What are your dreams for the future?
"To be valued and given services like others."

PHOTO BY
SAM FEIBEL
Dear Friends of Refugees, Immigrants and Asylum Seekers,

At the closing of one of the most dramatic years in United States history, we are ready to turn the page and start afresh with renewed hope and optimism as we prepare again to welcome newcomers from all over the world to our beautiful city.

We welcomed 98 individuals to the Lancaster community in Fiscal Year 2020 (October 2019 - September 2020). Your volunteer hours, advocacy and donations helped these families begin their lives in Lancaster with a spirit of welcome and togetherness in a time where it is easy to feel isolated and alone.

CWS has remained strong through difficult times, thanks to the support of hundreds of community friends who have never failed to share their compassion, generosity and spirit of welcome.

With over 79.5 million displaced peoples worldwide, we are hopeful that we will see an increase in the number of refugees who will find safety and new homes in Lancaster. To all of you, I say thank you. We continue our work, more determined than ever, as we open our hearts and our homes to the most vulnerable among us.

Gratefully,

Valentina Ross
CWS Lancaster Office Director
While the office has been operating remotely since March 2020, we have adapted all programs to serve clients virtually. The current COVID-19 crisis has magnified the inequities that immigrant communities in Pennsylvania already face. Partnerships with local foundations have allowed us to support families who were not eligible for federal support. Our Preferred Communities program received funding to launch a COVID health navigation project, specifically serving current and former refugees, asylees, and victims of trafficking.

From disseminating language appropriate COVID-19 preventative literature, ZOOM guides, and temperature logs to sharing local community resources serving refugees and immigrants, CWS staff have worked hard to keep clients safe. We even found ways to celebrate and connect with each other despite social distancing! While events were virtual, we still enjoyed seeing your faces for our Community Appreciation Call, World Refugee Day and the Extraordinary Give!
In Fiscal Year 2020, we received a Wilson-Fish Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Coordination Program grant to create our Good Job, Happy Family program. These funds will allow us to assess and meet individual and family needs in a holistic way including: identifying life and professional goals, removing barriers, and proactively setting the conditions for goal achievement. Programming will take place throughout the new fiscal year.
IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES

- **942 Cases Represented**
- **73 DACA Applications Submitted**
- **219 Naturalization Applications Completed**
- **592 Consultations Offered**

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

IMMIGRANT CHILDREN’S PROGRAM

The Immigrant Children's Program provides legal representation and support to unaccompanied minors in the local community. Through generous donations of funds and pro-bono assistance, CWS staff support these young people as they seek asylum or other protection in the U.S., giving them a fairer day in court.

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

- **159 Clients Entered the Workforce**
- **99% Full Time Employment Placement**
- **13 Employees Received Workplace ESL**
- **23 Prospective Employer Meetings Completed**
In February 2020, we hosted Chol Majok, the first ever former refugee to hold elected office in Syracuse, New York. Chol spoke to a general audience about his journey from Sudanese refugee to City Councilor and the many steps in between. Afterward, he met with a cohort of around 25 former refugees to discuss their leadership journeys.

“Having the chance to hear Chol’s story and know that political office is something that refugees everywhere can aspire to energized the community, and made us feel like we could accomplish big things here in Lancaster and beyond.”

Bhim Thapaliya, Bhutanese Community Leader

Chol Majok meets with Lancaster refugee leaders, including Bhim Thapaliya on the right.
**When Stars Are Scattered**
Omar Mohamed's graphic novel, "When Stars are Scattered," was selected as a finalist for the 2020 National Book Award. Omar, a former CWS Lancaster Resettlement Case Manager and Cultural Navigator, gives readers a moving glimpse of his journey with his younger brother through Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya through the novel.

**Census 2020**
Through the U.S. Census Bureau of the U.S. Department of Commerce's 2020 Community Partnership and Engagement Program, our advocacy team supported the effort to count the local refugee population within the 2020 national census. This reached approximately 5,200 individuals in 14 languages. Thanks to this work, the voices of resettled refugees will not go unheard!

**LBB Program Closure**
Over the last three years, Language Beyond Borders has provided the Lancaster community with translation and interpretation services in more than 40 languages and through approximately 1,170 jobs. We are grateful for the time that we had this program and look forward to future transitions.
$44,000+ Worth of In-Kind Donations and Gift Cards Donated

70+ Clients Connected to Virtual ESL Tutors

Students from Lancaster Bible College drop off Welcome Kits

Follow Along!
@cws lancaster  cwslancaster.org

Friends from Hammer Creek Mennonite Church donate quilts

$93,255 Raised During the 2020 Extraordinary Give

100% Community Engagement for Every Client

STRONGER TOGETHER