Reporting On Our Progress

2020 Year in review for Cache Refugee and Immigrant Connection
Cache Refugee and Immigrant Connection (CRIC) is a small but mighty organization that collaboratively works to affect positive change for refugee and immigrants.

CRIC’s mission is to promote integration, economic self-sufficiency, and positive connections among refugees, immigrants, and the wider community through two-way education, improved access to existing resources, and development of new services.
After state DWS funding was cut, Nelda Ault-Dyslin, and then VISTA, Michael Pekarske, established a community coalition focused on meeting the needs of refugees in our community. Articles of Incorporation were filed for “Cache Refugee & Immigrant Connection” or CRIC.

Thanks to the generosity of Russell Ray, and now the Coppieters family, CRIC’s community garden found a home in a fertile center block in Southwest Logan.

With the help of community members with law and nonprofit development expertise, CRIC received nonprofit status on January 27, 2015.

After years of operating from varied spaces, CRIC secured its first physical location and hired its first part-time employee to direct partnerships and projects.

CRIC hosted its first annual Harvest Dinner, expanded its immigration legal assistance, and took steps to hire its first ever executive director.

CRIC launched partnership with USU’s Jon M. Huntsman School of Business & its SEED program to address financial literacy and built a housing advocacy program in response to COVID-19 system navigation challenges.

CRIC hired executive director, Danny Beus, launched its case management program and moved to its new location on 200 East in Logan.

CRIC hired second part-time staff person to manage volunteer program and walk-in hours.

Financial Literacy Program Launched

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CRIC’s Story:

Financial Literacy Program Launched

Walk-In Hours Established

Community Garden Established

Citizenship and Driver’s License Programs Expanded

Neighbor Program Established

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Our Programs
Last year at CRIC, more than 500 families from 34 countries were served.

We served these families through: Walk in hours, our community garden, neighbor program, driver's license and citizenship study groups, our housing advocacy program and other specialized assistance.
Walk In Hours

Walk-in hours looked different in 2020. This year we provided virtual support through more than 500 client appointments that focused on system navigation help. We helped our clients with immigration paperwork, healthcare navigation, school registration, housing assistance, and many more issues. In-person classroom programs, like drivers license and citizenship, were temporarily suspended when the pandemic began.
Community Garden

More than 30 families grew their own food in the CRIC community garden.
The COVID-19 pandemic changed things

The refugee and immigrant community in Cache Valley was disproportionately affected by a major COVID-19 outbreak. Thanks to an outpouring of community support from around the county, CRIC effectively met the needs of New American families most impacted. In 2020, we partnered to deliver more than 350 grocery orders and health items to quarantined families and provided more than $75,000 in housing, utility, medical, and transportation assistance. More than 100 New American families were able to maintain their housing thanks to the generosity of our community.
What CRIC means to its Clients

CRIC means a lot to all the New Americans I know. I just get emotional when I start even thinking about the great work CRIC does to families who have gone through a lot. What would many families do without CRIC? It will be nice if you could help me put what is inside me in words. My Eritrean friends call it “endarefugee” meaning the refuge place/home. CRIC is where any refuge I know go for any thing they need. From housing & rental information and assistance, to paying bills, applying for unemployment, making doctor’s appointments, navigating the health care system, applying for social security numbers, green card, citizenship, applying for jobs, you name it. It is the only resource & information center available and accessible. My community feel that CRIC is the safe space not only to ask for help but also to share some personal information including sensitive immigration status. CRIC is the only place I know that my community feels connected to.

- Trhas Tafere
What CRIC means to its Clients

We have a garden here. We’re happy when we see our friends together. We meet our friends together and feel happy. We are happy when we see our friends on the weekend together and we have fresh and organic vegetables and we don’t have to buy our vegetables in the store. When our vegetables come, we can share with our friends. If a friend has a different kind of vegetable than me, we share. We can understand each other and love each other. CRIC helps the garden like this. I would like to thank CRIC so much for offering the garden like this.

-Nan Yu Hlaing
Financial Health of CRIC

Over the past five years, CRIC’s annual operating budget has grown significantly along with its capacity, with an average year-over-year growth rate of 147%. CRIC's ability to stretch a dollar is unrivaled in the non-profit community. In its 2020 budget, 91% of CRIC’s annual operating budget directly supports program costs.

CRIC leverages every one dollar it spends on fundraising into 31 dollars of revenue. In terms of funding sources, more than half of CRIC’s budget comes from private, small gifts, demonstrating a community-wide commitment to supporting CRIC’s work. CRIC could not accomplish its mission without significant input from dedicated volunteers. In 2020 alone, volunteers supported CRIC’s work with more than 2,000 hours of service.
CRIC Relies on its Partners

Thank you to our community partners

Centro de la Familia
English Language Center
Bear River Association of Governments
USU Social Work
Public & School Partnership VISTA
St. Thomas Aquinas
Church of God
First Presbyterian Church
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
The Family Place
Sorenson Center for Clinical Excellence
And many more!

Thank you to our major donors

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City of Logan
Cache County
Paul Wille
Sue & Ty Measom
Steve & Amy Coppieters
Terry & David Peak
Shailaja Akkapaddi
And many more!
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