



THE
**Welcome
to America**
PROJECT

January 25, 2021

Ms. Paula G. Cullison
Arizona Women's Partnership
13058 N. Surrey Circle
Phoenix, AZ 85029

Dear Paula,

The Welcome to America Project (WTAP) is incredibly grateful for your committed and generous support that allows us to address the urgent needs and immediate well-being of newly arrived refugee families through the provision of emergency supplies, basic necessities, and education.

We are pleased to share with you last year's accomplishments, which are a direct result of your generosity. In 2021, as social distancing restrictions eased, WTAP eagerly resumed our signature program, the weekly "Welcome" Deliveries, where staff and community volunteers greet refugees at their new residence and deliver essentials and basic necessities – urgently needed items that can't wait – ranging from household goods to computers and bikes. Equally exciting, WTAP began delivering once more the Mobile Clothing Closet, which travels to apartment complexes and schools with large concentrations of refugees to share vital essentials such as undergarments, clothing, shoes, and hygiene items. Also, WTAP kicked-off a collaboration with Arizona State University to address one of the most crucial aspects in helping refugees thrive: learning English and improving digital literacy. Together we offer a blended learning model that combines ASU's online language program with in-person support through WTAP volunteers. Finally, a significant focus last year, and one that continues to develop, was the emergency resettlement of Afghan evacuees. WTAP worked directly with the Arizona Department of Economic Security's Office of Refugee Resettlement and the state's contracted resettlement agencies to help shape and coordinate services needed to resettle Afghan evacuees. WTAP also was front and center with the provision of emergency supplies to Afghan evacuees as they arrived.

In all, WTAP served 1,660 newly arrived refugees, including 403 families, from 26 different countries – providing 369 bikes and 145 computers. In regard to demographics, WTAP's recipients were 53% female, 47% male; 41% African, 40% Asian (i.e. from Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Burma/Myanmar), 4% North American (i.e. from Cuba, Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico), 1% South American (i.e. from Colombia, Venezuela), 14% non-specified; 43% under age 17, 55% age 18-64, and 2% over 65+.

WTAP is preparing for exceptional growth in the upcoming year. Including the emergency resettlement of 1,600 to 2,000 Afghan evacuees, WTAP anticipates over 4,000 refugees will be arriving in Arizona within the next 12 months; representing more than a 400% increase over last year in refugees served by WTAP. WTAP is committed to strengthening agency infrastructure this year to effectively serve the unprecedented volume of refugees resettling in our community and will focus on staffing (two new full-time, mission-focused positions), systems (donor database, volunteer management system, replacement delivery truck, multi-year strategic plan), and space (doubling space to 5,000 square feet to increase warehouse and office capacity).

With 20 years of experience and proven service model, no is better suited to meet the critical needs of the refugee community. And yet, this work is only possible with generous donors like you that believe in WTAP's impactful mission. Enclosed you will find a "mission moment" story highlighting the ultimate impact of your support.

Thank you again for your remarkable generosity and partnership in welcoming refugees upon arrival and providing critical supplies that enhance immediate wellbeing and ultimately foster pathways to integration.

Warmest regards,

Kate Thoene
Chief Executive Officer