2020 Impact Report
Year at a glance

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348
Refugees, asylees, and immigrants (RAI) impacted* through employment & community gardens

*$based on average household of six people

$11-$18
wage range of RAI staff

Pierre, refugee from Democratic Republic of Congo
22,306

hours of fair-wage employment for refugees, asylees, and immigrants (RAI)

37

RAI individuals employed in dignified, fair-wage work at Open Arms Studio and New Leaf Agriculture

Plus, 31 community gardeners and workshop attendees in 2020
Creating livelihood opportunities for refugees in Austin, Texas.

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

We believe creating a livelihood for one creates opportunity for many.

Through fair-wage salaries, community gardens, and on-the-clock, paid professional development trainings, we are creating livelihood opportunities for not only our refugee staff, but also for their families and community.

Open Arms Studio

The Open Arms Studio employs a diverse team of refugee, asylee and immigrant women who produce high-quality goods for private 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.
"Coming here and having an opportunity to work with coworkers, just loving, laughing and sharing the peace—it really gives us strength."

Krishna, New Leaf Crew Chief, refugee from Bhutan
“Working at Open Arms is inspiring to me and I’m proud that I’m a part of it. I can see a wonderful ‘woman powers’ in this place.

- Maria Vung
Assistant Studio & Production Manager, refugee from Burma
2020 IMPACT SNAPSHOT: OPEN ARMS STUDIO

- **35** full time and part time team members: refugee, asylee, immigrant (24) and non-refugee staff (11)
- **5** countries represented including Burma, Afghanistan, DR Congo, Mexico and Eritrea
- **4,436** face masks donated to health professionals in our community
- **21,424** products made for private-label partners
- **9,762** T-shirt quilts created for partner Project Repat
- **208,000** pounds of fabric recycled
Feeding my Austin community during this hard time fills my heart with joy...this makes me feel that I am doing something good in my community.

- Wandaka Musongera
  Assistant Farm Manager, refugee from Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Pictured (Top to Bottom):
1. Pierre, refugee from DRC, celebrates USDA Organic Certification
2. Radishes in the fall
3. Wandaka with seedlings
2020 Impact Snapshot: New Leaf Agriculture

- **16** full time & part time team members: refugee (7), non-refugee (1), seasonal (8)
- **254** members served weekly through New Leaf’s Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program
- **20,000** pounds of organic produce grown
- **573** hours logged by New Leaf volunteers
- **89** different types of produce grown at New Leaf farm
- **9** wholesale and restaurant partners
Our 2020 Budget Breakdown

Total Revenue: $1,214,401.32

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

Additional Income:
- 10.67% Government Grants
- 9.89% Restricted Donations & Grants
- 1.92% Events & Misc.
In March of 2020, MRC discontinued Shared Voices Interpreter Services. In early 2020, Shared Voices trained 14 individuals as professional community interpreters (including 3 immigrants) across 2 languages—Spanish & Portuguese.

Program Update: Shared Voices

Looking Back at an Unforgettable Year

It's no secret that 2020 brought tremendous change for the Multicultural Refugee Coalition. Due to the pandemic, we were forced to pause our English as Second Language (ESL) program early in the year and pivot to sew-from-home production at the Open Arms Studio, where the team began producing masks for the Austin community.

Growing demand for local produce brought a huge surge in CSA membership for New Leaf, selling out three consecutive seasons. While this year kept most of us at home, MRC worked to provide additional learning opportunities for our refugee community, including the introduction of a new Farm Education initiative that offers monthly courses to refugee farmers interested in learning the necessary skills to grow produce year round in Texas.

25 hours of paid English as Second Language (ESL) taught in 2020

11 attendees of our first Farm Education workshop

4 ESL Volunteers in 2020

NAVIGATING COVID-19