



THE
**Welcome
to America**
PROJECT

January 29, 2021

Paula Cullison
Arizona Women's Partnership, Inc.
13058 North Surrey Circle
Phoenix, AZ 85029

In 2020, The Welcome to America Project (WTAP) was thrilled to receive a grant for \$2,000 from the Arizona Women's Partnership. Without supporters like you, it would be impossible to continue our work to welcome refugees and accelerate their self-sufficiency.

COVID-19 has had a major impact on the refugee community and with your help, we are sharing resources to help refugees navigate these challenges. Refugees are especially vulnerable to pandemic-related unemployment. To accelerate reemployment, we continue to partner with PCs for Refugees to share computers for job search, employment applications and on-line interviews, decreasing technology barriers to employment. We also share bikes with the assistance of our partner, Phantom Cyclist. Bikes help eliminate transportation barriers and minimize use of public transportation. In fact, this year WTAP was awarded a three-year AmeriCorps VISTA position to further our impact in supporting refugee employment pursuits, fostering faster paths to self-sufficiency. In just 6 months, these programs shared 193 bikes with 132 families and 133 computers with 123 families. All of this welcoming activity is supported by your organization and the community acting on kind hearts.

We also implemented short-term strategies designed to help refugees during current times, including sharing hygiene kits, cleaning kits, kids' kits, food kits and most recently warm welcome packages. Our goal is to make certain that refugees do not have to choose between soup and soap as they rebuild from any immediate economic setbacks.

In 2020, WTAP served over 140 families at Welcomes/Deliveries from 25 countries (7% North American, 1% South American, 22% Asian, 65% African and 45% Non-Specified). Our Clothing Closets, a longstanding WTAP program that allows us continued contact with refugees and at which we share shoes, bikes, books and toiletries, have been adjusted to reduce risk of spreading virus. We have also expanded our partnerships with resettlement agencies and schools to supply on-site locations. Plus, we continue to welcome newly-arrived families, sharing a computer, television and bicycle on every welcome, intended to connect newly-arrived refugees to jobs, education and community, as well as activities for children.

A unique partnership allows us to share musical instruments with refugees. We also have soccer partnerships that help us to share soccer balls, uniforms and equipment, fostering a sense of community and common recreation for those newly settled. Expect WTAP to continue to explore programs and partners that welcome refugees and accelerate self-sufficiency.

Once again, the support of organizations like Arizona Women's Partnership makes welcomes possible. Thank you from everyone at The Welcome to America Project, and thank you on behalf of the refugees we will welcome!

Warmest regards,

Mike Sullivan
Agency Director

The Welcome to America Project

1711 West University Drive #158 • Tempe, AZ 85281 • 602-490-0088 • wtap.org
WTAP is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization • Federal Tax ID#80-0038343 • State of AZ QCO Code 20247