

[ ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MINNESOTA ]

# CREATING OPPORTUNITY FOR NEW AMERICANS



For 100 years, the International Institute of Minnesota has delivered critical services and resources to help New Americans transition to their new life here in Minnesota.

For these New Americans, a new home means a new start, the beginning of a life with safety, security and stability. What grows from there is a restoration of hope for the future. A future full of opportunity where they can achieve life and career success and add to the rich fabric of our community.

From language learning and job training to citizenship classes and the celebration of cultural traditions, the Institute offers New Americans a pathway for a strong start to this new life. Our program graduates are contributing their unique talents and newfound skills to the local labor force. They are achieving economic stability, paying taxes and helping to inspire positive systemic change.

But our work is evolving as the need continues to grow. With an unprecedented 26 million refugees around the world awaiting the opportunity to begin a new life, our services are in greater demand than ever. And we think that presents an incredible opportunity. For New Americans. For us. And for all of Minnesota.





# 100 YEARS OF WELCOMING NEW AMERICANS

From our founding in 1919, the International Institute of Minnesota has been driven by a firm belief in a universal idea: that every New American deserves the opportunity to achieve full membership in American life.

The Institute was formed as a branch of the YWCA of St. Paul, to offer the state's first English and citizenship classes for immigrant women and their families. Our services gradually expanded to meet the needs of a more diverse immigrant population. In 1932, the Festival of Nations was introduced and became one of three multi-cultural festivals recognized nationally.

In 1938, the Institute became an independent agency and continued to expand its services during and after World War II – assisting in emancipating Japanese-Americans from internment camps, serving people displaced by the war and supporting returning soldiers' "war brides."

In 1974, the U.S. government introduced its refugee resettlement program and the Institute immediately started resettling Lao, Hmong, and Vietnamese displaced by the War in Vietnam. In the subsequent four decades, the Institute resettled more than 25,000 refugees from almost every region in the world.

While the faces we serve continue to change, our mission today remains the same as it was then: to give all New Americans who pass through our doors the opportunity to learn, work and thrive right here in Minnesota, their new home.





A photograph of a man with a beard and short hair, smiling and looking towards the camera. He is wearing a black leather jacket. The background is a bright, indoor setting with a window and some plants.

# LEARN WORK THRIVE

THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MINNESOTA RESETTLED  
MORE THAN 25,000 REFUGEES SINCE 1974.



A photograph of a woman with dark hair in a braid, smiling and holding a young girl. The girl is wearing a white cable-knit sweater and a white tutu with a pink ribbon. The background is slightly blurred, showing a framed picture on the wall.

# STABILIZED RE-UNITED RESETTLED

THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MINNESOTA HAS EMPOWERED NEARLY 3,000 NEW AMERICANS TO GAIN EMPLOYMENT IN THE HEALTH CARE INDUSTRY.



[ OUR SERVICES AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE ]

## WHEN NEW AMERICANS THRIVE OUR COMMUNITY THRIVES

From their first day in the United States to their first day as a citizen – and every step in between – the International Institute of Minnesota works tirelessly to support New Americans on their journey toward self-sufficiency and integration into the fabric of the Minnesota community.

*In 2020, we provided the following programs and services in collaboration with our students, clients, staff, volunteers and partners.*

### **Refugee Services**

- 25,000 total refugees resettled since 1974
- 109 refugees welcomed to a new home in 2020 – many reuniting with their families after years of separation

### **Career Pathways and Education**

- 212 New Americans were employed in hotel hospitality, nursing assistant, advanced medical careers, and other industries, thanks to job training and employment services

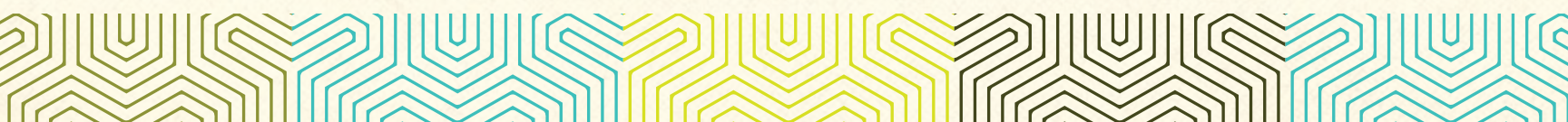
### **Education for new arrivals and for college-bound**

- 60 Hospitality Careers Pathway students started jobs
- 58 students hired as certified nursing assistants and caregivers
- 49 Medical Career Advancement client graduations
- 26,462 hours of English language education provided
- 72 College Readiness Academy students began college in the U.S. for the first time

### **Immigration and Citizenship**

- 1,364 citizenship applications submitted
- 1,267 clients took the Naturalization Oath of Allegiance to the United States
- 878 New Americans received immigration services, including assistance applying for permanent residency, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and employment documents

*Together, we can do so much more.*





# ACHIEVING OUR VISION OF A BETTER TOMORROW

Today, guided by the same core belief that got us started, we are embracing the opportunity and responsibility to accomplish more – because when New Americans thrive, our whole community thrives.

Renovating and expanding our existing headquarters will provide the opportunity to serve hundreds more New Americans. But the opportunity is more than just numbers. Our planned expansion includes not just upgraded facilities but improved services that will allow us to provide enhanced employment training, critical mental and physical health services, accessible facilities and more. All adding up to greater opportunity for New Americans and our community alike.

## **BUILDING EXPANSION FEATURES**

- New, safe and welcoming entrance
- Five new classrooms, including a new nursing assistant training lab and hospitality lab for simulated hospitality training
- Ten new confidential meeting rooms, including space for a mental health professional
- Six staff office spaces for enhanced privacy and new services
- Reconfigured and integrated refugee services and immigration staff offices
- New outdoor meeting areas
- Accessible building, restrooms and facilities for people who use wheelchairs







# RENOVATING EMBRACING ACHIEVING

THE INSTITUTE HAS EXPERIENCED A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN DEMAND FOR ITS SERVICES OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS – LEADING TO A DOUBLING OF STAFF AND TRIPLING OF SERVICES SINCE 2012.



A woman with dark hair, wearing a blue denim shirt and red sneakers, is sitting on a chair. Her hands are clasped in her lap. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

# EVOLVING LEADING DEVELOPING

**THE INSTITUTE IS RECOGNIZED AS A LEADER IN REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT SERVICES, AND OUR EMPLOYMENT TRAINING PROGRAMS ARE A NATIONAL MODEL FOR NEW AMERICAN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.**