A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

I’ll never forget the drive into Dallas during rush hour on 635; my car was packed with all my belongings and my new husband in a truck right ahead of me. I was overwhelmed. Beyond my feelings of panic navigating the sea of cars, I was anxious about starting a new life in a new city. I would have to learn new streets, new grocery stores, find a job...I had also left a strong community of family and friends behind and knew I would need to find a new support system as well. Moving to unfamiliar places provides opportunities for growth, but they can be devastatingly isolating.

I was lucky enough to be connected to former RST Board President, Wes Magruder, in my earliest days of settling into Dallas life. Through his work, he connected me with a refugee family that had just arrived from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Their eldest daughter, Irene, and I hit it off immediately and we leaned on each in those early months for support. My move to Dallas had nothing on Irene’s, her family had been planning for this opportunity of resettlement for years and had to move through many processes and background checks until their eventual arrival. Her family was set up in an apartment with basic necessities, but the work of fine tuning her English and finding a job was still ahead of her. I marveled at her abundant optimism, courage and strength.

Together we navigated Dallas streets, made Target runs, and watched movies at my house. We shared our fears as we applied for jobs together. We carved pumpkins (Irene was so curious about those giant orange things popping up at the grocery stores) and we talked about our hopes for the future. We developed a community with one another, and it was exactly what we both needed at a time of uncertainty, anxiety and hope for our future.

Every day, RST is building community with our newest neighbors and every day the cities in which they learn, live, grow and thrive are better for it. Texas is an incredible reflection of how diversity and relationship with one another can become the best of what makes our great state. Now, more than ever, we need your help. Building a community where all are welcome takes all of us. Refugee Services of Texas is committed to this hard and rewarding work. Join me in supporting our mission to ensure refugees, like Irene, get the opportunities they deserve in our beautiful state.

Elizabeth Van Oort
RST Board President
Founded in 1978, Refugee Services of Texas (RST) is a social-service agency dedicated to providing assistance to refugees and other displaced persons fleeing persecution based on race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group - as well as to the communities that welcome them.

RST provides services to hundreds of refugees, asylees, survivors of human trafficking, and related vulnerable populations from approximately 30 different countries of origin each year. 24% of our staff are former refugees, asylees and Special Immigrant Visa holders, and collectively speak over 37 languages across all of our sites.
Refugee Services of Texas serves refugees, asylees, individuals with Special Immigrant Visas, Cuban-Haitian entrants, Central American minors, survivors of human trafficking, and other vulnerable populations. In addition, RST works to facilitate partnerships with host communities to build a welcoming environment.

**Refugee Resettlement by the Numbers**

- **1,002** Resettled Refugees & Special Immigrant Visas (SIV)
- **3,163** Clients served under one or more of RSS programs
- **51** Different languages spoken among RST clients
- **26** Home countries of refugees, asylees, and SIV's

The majority of clients (88.75%) RST served in FY19 with refugee, Special Immigrant Visa holders, or asylee status came from Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Burma, and Eritrea with the remaining (11.25%) clients arriving from: Somalia, Syria, Sudan, Iran, Bhutan, Pakistan, Vietnam, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Honduras, Rwanda, El Salvador, Colombia, Chad, Cameroon, India, Turkey, Guatemala, Venezuela, Sri Lanka, and Egypt.
RST's STEP (Survivors of Trafficking Empowerment Program) and the 806 ACTS (Freedom in the 806 Anti-Trafficking Coalition) Program in Amarillo are designed to help survivors of trafficking from victim identification through achievement of self-sufficiency.

RST'S STEP & 806 ACTS PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS

**RACE**

- Multi-race: 20.9%
- White: 5.6%
- Asian: 8.5%
- Black: 4.8%
- Hispanic: 59.6%
- Native American: 0.6%

**NATIONALITY**

- International: 49.6%
- Domestic: 50.4%
- Other: 4%

**GENDER IDENTITY**

- Male: 17.2%
- Female: 78.8%
- Other: 4%

354 TOTAL CLIENTS SERVED

The hand-painted masks pictured are the product of an art therapy group hosted by RST during a trafficking survivor workshop. Survivors painted these masks to serve as a visual representation of the metaphorical “masks” they’ve chosen to wear, or that were placed upon them. The idea of positive self-image can be difficult to maintain after trauma but by expressing themselves through the creative process and sharing their stories of strength and resiliency, they experienced art as a way of coping.
RST PROGRAMS IMPACT

ECO\NOMIC EMPOWERMENT

RST is proud to provide support for our clients including resume and application assistance, job development and networking support, job-readiness classes, vocational training, interview coaching and follow-up after job placement. Our clients receive customized service plans based on skill sets, prior education and experience.

676 clients served across Texas

IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES

RST’s Immigration Legal Services are a compassionate response to the community need for affordable legal advocacy. The Austin and Dallas offices staff full-time immigration attorneys and legal assistants who provide a range of free and low-cost legal aid to all immigrant groups. Virtual immigration assistance is also available in Fort Worth and Amarillo.

732 clients served across Texas

Did you know?

The number of refugee entrepreneurs throughout the United States is 181,463

The total refugee household income in Texas is $6.2 billion

with the total refugee spending power in Texas being $4.6 billion

*Numbers based on 2015 report from New American Economy
RST's Community Wellness Program (CWP) in Austin is the only mental health service provision program offered by any resettlement agency in Texas. CWP offers individual, family and group counseling and support services to refugees, asylees, Cuban and Hatian entrants, Special Immigrant Visa holders (SIV’s) and the survivors of trafficking community.

127 clients served in Central Texas

RST's Unaccompanied Children (UC) Program offers aid to families after children from birth to 17 years old transition from family separation or child immigration detention shelters to their homes in the greater Houston area. Caseworkers provide services in the home of their sponsor to confirm the safety and provisions of the child and provide the family with assistance as they transition back to being a family.

265 clients served in the Greater Houston Area

Did you know?

The average age of an unaccompanied child RST serves is 14-17 years old

The countries of origin RST's UC clients come from are:

- 48% Honduras
- 25% Guatemala
- 25% El Salvador
- India, China, Vietnam, Venezuela, Colombia, Cuba, Nicaragua and Romania

2%
Refugee Services of Texas offers many ways for anyone in the communities we serve to get involved! Our volunteers come as individuals and groups from faith organizations, local schools, businesses and community partners!

**Volunteer Spotlight:**

**Holly Walsh**

"Volunteering with RST has changed my life for the better. I’m grateful for the opportunities to welcome new arrivals, hear their stories and develop friendships. It is rewarding to see communities come together with compassion and generosity to donate everything needed to fully furnish an apartment to help our new arrivals have the best start possible. Hearing their stories of persecution, living in refugee camps for years and surviving genocide is heart wrenching. I’m continually amazed by their resilience, humility and strength to rebuild with joy and gratitude. RST feels like family to me. It’s rewarding to serve with people who have so much compassion, dedication and kindness."

Pictured: Holly Walsh at an airport pickup with RST client
EVENTS & FUNDRAISERS

LABOR TRAFFICKING WORKSHOP
RST's Survivors of Trafficking Empowerment Program hosted a Labor Trafficking Workshop in February 2019, hosting over 100 attendees from state and local government, partnering organizations and social workers from across Texas and Oklahoma. The workshop highlighted best practices for investigations and prosecutions involving forced labor. State and federal experts provided case examples and the newest research involving the intersections of labor and sex trafficking.

AMPLIFY AUSTIN
RST took part in Ampilfy Austin, hosting an Amplify Austin Kickoff Event at Alamo Drafthouse with a raffle and film screening of Day One, followed by a panel discussion with the film's producer and director. Participating in its 5th year, RST raised over $30,000 from over 190 donors in just 24 hours!

NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY
RST participated in North Texas Giving Day for its 5th year, kicking the fundraiser off with a raffle, silent auction and film screening at Studio Movie Grill of The Long Night, followed by a Q&A with a survivor of trafficking. RST raised over $15,000 from over 100 donors in just 18 hours!

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK (NCVRW)
NCVRW recognizes the individuals and groups whose dedicated work and advocacy has propelled the victims' rights movement forward for the past half century. RST hosted an awards ceremony alongside community partners to honor those who made an impact on their community through service.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY
World Refugee Day 2019 was celebrated in communities across Texas, encouraging people from all walks of life to take big and small steps in solidarity with refugees. Celebrations included a citizenship ceremony, refugee dancers and musicians, local businesses providing ethnic food to attendees, a soccer clinic and hosting a Refugee Journey Simulation for individuals and families to walk through.

THE PANHANDLE GIVES
RST raised $1,000 in donations through The Panhandle Gives for its 2nd year! The RST Amarillo office also brought the community together for a film screening at Bethesda Outreach Center of The Long Night, followed by a Q&A with its Development Director and survivor of trafficking. The event was a great tool for community outreach, advocacy, education and humanizing sex and labor trafficking in the Texas Panhandle.
For every dollar that RST receives, almost 90% goes directly into programming.
Our Donations

Refugee Services of Texas is dedicated to diversifying our programs and funding while maintaining our commitment to serving refugees, asylees, survivors of trafficking and other displaced populations.

Cash
53.1%

In-kind
46.9%

CASH: $382,218
IN-KIND: $337,507
TOTAL: $719,725

PERCENTAGE BREAKDOWN BY DONOR TYPE

Individuals 38.9%
Other 5.1%
Corporations 12.5%
Faith Organizations 14.6%
Foundations 28.9%

RST is a 501 (c) (3), tax-exempt organization. All donations given are tax deductible.
OUR SUPPORTERS

Institutional / Government
Grants and Contracts

Church World Service
Episcopal Migration Ministries
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services
US Department of Justice Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)
Central Texas Office for Refugees (RST)
North Texas Office for Refugees (Catholic Charities-Fort Worth)
South Texas Office for Refugees (YMCA Houston)
West Texas Office for Refugees (International Rescue Committee – Abilene)
The U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants
OUR SUPPORTERS

Corporate & Employee Giving

$10,000 +
- Sirius XM Radio

$5,000 -$9,999
- United Way for Greater Austin
- Network for Good

$2,500 -$4,999
- Business Interiors
- Westminster Retirement Home
- Texas Alcoholic Beverages Commission
- Green City Recycler
- Your Cause

$1,000 -$2,499
- Paypal Fund
- Bright Funds Foundation
- Benevity Community Impact Fund
- The Links Inc. Town Lake Chapter
- Box Inc.
- Apple Inc.
- Dell Giving & Dell Inc.
- National Instruments
- Frost Bank

Foundation Giving

$20,000 +
- Simmons Foundation
- Shield-Ayres Foundation

$2,500 -$5,000
- Franklin Conklin Foundation
- Koonce Family Foundation
- The Smith Family Foundation

$1,000 -$2,499
- Fidelity Charitable
- Barilla Foundation
- Entrepreneurs Foundation
- M&M Foundation
- Austin Community Foundation
OUR SUPPORTERS
Church & Faith Communities

$5,000+
- Covenant Presbyterian Church (Austin)
- St. John’s United Methodist (Austin)

$2,500 - $4,999
- First Unitarian Church of Dallas
- St. Michael’s Episcopal Church
- Shepherd of the Hills Presbyterian Church

$1,000 - $2,499
- All Saint’s Episcopal Church (Austin)
- North Tarrant Church
- Northway Christian Church
- Episcopal Church of Wise County
- Episcopal Church of the Resurrection
- Northwoods Unitarian Universalist Church
- Northway Christian Church
- University Presbyterian Church (Austin)
- University Christian Church (Fort Worth)
- Westlake United Methodist Church
- Central Baptist Church of Round Rock
- Highland Park Baptist Church
- United Christian Church

$1,000 - $2,499 cont.
- Central Presbyterian Church (Austin)
- Celebration Lutheran Church (Houston)
- St. Stephen’s United Methodist Church
- North Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

$500 - $999
- First English Lutheran Church
- Greenland Hills United Methodist Church
- Ridglea Christian Church
- St. Philip Presbyterian Church
- Bannockburn Baptist Church
- St. Luke’s on the Lake Episcopal Church
- Temple Shalom Dallas
- First United Methodist Church
OUR SUPPORTERS

Individual Giving

$10,000 +
Erik Barbara

$5,000 - $9,999
Brian Reed
Dana Kunik

$2,500 - $4,999
Anmol Sanyasi (Boy Scouts Troop 50)
Peter & Heather Sassone
Anonymous
Karen M. Fussy

$1,500 - $2,499
Tony Shidid
Daniel Kelly
Shanyn R. Ronis
Sandy Angell
Connie H. & James Grube
Roberto Hernandez
Molly Gochman
James Fontaine
Kay S. Mailander
Beth Anderton
Kacie L. Wright
Anonymous
Anonymous

$1,000 - $1,499
Carl Nelson
Erin Koechel & Jeff Duchin
Blake D. Ellingham
Brooks M. & Mary A. Veazey
James L. & Katelena Hernandez Cowles
Elton & Ronna Tiemann
Ahmed Aly
Brannin S. Lancaster
William Ball
Jimmy Roberts-Miller
Anson Chuah
Laudan Khotanzad
Gloria C. Wilson
Lupe & Frank Garcia
Corey Seifert
Amber Towers
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Elizabeth Yehaskel
Holly Pyle
Lara & Matthew Prescott
Thomas & Rachel Ternan
Carolyn & Jay Gurley
Joseph T. Watt
Warren McCracken
OUR SUPPORTERS
Individual Giving cont.

$500 - $999
Ben Stark
Anonymous
Anonymous
Joel Abramowitz & Rita M. Bergers
Mark Warren
William A. Mintz
Anonymous
Judy Le
Jonathan Romo
Deborah Beck
Christina Castelli
Anonymous
Richard Clark
Scott Graham
Lauren Mikiten
Dr. Mari Salmi
Kurt & Ann Friederich
Elizabeth M. Carroll
Matt L. McCullough
Mitchell Boone & Elizabeth VanOort
Logan Bennett
Anonymous
Anonymous
Ben Roberts
Ashley A. Jones
Audrey Deckinga
David Sieber
Dr. Susan Iannaccone
John O'Brien/O'Brien Law
Julie van de Zande
Diana & Sean Greenberg
Patricia A. Ford
Michael Diaz
Antonio Garza
Kent Redding
Yatin Hoskote
Sarah Newton
Alexander Ralston
Ashish Gupta
Deborah Jonas
James Graeve
Leah P. Priddy
Annie Anderson
Lindsay Shipp
"I was a refugee 20 years. I have been here [in the United States] two years and three months.

The way we were it was like a prison. The life of the refugee is very hard because you struggle to find food, water, fire wood. One time when I was with my wife, I asked her, ‘you know I love you, but the life of the camp is very hard, so where do we find the money for our children?’ It was a very hard answer for my wife. She replied to me, ‘we can pray to God, He will answer your question.’ After two days, the United States selected my family to come to America.

America is like the heaven of the earth. There are different people, different languages. When I arrived here, in six months, RST [Refugee Services of Texas] helped me to find immunization, to find food stamps, Medicaid... and to find a job.

I have nine kids. It’s a big family. My children enjoy school. Even me, I study. I’m studying in ESL English; after that I will major in something. To learn English when you are old is not easy.

It’s good to live here. We have changed many things in our life—to know how to drive, to know how to do everything. I want to thank you for taking care of refugees, you give them experience, you prepare people to know the system in America.”

Kagiraneva Safari, Refugee and Social Work Student at Richland College in Dallas, Texas