

Established in 2010

Tiyya creates communities of support and organizes access to economic opportunities and critical resources for immigrants, refugees, and displaced indigenous communities.

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Meymuna Hussein-Cattan

Dear Tiyya Community,

We're in a season of gratitude and celebration! Every member of this community is passionate and priceless. Our Career Placement Specialist, Mira, partnered with numerous companies to employ newly arrived refugees. Together, we ensured over \$1.6 million in wages for our program participants. Dayana continuously takes the lead with meaningful coffee and conversations with the mothers in our community. Thirty new Afghan families were resettled and deeply cared for by our Family Service Coordinator, Mahmood. Parents and children have enjoyed thoughtfully curated park gatherings hosted by Enas, where we distribute boxes of diapers each month a product that approximately ¹/₃ of U.S. families cannot afford.

There's more.

Our board member, Mukta, facilitated a beautiful goddess-themed fundraiser at a private garden. With proceeds matched by the Long Family Foundation, its success allowed us to design a Housing program. Our Housing Specialist position

launched in the summer, and we were

excited to see our former participant, Beatrice, apply for the opportunity. In a few short months, she helped acquire housing for 16 families! The leadership of Program Manager Christian, Executive Chef Kenna and Program Assistant Julie steered Flavors from Afar into acquiring one of the most prestigious honors in the culinary world, a Michelin Bib Gourmand! Lastly, our new popularity expanded with over 30 media features in 2022, spearheaded by Sara.

As our restaurant acquired over \$300,000 in revenue, I'm now trusted with managing over \$1million in revenue. How is this all possible?

Here at Tiyya, we do not run a onedirectional charity. We listen and learn from everyone involved. Our refugee families saved Tiyya's programs at a time when we almost had to shut our doors. We did this by preserving culture and family recipes and partnering with our participants to create a social enterprise business model. The additional secret ingredient to our

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success has been you, our exceptional community of donors. You allowed our organization to pivot and hire an outstanding team. We're a crew of bighearted humans committed to providing refugees with quality programs and a loving atmosphere. This work is more than impactful; it's personal. Each team member in our organization has experienced similar challenges of displacement or has loved ones who started over in a foreign country. Our personal investment is what sustains us. Our work hits close to home, and it shows. I'm so incredibly grateful. One of my greatest achievements this year was being recognized as a Top 10 CNN Hero. This honor caused me to reflect on my work and all the beautiful humans I've met along the way. Since establishing Tiyya over a decade ago, we've grown so much. We've learned how to more effectively address the lack of employment opportunities for the refugee community. We've learned how to better provide respectful, inclusive, and culturally competent programs in the nonprofit sector. Although we are proud of the acclaim, awards, and media attention we've gained in only 13 years



"One of my greatest achievements this year was being recognized as a Top 10 CNN Hero. This honor caused me to reflect on my work and all the beautiful humans I've met along the way."



of operation, we're most excited that our work has changed the conversation around refugees. Displaced people are brilliant; I view them as true alchemists who can create beautiful lives after the deepest of loss. Refugees are far more than a political argument or a social problem to be solved. Our collective goal was to create a seat for refugees and undocumented immigrants at the table. We want our society to not only provide displaced people the dignity they deserve but to appreciate their contributions to our communities and celebrate the diverse cultures they represent.

As I've watched The Tiyya Foundation thrive, I've been changed by the creativity, relationships, and masterful storytellers I've encountered. I've realized the importance of food and how it's essential to understanding, preserving, and celebrating culture. This inspired me to become a chef in my own right. I am currently studying culinary arts and food operations at the Institute of Culinary Education in Pasadena, CA. Not only do I have a newfound passion for the art of cooking, I believe that in order to speak on behalf of our immigrant community most effectively, I need to experience life in the kitchen on a deeper level.

Tiyya's programs are centered around Economic Advancement, Housing, and Community. Our program participants are ensured a roof over their heads, a liveable wage, and a community to feel rooted. Thank you for sustaining our transformative work. Thank you for trusting me with this enormous responsibility. It's a great honor.

With Love,

Meymuna

our mission

The Tiyya Foundation creates communities of support and organizes access to economic opportunities and critical resources for immigrants, refugees, and displaced indigenous communities. Through our work, we foster the development of self-sufficiency, ultimately helping our program participants overcome obstacles and actively participate in society.

TA







Served in 2022: 218 households, 774 individuals, 507 children.

Countries of Origin include:

Afghanistan Chechnya Egypt El Salvador Eritrea Ethiopia Gabon Guatemala Honduras Iran Iraq Jordan Kenya Lebanon Libya Mexico Palestine Russia Somalia Sudan Syria Tunisia Venezuela

Languages spoken by our clients:

Afaan Oromo Amharic Arabic Dari Farsi French Kiswahili Pashto Somali Spanish Tigrinya



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Family Services pg. 7







Economic Advancement pg. 9



Community pg. 10

family Services

When starting over in a new country, we understand that families are susceptible to isolation. Our programs are created to help feel a sense of community through a robust calendar of activities while helping families secure housing and acquire employment.

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

This initiative is for newly arrived immigrant women to engage in conversational English and establish new cross-cultural friendships. Conversations are led by our ESL instructure. 17 women attended weekly coffee & conversation online classes to get comfortable expressing themselves in English and connecting with new friends. Participants are invited to meet monthly in the park to break bread and share tea.



TEA AND TOTS

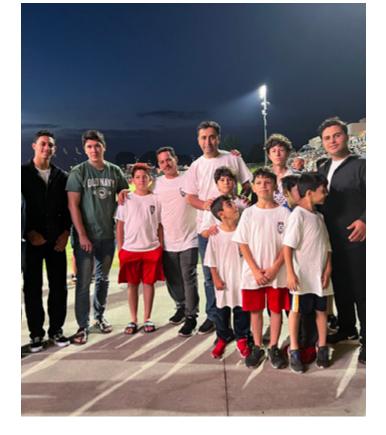
Once a month, an average of 45 mothers are invited to playdates at the park with their children to break bread with appetizers and herbal tea. Participants receive pop-up workshops as it pertains to parenting in America and youth ages 0-7 are gifted with diapers, toys, and school supplies. Members of our

TEA AND TOTS (Continued)

community who support The Tiyya Foundation are welcome to attend and bring unused gifts on our approved list each season.

On July 17, we had a large gathering at Pearson Park to distribute more than 200 backpacks with school supplies to our families. On Dec 18, we distributed toys and personalized gifts to 50 families. Donations for both days were provided in partnership with Karina's Backpacks Project and Dreams for Schools who also joined us for distribution.





SOCCER

Our soccer program was our first initiative launched in partnership with Soccer Without Borders. Programming takes place year-round in collaboration with our soccer coaches. On average, 20 youth participants join us on community field trips to at least 2 soccer games hosted by the Orange County Soccer Club.

HOUSING

In partnership with the Long Family Foundation, our participants are provided personalized support to obtain housing in Orange County.

Since August, our housing specialist has secured housing for 16 families. They received assistance with applications and support with developing a relationship with their property managers. Nearly \$20K (\$19,157) in rental assistance was distributed and 8 families received financial support with their deposit to secure new housing. We successfully applied for section 8 housing and project-based vouchers to 8 families. Our participants report feeling safe and supported as they have permanent dwelling with access to appropriate community interaction.

Tiyya has come through for many other families through the housing program. Different families go through different problems but the main issue has been the housing requirements after Covid and it's very hard for refugees and other immigrants to be qualified for a house or apartments due to the requirements. Everyone deserves a place called home and all these families need a place they can call home.

In addition to these services, Tiyya provided the following support for our families:

- Tiyya's Case Manager provided home visits, access to community resources, legal and DPSS application assistance to over 30 Afghan families newly resettled to Orange and Los Angeles counties.
- Distributed iPhones donated from the PIMCO Foundation to 20 families in OC and LA
- Tiyya staff worked with Soka University volunteers to distribute toys to 100 families in Orange County
- 100 food boxes were provided to families in 3 counties (LA, OC, and Riverside)
- In May, Tiyya launched tutoring with Chapman University students serving 18 of our youth who participated once a week and received assistance in the subject areas of Math, Science and Writing
- With the support of a community donor, Tiyya organized 3 fishing trips with Stoked on Fishing for a total of 15 participants.

programs

economic advancement

We understand that working hard and striving for upward economic mobility is a high priority for immigrant families. Through our services, we support individuals with job placement and workforce readiness.

CAREER PLACEMENT'

In partnership with the PIMCO & Sun Family Foundation, we identify entry-We provide programmatic support level job opportunities for newly arrived for former asylum seekers and refugees and immigrants and provide refugees interested in the field of resources. We identify and secure job culinary arts. With the support of our opportunities for newly arrived refugees social enterprise, Flavors from Afar, and immigrants over the age of 18. If individuals are provided a platform job readiness is needed; we offer resume to showcase their cuisines for a full month and receive 5% of gross sales. building and interview techniques. Programming takes place in Orange We work with local businesses and companies to place clients directly into County and Los Angeles. the workforce.

49 participants were placed in jobs, securing an estimated combined income of \$1,630,000 annual salary of participants. An 87% retention rate was achieved by individuals who kept their jobs. 5 professional development scholarships were awarded to participants for a total of \$23,000.

Job placements include 8 paid internships, 15 upskilling recertifications, the development of 2 small businesses in the area of herbaltex and organic candles infused with essential oils. One of our participants secured a 6 figure job placement!

CULINARY TRAINING AT FLAVORS FROM AFAR



12 chefs were featured at the restaurant and 5 chefs were hired for private corporate catering opportunities. Over \$12,000 was paid to our chefs. 4 of our chefs were supported in starting their own catering businesses.

community

Made up of Black, Indigenous, People of Color, and Immigrant identifying folx; our gatherings are designed to develop community in a meaningful way. This is a great space for those seeking new experiences and expanding their network. Our events are rooted in international cuisines and global music. A great way to reimagine belonging after displacement



CONVERSATIONS

Tiyya's platform gathers unique stories in the form of video, photography, and digital experiences to communicate the vast diversity of migration - while being inclusive of Indigenous and Black experiences.

SALONS

Dedicated to individuals who live in the 'in-between spaces' of American life, our Executive Director takes the lead on cultivating community and belonging by hosting small (5-8 people) private dining experiences.

EVENTS

Hosted quarterly, we invite you to connect with our growing community! Events are centered around international cuisines and the arts - Our members experience unique food and music created by local artists. Over 125 guests attended our first Spring Fundraiser to celebrate our new community and focus on supporting women and mothers. We raised more than \$25K that evening to officially launch our Housing Project and hire a Housing Specialist.



flavors from a far

The concept for Flavors was conceived in 2018 when Meymuna Hussein-Cattan, a former refugee and founder of the Tiyya Foundation, started a small catering company to help support the Foundation's mission to provide long lasting and sustainable assistance to refugees, immigrants, and asylum seekers. She later won a Social Innovation pitch competition, hosted by the Orange County Community Foundation. The goal was to expand the catering concept, Tiyya's overall mission, and ultimately secure a physical restaurant.

With the encouragement and support of the Sun Family Foundation, goals that seemed more distant were launched into actualization. Meymuna then partnered with Christian Davis in 2020. As cofounders, they developed Flavors from Afar into a brick and mortar restaurant. Together, with his entrepreneurial spirit and extensive experience in customer relations and fashion, Meymuna &



Christian transformed the catering company into a beautiful, inspired space featuring refugee chefs and their cuisine from around the globe.

40% of our profits go back to support the sustainability of Tiyya's community programs.



Flavors from Afar is now a Michelin **Rated Bib Gourmand & for the** second year in a row one of the Los Angeles Times Top 101 Restaurants.

testimonials





Karim Ayouba, Afghanistan

During my search for finding a home, Tiyya organization was one of the best. I was struggling in the hotel and the kids were frustrated and got so bored that they were crying every day. One day someone called me from the Tiyya organization. I don't know how they found me so I talked to Beatrice and she was really helpful, took me to so many places and helped me and my family find a home. I really thank Tiyya the organization and second the person who really helped us.

Shamsa Al Dhaheri, Iraq

Tiyya's financial and emotional support has been unparalleled. They believed in me becoming an architect and have been an asset in making the dream a reality. My advice to others looking to recertify in their field is to knock on all the doors, as you never know who will open to guide you.

Ekbal Letaief, Tunisia

Since our arrival to the United States in July 2021, the Tiyya Foundation has continued to help us. First, they helped us by furnishing our home which made our living conditions more comfortable, especially for our children. Like all new arrivals, we suffered from feelings of loneliness, expatriation, and uncertainty. Thankfully our home visit by Meymuna, her husband, Shukry, and their daughter, Susu alleviated these feelings by bringing us a sense of community and overwhelming our hearts with warmth.

On the New Year, Mr. Mahmood called us to congratulate us and deliver presents for the children, which brought them joy. My personal weakness was getting comfortable with my English Speaking skills. Mrs. Dana Ballout, the conversational English Specialist, helped me through this challenge during our weekly sessions. The way they were structured provided ease and a sense of reward at the end. Dana was the most enthusiastic, understanding, and kind person. This allowed me to become much more self-confident when communicating with others during daily life.

The most impactful assistance we received was with the professional career pathway program at Tiyya. The efforts are accredited to the Career Placement Specialist, Mira Tarabeine. Similar to many new arrivals, the whole educational and career systems were new to me. The program helped me outline actionable steps and take them. On a human level, she has always been able to restore my self-confidence in the most difficult times and encouraged me to be the best version of me. With the support of the Career Placement Specialist and the program I was able to apply and receive a microgrant from one of Tiyya's partners to start a small candle business.

Working with you has increased my self-confidence and taught me so much about time management, careers, opportunities, and how to go after my dreams.



Shahzada Shinwari, Afghanistan

Great experience with the Tiyya Foundation. I found a house I was looking for and a teacher for our family really help us to learn English quickly from home.Community gathering and events help us with social connection with the community. Our family really enjoys all the programs Tiyya conducted for our community to help how to adapt in a new community and have access to all resources. Our kids learned from the tutoring how to set educational goals and be successful at school. Tiyya helped us to improve and be successful in our personal and professional life.

Negina Noorzai, Afghanistan

I am a single mom with my 4 kids, they are under 10 years old. Moving from one city to another is difficult, but moving from a country like Afghanistan to a new country where we don't know the language, culture, and people. Everything is different and comes with challenges. Thanks to Tiyya for conducting Tea and Tots for our families, we were able to find new friends and practice new language, culture, and engage with new communities. We learn more about people, business, new life and receive enough support.





Parwiz Mamozai, Afghanistan

Thanks Tiyya for organizing an amazing fishing trip. It helps us relax and enjoy time outdoors, time spent outside with such a great team helps our body, mind, and be more productive. We are connected not only with the Afghan community now with the help of Tiyya we improve our social network with different people and communities.

CNHERC



highlights in 2022

Photo Credit: Mike Coppola/Getty Images for CNN

SAFE WELCOME

We enrolled 28 new refugee families from around the globe

LAUNCHED HOUSING PROJECT

Established Specialist Position in July and Secured Homes for 16 families

JOB PLACEMENTS

Provided job placement for 49 participants who obtained a total of 1.6 million dollars in combined annual wages

ASYLUM SEEKERS

Provided services for 5 undocumented families seeking asylum from Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Palestine, and Syria

TEAM EXPANSION

Established Family Services & Case Manager Position

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MEDIA

Meymuna Hussein-Cattan is recognized as a Top 10 CNN Heroes



Right This Minute January 6, 2022

https://www.rightthisminute.com/video/restaurantgives-refugees-chance-share-their-cuisine

Jesse Wellens & Meymuna Hussein-Cattan & Christian Davis, Flavors from Afar

Recharged Podcast #9 March 15, 2022 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VrscG5cTuSk

This Sunny L.A. Restaurant Offers Diverse Dishes Prepared by Refugees

Notabley March 17, 2022

https://www.noteabley.com/restaurants/diverse-dish-es-refugees

How I Made It: Lessons from African American Entreprenuers

LA Civil Rights February 10, 2022

https://civilandhumanrights.lacity.org/get-involved/ highlights/how-i-made-it-lessons-african-american-entreprenuers

Ric Franzi Interviews Meymuna

Critical Mass Business Talk Show March 21, 2022

https://www.podbean.com/site/EpisodeDownload/ PB11D98B8JBR5Z





How I Made It: Lessons from African American Entreprenuers

LA Civil Rights February 10, 2022

https://civilandhumanrights.lacity.org/get-involved/ highlights/how-i-made-it-lessons-african-american-entreprenuers

Meet the Tiyya Foundation- Giving Refugees a Place in their New Home

Arab America

June 29, 2022

https://www.arabamerica.com/meet-the-tiyya-foundation-giving-refugees-a-place-in-their-new-home

Meymuna Hussein-Cattan: The Magic Happens During The Breaks

Boss Ladies Podcast July 25, 2022

https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/meymuna-hussein-cattan-the-magic-happens-during-thebreaks/id1435071590?i=1000560413411

Local nonprofit supports refugee chefs

Good Day LA May 31, 2022

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lBqnvNuczbc

Alternative Spring Break: Tackling a Global Issue Close to Home

Soka University May 13, 2022

https://www.soka.edu/news-events/news/alternativespring-break-tackling-global-issue-close-home

Meet Meymuna Hussein-Cattan | Founder / Executive Director

Shoutout LA July 11, 2022

https://shoutoutla.com/meet-meymuna-hussein-cattan-founder-executive-director

Sharing Strength

Parenting OC online July 25, 2022

https://parentingoc.com/2022/07/sharing-strength

August 2, 2022

http://www.mirabelsmagazinecentral.com/DigitalEdition/index.html?id=915ebe26-ff17-4bb1-9624-7318a82b8637

One year later, some Afghan refugees remain in hotel rooms in search of housing

Spectrum News 1

August 23, 2022

https://spectrumnews1.com/ca/la-west/human-interest/2022/08/23/one-year-later--afghan-refugees-remain-in-hotel-rooms-in-search-for-housing

CNN Hero

CNN HEROES

August 25, 2022

https://www.cnn.com/videos/tv/2022/08/25/los-angeles-restaurant-menu-refugees-immigrants-cnnheroes. cnn

Walking through L.A.'s Little Ethiopia

ON HEROES

August 25, 2022

https://www.facebook.com/ watch/?v=825640655114447

CNN Heroes: Meymuna Hussein-Cattan

Velvet Classic

August 25, 2022

https://www.velvetclassic.net/cnn-heroes-meymuna-hussein-cattan

Food with a purpose: Restaurant with recipes for refugees helps immigrants start a new life in the USA

Newsbreezer August 26, 2022

https://newsbeezer.com/ethiopia/food-with-a-purpose-restaurant-with-recipes-for-refugees-helps-immigrants-start-a-new-life-in-the-usa

Dining with a purpose: Restaurant serving refugees' recipes helps immigrants start new lives in the US

CIN HEROES

August 25, 2022

https://www.cnn.com/2022/08/25/us/los-angeles-restaurant-menu-refugees-immigrants-orange-county-cnnheroes/index.html

The Taste of Freedom

August 25, 2022

https://www.facebook.com/ watch/?v=828786021476639



Dining with a purpose: Restaurant serving refugees' recipes helps immigrants start new lives in the US

Tahrir 2 Day August 26, 2022

https://tahrir2day.com/news/2022/08/26/diningwith-a-purpose-restaurant-serving-refugees-recipeshelps-immigrants-start-new-lives-in-the-us

OC Visionaries

TimesOC October 3, 2022

https://npaper2.com/business--visionaries/2022/10/#?dpg=1

#70: Meymuna Cattan - The Refugee Crisis, Supporting Displaced People, Healing Through Community

The Lifted Podcast

https://www.podserve.fm/w/helendenham/45350

Passion and purpose

UCI School of Social Science

November 2, 2022

https://www.socsci.uci.edu/newsevents/ news/2022/2022-11-28-meymuna-hussein-cattancnn-top-hero.php

16th Annual CNN Heroes: An All-Star Tribute in New York

UPI

December 11, 2022

https://www.upi.com/News_Photos/view/upi/ce00dc9729bdad41459579285d347064/16th-Annual-CNN-Heroes-An-All-Star-Tribute-in-New-York

2022 CNN Heroes All-Star Tribute

West Virginia News December 11, 2022

https://www.wvnews.com/newsfeed/us/2022-cnnheroes-all-star-tribute/image_86a77943-ce8f-5300-8a47-3d19bde8fe24.html

Flavors From Afar Highlights Talented Refugee Chefs

November 2, 2022

https://cheddar.com/media/flavors-from-afar-highlights-talented-refugee-chefs/68ikZZmhpOx-OVgkRu3tufq





2022 CNN Heroes All-Star Tribute

San Diego Gay & Lesbian News December 11, 2022

https://sdgln.com/entertainment/2022/12/12/cnn-heroes-all-star-tribute

29-year-old Kenyan tech founder crowned CNN Hero of 2022

Business Insider Africa

December 11, 2022

https://sdgln.com/entertainment/2022/12/12/cnn-heroes-all-star-tribute

Naomi Campbell, Kristin Davis, & More Stars Who Dazzled at the CNN Heroes Red Carpet

She Knows December 12, 2022

https://www.sheknows.com/entertainment/slideshow/2681785/stars-at-cnn-heroes-red-carpet-photos/roes-all-star-tribute



Inside 2022's 'CNN Heroes: An All-Star Tribute'

https://www.cnn.com/2022/12/11/world/gallery/ cnn-heroes-2022/index.html

CNN Heroes Tribute: Meymuna Hussein-Cattan

CNN December 12, 2022

https://www.cnn.com/videos/tv/2022/12/13/cnnheroes-tribute-meymuna-hussein-cattan.cnn

The week in travel: Lavish lifestyles and top Christmas destinations

CNN Travel December 19, 2022

https://www.cnn.com/videos/tv/2022/12/13/cnnheroes-tribute-meymuna-hussein-cattan.cnn

Naomi Campbell brings supermodel star power to red carpet in plunging white suit as she joins glamorous Kelly Ripa and Selena Gomez at CNN Heroes: An All-Star Tribute in NYC

Daily Mail December 11, 2022

https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-11527597/Naomi-Campbell-Zoey-Deutch-Selena-Gomez-glam-CNN-Heroes-Star-Tribute-NYC.html



who we are

board

Adja Buyi Buyi Board Chair, Founder & CEO at Moor & Co

Brenda Duran Strategic Communications Executive at LA Board of Supervisors

Roya Fohrer Sr. Counsel at Manning & Kass **Mukta Mohan** VP at Higher Ground Audio

Jen Nguyen Sr. Strategy Manager at Salesforce

Tiyya has board openings available, please send a cover letter and resume to <u>info@tiyya.org</u> to apply.

staff

Meymuna Hussein-Cattan Executive Director

Shukry Cattan Director of Operations

Christian Davis Flavors from Afar Program Manager

Chef Kenna Copes Flavors from Afar Executive Chef

Julie Vautrot Flavors from Afar Program Assistant

Mahmood Omid Case Manager **Enas Tayyem** Tea & Tots Program Coordinator

Mira Tarabeine Career Placement Specialist

Beatrice Kihagi Housing Specialist

Kelly Thomas Development Officer

Dayana Gomez ESL Instructor

Sayed Obaidullah Sayedy Soccer Coach



On average, more than 85% of funding goes towards program expenses.





2022 Tiyya Foundation Revenue: \$772,712 Expenses: \$765,452

Flavors from Afar

Revenue: \$314,065.01 Expenses: \$307,340.91



2021 Tiyya Foundation Revenue: \$798,486 Expenses: \$612,009

2020 Tiyya Foundation Revenue: \$588,932 Expenses: \$403,061 Totals include COVID-19 Payroll Protection & SBA Loans.

Totals include COVID-19 Payroll Protection & SBA Loans.

2019 Tiyya Foundation Revenue: \$228,908 Expenses: \$234,196

Due to budget cuts in our government grant, we were operating in a deficit.

2018 Tiyya Foundation Revenue: \$275,909 Expenses: \$318,680

Due to budget cuts in our government grant, we were operating in a deficit.



thank you to our foundation partners



hoag



LA2050







SUN FAMILY FOUNDATION

ΡΙΜΟΟ



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yelp Flavors From Afar

★★★★★ 5-star reviews

