

2023

ANNUAL
REPORT



**Belonging
begins here.**



OPENING
DOORS

MISSION

Opening Doors' mission is to enrich communities by supporting immigrants, refugees, and survivors of trafficking on their path to stability, self-sufficiency, and belonging.

VISION

A world in which migrants and refugees lead lives of joy and belonging, embraced by welcoming communities.

VALUES



RISING TOGETHER

We are in this together and depend on each other.



HONORING DIGNITY

We recognize and honor everyone's strength and inherent dignity.



EMBRACING COURAGE

We do the right thing, even when the path is uncertain.



SEEKING JOY

We take time to be together, celebrating our diverse cultures and recognizing our victories.



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A Message of Welcome From Our CEO

Over the past year, we've made an incredible impact together — an impact driven by compassion, resilience, and a shared commitment to supporting those seeking refuge and new beginnings in Northern California.

The year 2023 was marked by significant global challenges — wars, natural disasters, political conflicts, violence, and widespread poverty—that forced over 117 million people in 2023 to flee their homes. With our doors wide open, we stood ready to welcome families seeking safety and a future filled with hope. Here in Sacramento, we take pride in being a welcoming community—a place where refugees, immigrants, and survivors of trafficking can find the support and community they need to rebuild their lives. With over 60,000 refugees landing in the United States in 2023, California welcomed 6% of them. The refugees who come to us have often endured years of hardship and danger, showing immense strength in overcoming these challenges to reach safety for their families.

At Opening Doors, we believe in seeing each person as they truly are—beyond labels, beyond stereotypes.

In a time when political conversations can sometimes create division and immigration can be used as a pawn in the political landscape, we remain focused on the core values that guide us: Rising Together, Honoring Dignity, Embracing Courage, and Seeking Joy. Our work is not just about affirming worth or providing services; it's about unlocking the potential and contributions of our newest neighbors as they build their path to stability, self-sufficiency, and belonging.

Now, in 2024, an election year that can often amplify differences, our commitment remains steadfast. We believe that by focusing on what unites us—our shared humanity—we can continue to build a community where everyone is valued and welcomed.

It's important to recognize the tremendous contributions that immigrants and refugees make to our community. They are vital to our economy, contributing \$1 out of every \$6 in taxes, which helps fund essential programs like schools and food assistance. Immigrants also play a crucial role in addressing the nationwide shortage of healthcare professionals, with 15.6% of nurses and 27.7% of health aides being immigrants. Additionally, immigrants and refugees are 80% more likely to start a business than native-born Americans, further enriching our cultural and economic landscape. These contributions are especially important to highlight, particularly in times when the narrative can sometimes unfairly paint immigrants and refugees as a burden on resources.

Thank you for walking alongside us in this important work. Together, we will continue to open doors to stability, self-sufficiency, and belonging for all who seek it, ensuring that Sacramento remains a place where everyone can find belonging and a place to call home.

Sincerely,



Jessie Mabry
Chief Executive Officer

Who We Are

For over 30 years, Opening Doors has been committed to supporting refugees, immigrants, and survivors of trafficking as they build new lives in the United States. We believe that every person has the strength and resilience to overcome challenges, and our role is to provide the resources and guidance they need to achieve their goals on their path to stability, self-sufficiency, and belonging.

Through our programs—including Economic Prosperity, Immigration Legal Services, Health Programs, Refugee Programs, and Survivor of Trafficking Support—we help individuals and families access the tools they need to thrive. Whether it's finding stable employment, securing safe housing, navigating the immigration system, or accessing healthcare, our services are designed to meet the unique needs of each person we serve.

The clients in the programs work toward stability and self-sufficiency, they bring diverse talents and perspectives that enrich our community. As we share their stories, we invite you to witness the remarkable journeys of clients in Opening Doors programs, whose resilience and determination continue to inspire us and strengthen the communities we call home.

2023 at a Glance

IN 2023, OPENING DOORS SUPPORTED OVER 3,683 CLIENTS THROUGH ITS FIVE PROGRAMS.



WELCOMING REFUGEES

Helping **1,635 refugees** start new lives in safe and supportive communities, offering critical services such as resettlement assistance, housing support, and cultural orientations to ease their transition.



DEFENDING IMMIGRANTS

Standing by **970 immigrants**, offering comprehensive legal assistance and advocacy to protect their rights, navigate the immigration system, and secure their futures in the United States.



EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Supporting the financial stability of **523 immigrants and refugees** through career pathways development, financial education, and microenterprise business consulting services. Over **\$282,000 in micro-loans** were provided to help launch and grow businesses, fostering economic self-sufficiency and long-term success.



SUPPORTING SURVIVORS OF TRAFFICKING

Supporting **101 survivors of trafficking** on their path to recovery and independence, providing trauma-informed case management, housing assistance, and access to counseling.



UPLIFTING WELL-BEING

Helping **454 clients** heal from past trauma and navigate the complexities of medical insurance.

Changing Futures Through Career Pathways

Khoja enrolled in the Los Rios Respiratory Care Program with a dream of continuing his college education, but financial barriers stood in his way. With limited income, paying tuition fees became an insurmountable challenge, threatening to derail his studies. Determined not to give up, Khoja sought support from the Economic Prosperity Program, which provided the financial assistance he needed to stay in school without interruption.

Khoja's journey was not just about his own success but also about lifting up his family. While he focused on his studies, his spouse received computer literacy training through the program. This newfound skill allowed her to excel in her own college assignments, ensuring that both could advance in their educational pursuits together.

Thanks to the support of the Economic Prosperity Program, Khoja successfully completed his associate degree at Los Rios Community Colleges, earning 62 units, and is now on his way to transferring to Sacramento State University. This accomplishment marked a significant milestone for him and his family, who are now on a solid path toward a brighter future. Their story is a testament to the power of perseverance and the importance of removing barriers to education, allowing individuals like Khoja to realize their full potential and contribute meaningfully to their community.



In 2023, our Economic Prosperity Program provided 50 immigrants and refugees with the opportunities and resources needed to launch careers in fields like health, information technology, and business, helping them build financial stability and a brighter future.



*Client names and photos have been changed for privacy purposes.

Mohammad's Path to a New Beginning

Mohammad and his family of seven, including two adult children, resettled in the United States from Afghanistan, fleeing severe threats from the Taliban due to Mohammad's work with the US government. Their journey to safety brought them to our program, where Basim, their caseworker, was ready to support them from the moment they arrived.

Within the first week, Basim secured safe housing for the family and ensured they received their Social Security numbers. By the end of the month, their green cards were in hand, laying the foundation for their new lives. Basim also helped Mohammad obtain a security guard license, which quickly led to a job, while both adult children found customer service positions, providing much-needed financial stability.

The transition wasn't without its challenges—language barriers and culture shock loomed large.

Yet, with Basim's unwavering support and the resources of our program, the family persevered. Language classes and cultural orientation sessions helped them adjust to their new environment. Despite the difficulties, the family found their footing, and today, they are thriving, heavily involved in the community, and deeply grateful for the support that allowed them to rebuild their lives.



In 2023, we helped 915 Afghan Special Immigrant Visa holders resettle and rebuild their lives in Sacramento. Our support extends worldwide, including 127 Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees who found safety and refuge in Sacramento.



Diego's Journey to Stability and Success

A young man named Diego reached out to Opening Doors in the spring of 2023, seeking help for possible immigration relief. Diego had lived in the United States undocumented since he was a baby. After assessing his case, we found that his only option was Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)—a special immigration benefit specifically for minors who were abandoned, abused, or neglected by at least one parent. The challenge? Diego had just two months to apply before he would become ineligible for any immigration relief.

Diego's journey began in Mexico, where he was born with a medical condition requiring immediate treatment. His mother, determined to save her son, fled to the United States with him, defying an abusive father who refused to get Diego the necessary care. Although the treatment came too late to prevent a permanent learning disability, Diego thrived in his new environment, eventually graduating from high school.

With the clock ticking, the Immigration Legal Services team swiftly prepared Diego's SIJS application, which required a state court order. In a race against time, we secured a hearing just two weeks before his eligibility would expire. On the day of the hearing, the judge granted the necessary orders, allowing Diego to proceed with his SIJS application, just in time.

Now, as Diego waits for final approval of his SIJS status, he's looking forward to the future, taking culinary school courses and dreaming of finishing college. With SIJS status, Diego will have access to the resources he needs to turn those dreams into reality.



In 2023, through our Immigration Legal Services Program, we helped 35 minors secure benefits under the Children's Holistic Immigration Representation Project while also serving hundreds more through activities like hosting pro se clinics.

From Exploitation to Empowerment

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, a man came to us through a referral from the Office of Trafficking in Persons. He had endured the horrors of labor trafficking while working at a supermarket in Sacramento. Despite the trauma he faced, he displayed incredible courage by assisting federal agencies in their investigation and even encouraging his coworkers to come forward and share their stories.

Life wasn't easy for him, especially when he had to make the heartbreaking decision to give up custody of his daughter due to financial struggles. But he didn't give up. He reached out to Opening Doors, where we worked together to create a plan tailored to his needs.

With support from our Survivors of Trafficking and Immigration Legal Services teams, over the next few years, he navigated the challenging process of applying for a T-Visa, received rental assistance, and participated in our financial literacy workshop. Despite the emotional toll of his experiences, he kept going and eventually found a job that fit his needs.

Today, he continues to stand by his former coworkers, speaking up whenever something feels unjust. His journey is a powerful reminder of the resilience and strength that individuals can show, even in the face of unimaginable challenges.

*Client names and photos have been changed for privacy purposes.



In 2023, Opening Doors walked alongside 34 survivors of labor trafficking, 27 survivors of sex trafficking, and 13 clients who had experienced both. Other clients we served were experiencing homelessness as a result of their past trafficking experience.





At the end of 2023, Opening Doors began offering health-care navigation services, assisting 19 clients in accessing care. In 2024, we aim to support more than four times that number.



Finding Hope and Healing

At just 16 years old, a young girl from Honduras faced unimaginable challenges. Living with her elderly parents, she walked miles each day to attend high school, far from the safety of her town. One day, while making this journey, she was brutally attacked by an unknown assailant, leaving her with deep psychological scars. The trauma of this event, coupled with the fear that now gripped her daily life, led her siblings, who had already fled to the United States, to make the difficult decision to bring her to the United States as an unaccompanied minor despite the heartache of leaving her parents behind.

Reunited with her siblings in the U.S., she tried to resume a normal life and enrolled in a local high school. In 2023, her family turned to Opening Doors for support, and she was connected with an attorney for her asylum case and a caseworker dedicated to unaccompanied undocumented minors. Recognizing her need for immediate emotional support, the Health Programs team arranged for her to receive counseling services, even before she had Medi-Cal insurance. They also helped her obtain Medi-Cal benefits and encouraged her to participate in community events, fostering a sense of belonging in her new environment.

Despite the weight of her past, this young woman never lost sight of her dreams. She has been working tirelessly to improve her English and excel in her studies, motivated by a desire to become a nurse or doctor. With the support of her family and the programs at Opening Doors, she is set to graduate high school and begin classes at American River College this year, a significant achievement that will mark the beginning of a new chapter in her life.

Her journey is a testament to her resilience and determination. Against all odds, she is transforming her life, guided by her dreams and the unwavering support of those around her. As she continues to move forward, her story stands as a powerful example of the strength that can emerge from even the most challenging circumstances.

2023 Financial Report

TOTAL EXPENSES (\$9,560,303)

\$9,334,940

Program Services
Expense



\$147,307

General &
Administrative

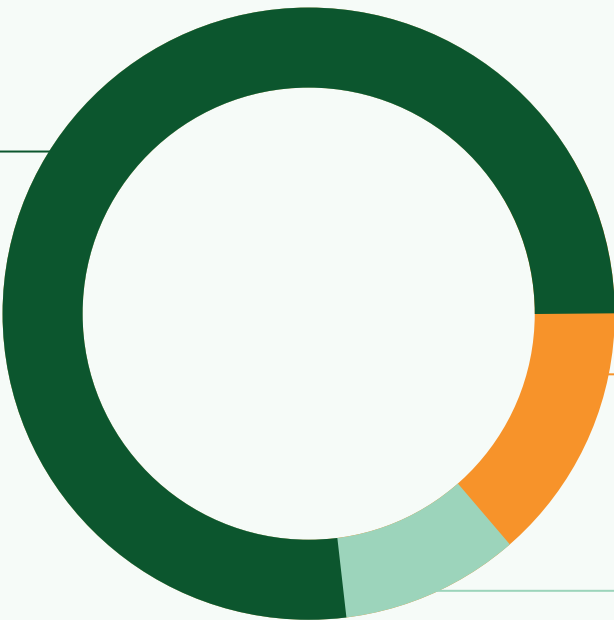
\$78,056

Fundraising

TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE (\$9,736,444)

\$8,413,202

Government Grants



\$894,668

Contributions

\$428,574

Other Income

[REVIEW OUR 990 FINANCIALS](#)

Our Board of Directors and Leadership

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Assistant Head of School, Sonoma Academy

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Professor, Department of History,
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Marilyn Sakai
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Ajmal Aria
Director of Operations

Sumeet Pamma
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OpeningDoorsInc.org.



WELCOMING REFUGEES
DEFENDING IMMIGRANTS
SUPPORTING SURVIVORS
ENRICHING COMMUNITIES

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