



MULTICULTURAL REFUGEE COALITION

2021

Impact Report



**Creating Livelihood
Opportunities for
Refugees**

Dear MRC Supporters:

What a year 2021 has been! I am constantly amazed and inspired by the resiliency and continuous hope that our team exhibits each day while working together to create a better future for themselves and their families.

From Winter Storm Uri that affected much of Central Texas to the devastating crisis in Afghanistan which deeply impacted our Afghan team members, as well as the ongoing pandemic, 2021 was quite a year for the Multicultural Refugee Coalition (MRC). Many team members have expressed how grateful they are to be a part of a community where they can come together each day to share each other's burdens while continuously pushing forward.

One resounding word I heard from our community was **connection**. We have all desired to be together and deepen the relationships this community has formed.

The challenges of this past year forced us to reimagine what meaningful connection could look like for MRC and our programs. We pivoted to offering virtual English as a Second Language (ESL) classes rather than in person. Supply chain shortages highlighted the incredible importance of local food and fiber systems. Our pasture-raised eggs and Seed to Stitch line of sewn goods were both welcome additions to our diverse offerings in 2021. We were delighted to celebrate with you in person at our annual fundraiser – which was our most successful event to date!

MRC is excited for continued growth with a few new projects on the horizon. In 2022, we'll be launching a line of sewn goods inspired by the artisan crafts of our team members at Open Arms Studio. This will allow us to expand our impact by employing artisans from home. We'll also be introducing the "Traditional Provisions" program at New Leaf Farm which will give refugee farmers the opportunity to grow traditional foods from their countries while increasing food access and autonomy.

Throughout this Impact Report you will see the evidence of the many ways your support is impacting the livelihoods of refugee farmers and seamstresses. Thanks to each of you for being a part of MRC's community and for connecting with us this past year. We couldn't do this work without you and are looking forward to creating more opportunities for connection in 2022!

With much love and gratitude,



Meg Erskine,
CEO & Co-Founder



Creating **Livelihood Opportunities** for Refugees.

The Multicultural Refugee Coalition is an innovative nonprofit organization employing refugees in fair-wage, dignified work through two social enterprises: **a textile production studio and an organic farm.**

Open Arms Studio:

The Open Arms Studio employs a diverse team of refugee, asylee and immigrant women who produce high-quality goods for designers and retailers seeking to make ethical products.

New Leaf Agriculture:

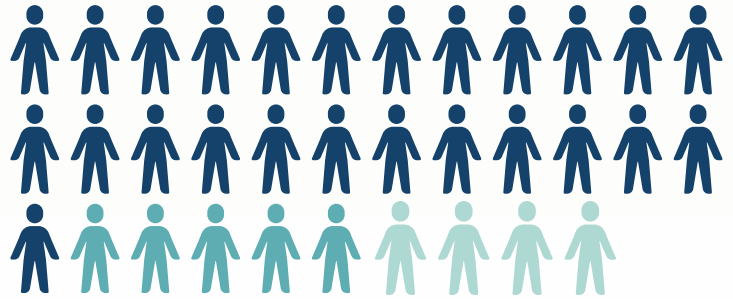
New Leaf Agriculture trains and employs refugee farmers from traditional farming cultures in dignified work that reconnects them to the earth in their new communities.

MRC's 2021 Impact Snapshot

A glance at the **impact** your support had on our growing programs in 2021

34 refugee, asylee, & immigrant individuals

employed in dignified, fair-wage work at the Multicultural Refugee Coalition in 2021



Full Time: 25



Part Time: 5



Seasonal: 4

Open Arms Studio
23 RAI* employees

New Leaf Agriculture
11 RAI* employees

\$474,554.83

total income invested in wages paid to refugee staff, which is often spent in the refugee community

255 refugees

estimated to be impacted through employment, workshops and community gardens

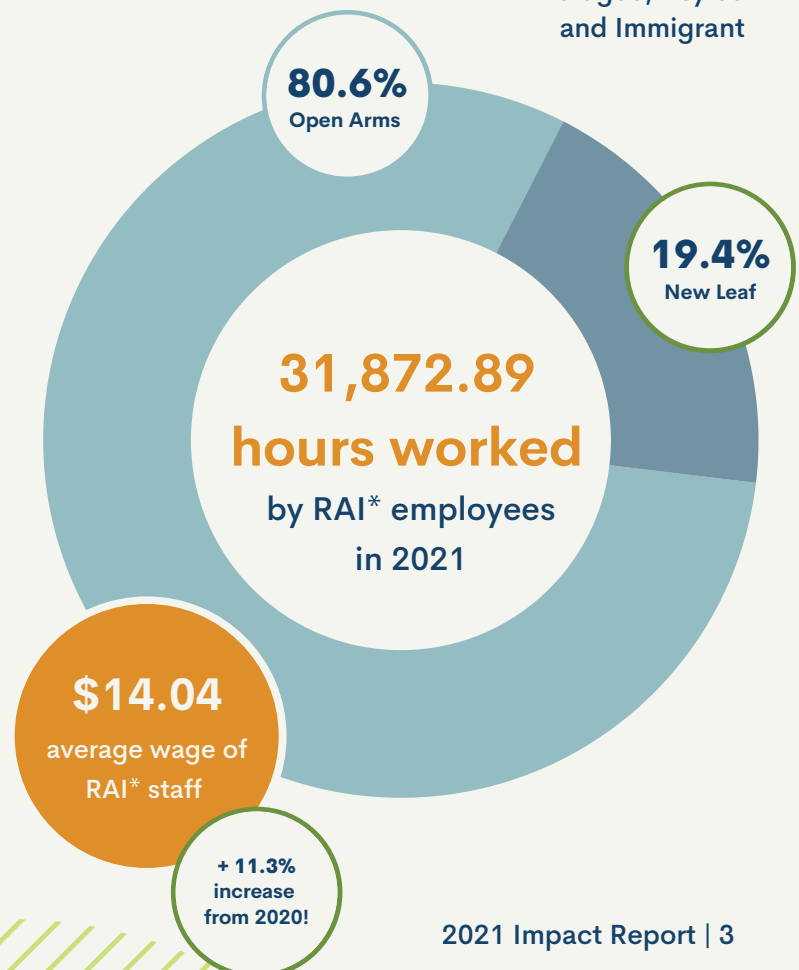
1,247 hours

of paid English as Second Language (ESL) instruction

2,695.5 hours

of volunteer support at New Leaf Agriculture and Open Arms Studio

*RAI = Refugee, Asylee and Immigrant



6 countries

represented including Afghanistan,
DR Congo, Eritrea, Mexico, Syria &
Myanmar



12,480 pounds

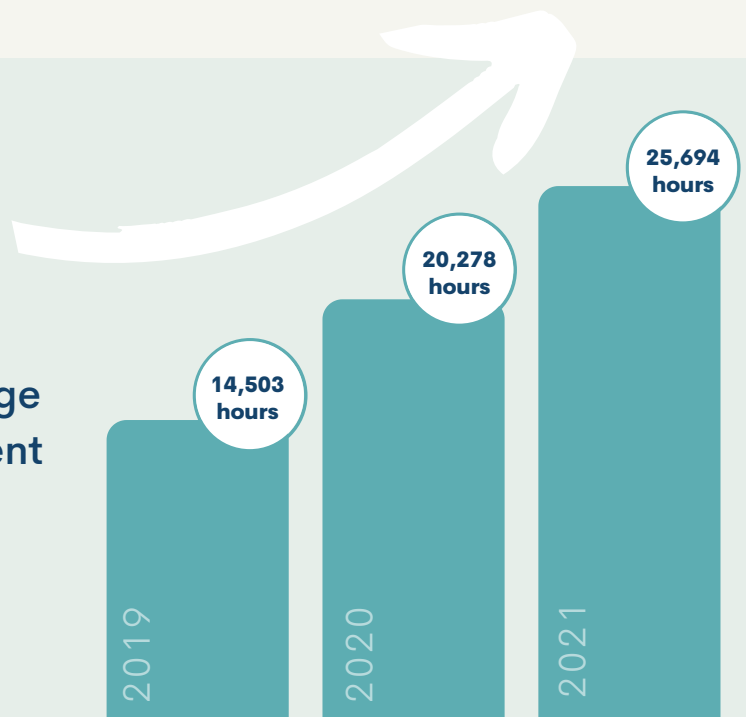
of fabric recycled through local
partnerships such as Austin Creative
Reuse & JOSCO

33,559 items

made for private label partners
such as Project Repat, Newton
Supply Co. & Trek Light

25,694 hours

of fair-wage
employment
in 2021



"With sewing, our **language barriers don't matter**. Sewing is a physical activity that makes it easy to communicate without words."

– Maria Vung
Assist. Studio Manager
& Refugee from Myanmar

FEBRUARY 2021

Virtual ESL

We were thrilled to not only restart the ESL classes but also expand to offering classes **double the hours (now 2x a week)** for both New Leaf and Open Arms team members.

MARCH 2021

Seed to Stitch

In 2021, Open Arms Studio introduced ***Seed to Stitch***, a line of 100% Texas-grown organic cotton home goods and textiles sewn by refugee seamstresses.

DECEMBER 2021

Team Milestones

Along with reaching studio milestones, many team members celebrated **personal wins** in 2021, including first time home purchases and becoming U.S. citizens.



308 members

served through New Leaf's
Community Supported Agriculture
(CSA) program



5 partnerships

with restaurant and wholesale buyers
including Lick Ice Cream, Elgin ISD
and Botanical Colors

222 hours

selling organic produce and
pantry goods at Texas Farmers
Market Mueller

20,000 pounds

**1,300
pounds**

donated to RAI
staff members

+68

different types
of produce!

of organic produce
grown at New Leaf farm in 2021



"Right now, I am stronger, I have new life
right now. **I am so happy to get new
life.** I like to work at the farm because
[we are] all friends."

– Kavira Mandali
Congolese Refugee Farmer

MARCH 2021

Return to the Market

New Leaf returned to **Texas Farmers Market Mueller** with fresh produce, sewn items from Open Arms Studio, and canned goods from our brand new pantry line.

JUNE 2021

Regenerative Hens

New Leaf raised its first flock of laying hens as a critical piece in our **Regenerative Soil Health Plan**. By December, we added USDA Certified Organic, pasture-raised eggs to our CSA and farmers market offerings.

SEPTEMBER 2021

Farmer's Footprint

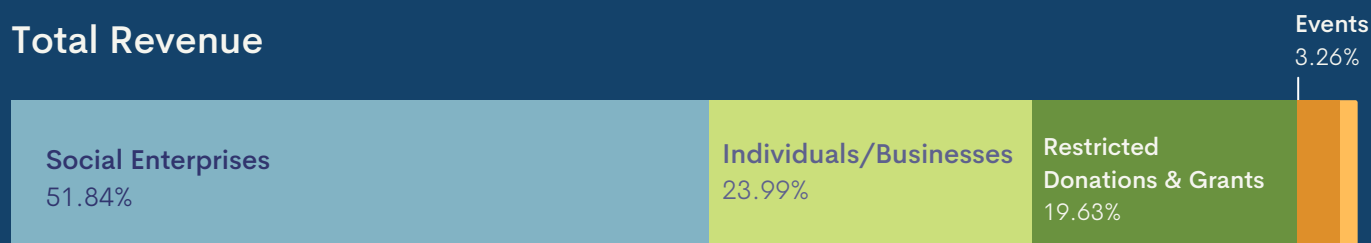
We partnered with Farmer's Footprint to create a **series of beautiful videos** made about the New Leaf Farm and our beloved team members.



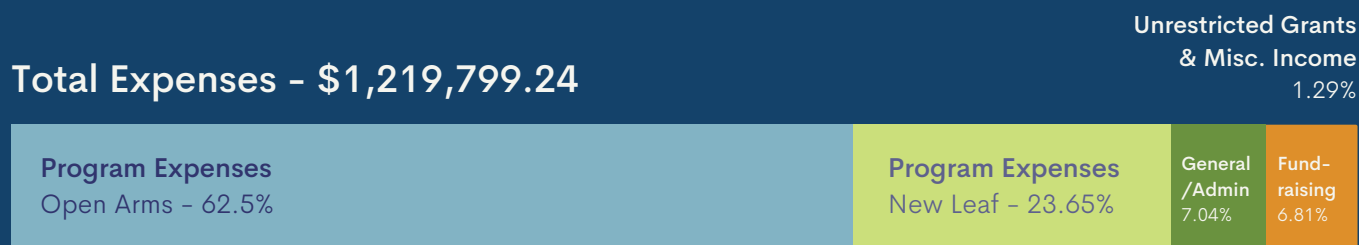
Total Revenue: \$1,459,125.88

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

Total Revenue



Total Expenses – \$1,219,799.24



In the Classroom

In 2021, MRC employees attended additional professional and personal development courses such as **English as a Second Language**, digital and financial literacy, and monthly farming workshops.



1,155 hours
spent by RAI staff
in Professional
Development
courses

Photo credits:

Leia Vita Marasovich / Farmer's Footprint
Ashton Joe