitated by our in-house counselors

Expanding Economic Opportunity

Supporting the financial stability of immigrants and refugees through career pathways development and microenterprise business consulting services and loans.

- **108** refugees connected to new career pathways
- **\$1.2M** in COVID relief to immigrant- and refugee-owned businesses
- **4,000** hours of assistance provided to microentrepreneurs

Afghan Refugee Crisis

Emergency evacuations spur community support of Afghan allies As the U.S. ended its 20-year presence in Afghanistan, over 2,000 of the evacuated Afghan refugees joined the Sacramento community in the latter half of 2021. Our welcoming community came together to donate more than \$143,000 in Welcome Kits, gift cards, supplies, and household items to ensure refugees had a safe and comfortable place to land. Ensuring refugees receive the welcome they deserve was a monumental task made possible because of you – our Community of Welcome.





Defending Immigrants

Defending immigrants by providing legal services, including asylum applications, deportation relief, DACA, and citizenship applications.

653 clients provided with pro-bono immigration legal services

153 consultations hosted to educate and empower immigrants

Historic asylum win and safety for Elisa's family

Elisa's daughter, Gisell, then 14, was kidnapped by a gang member in the capital city of San Salvador. After his arrest, Gisell was forced to visit him in prison and soon became pregnant. Elisa tried to protect her daughter but, without any support from the government, violence toward her family and neighbors continued to escalate. Fearing for their lives, Elisa's family fled in the dark of night to find safety in the U.S.

Now in Sacramento, Elisa and Gisell sought asylum. In immigration court, the government's attorney argued that they were victims of crimes, not political persecution and should be returned to El Salvador.

However, our Immigration Legal Services team argued that they were victims of persecution due to their membership in a social group *Salvadoran women*, and the violence Salvadoran women endure.

The judge, swayed by the strong case presented by Opening Doors legal team, granted asylum and permanent safety in the U.S. for Elisa, Gizell, and their growing family.*



*We respect our clients' privacy. Identifying information has been changed or omitted.