Keeping Our Promise Inc.

P.O. Box 92117 • Rochester • NY • 14692 / 585-721-3211

2023 Annual Report



After 14 years of service and waiting 4 years for a visa, the Asfe family makes it to Rochester after surviving a harrowing journey out of Afghanistan.

Celebrating 10 years of SIV Resettlement in the Rochester, NY Region!

Keeping Our Promise Inc. provides comprehensive resettlement assistance to wartime allies who served U.S. interests in conflict and war zones.

Index

Mission, What We Do, Our Values 1

Message From Our Director 2

Our Staff 4

Volunteers and Partners 5

Health Initiative 15

Faith Partners 16

Emergency Assistance 17

SIV Highlight 18

Program Expenses 19

Board Members 20

Donors 21

Mission

To provide comprehensive resettlement assistance to endangered wartime allies who served U.S. interests in conflict and war zones.

Keeping Our Promise Inc.



What We Do

Keeping Our Promise Inc. offers a comprehensive resettlement support program for Afghan and Iraqis in the greater Rochester, NY region who risked their lives serving United States' interests abroad.

KOP Program Criteria: Who We Assist

- Afghans or Iraqis who were interpreters or support personnel for the U.S. military or U.S. Embassy for 1 year or more.
- Afghans who work/worked on a full-time basis as contractors, Locally Engaged Staff (LES), or interpreters/translators for the U.S. Government, US Forces- Afghanistan , International Security Assistance Force, or Resolute Support.
- Afghans who worked for a U.S. government-funded program or project in Afghanistan supported through a U.S. government grant or cooperative agreement and are granted a Special Immigrant Visa.

Over the last 10 years we have been able to assist over 1,300 Pashtuns, Uzbeks, Tajiks, Hazara, Turkmen and Nuristanis from Afghanistan, Sunni and Shia Iraqis, as well as Kurdish allies who now call Rochester, NY home.

A Message From Our Director



Ellen Smith
Executive Director

Dear friends and supporters,

Ten years ago we started this journey of SIV resettlement support with friends helping one U.S. army captain from Syracuse, N.Y., named Michael, gather gift cards, furniture and kitchen items for his two Afghan interpreters - Nasser and Sayed.

Ten years ago I asked the question:

How do you thank someone for saving your life?

Michael was so grateful and thankful that complete strangers reached out to help him with resettling his interpreters. Sayed and Nasser who arrived with their wives and children were also incredibly thankful and grateful. No words could adequately describe their feelings.

How do I express the words and emotions of a soldier once again reunited with someone who he served with - shoulder-to-shoulder? How do I express these deep feelings of gratitude of an Afghan father who gets to see his daughters go to school or a mother who knows her children will grow up in a free society because of you?

How do I adequately say “thank you” on behalf of the State Dept. or USAID workers who, while not in the headlines, also served in Afghanistan. They too worked with Afghan people who became their friends and trusted colleagues. They too are as equally grateful that their Afghan partners are now here, safely resettled because of you. These Afghan allies who you have helped are free of the Taliban who would have them all as prisoners - or worse.

With your generous support in 2023 you helped 66 Afghan war-time ally families who escaped from the Taliban, totaling 264 individuals. Each of these families had a fully-furnished home from your donations. You gave them food. You gave them emotional support.

With help from the Shapiro Foundation in 2023, we were able to assist 16 additional families – more than we planned or budgeted for 2023, and you happily welcomed them into our community.

With help from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation, we are able to bring on two full time case managers to check in with families on a regular basis in 2024.

The ESL Community Foundation, along with The Davenport Hatch Foundation, Tom and Ellen Rusling and local donors helped us raise funds to get a much-needed truck to move furniture donations for our families.

You are making sure that our allies have a community, and a place to call home.

There are continuing relocation efforts, and we are working in partnership with the government to help our allies. To give you a perspective of the continuing work ahead:

A Message From Our Director



In August 2021 when Kabul fell, **Keeping Our Promise** had the names of 2,330 individuals with Rochester ties seeking to be evacuated.

In 2022, you welcomed 205 who were left behind, and most were on that list. In 2023, you welcomed 264 who were left behind. We are working diligently with the U.S. State Dept. in continuing to identify individuals who worked for the U.S., and need to get out of Afghanistan. Our work is not done from this 20-year war. Our assistance is a strict 1-to-1 ratio. For every wartime ally family we can accept in Rochester another Afghan family can be brought out of Afghanistan to safety.

You may think at times that what ever part you may play in this journey doesn't count or make any difference. But what you do makes a difference.

You make a difference with the victims of the Taliban when they hear or read that you have helped. You are making a difference in helping our allies escape injustice and the oppression of the Taliban.

Their spirits are lifted, and they know they have friends, and they know you care.

Here we are 10 years later. As I write this, even now I ask the same question as I did years ago: How do you thank someone for saving your life?

You have helped in the cold. You have helped in the rain. You have helped in the snow. You have helped in the heat. You have helped in the sunshine to transform the lives of the Afghans who served the U.S.

Thank you on behalf of so many.

Our American veterans and State Dept. and USAID employees and Afghan friends thank you for your caring. They thank you for your support. They thank you for your prayers. They thank you for your commitment.

On behalf of those we serve and help and welcome to the Rochester community, I thank you for your humanity.

Ellen Smith Executive Director, Keeping Our Promise Inc.

2023 - Staff and Volunteers



Chandee Searcy: Community and Volunteer Engagement

Chandee began volunteering for KOP in 2019. She is KOP's liaison with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and also helps maintain KOPs social media platform, schedules, and works on the fundraising committee. She is also working on health-related education for our Afghan families.

Abdul Rahim Rahim: Operations Manager and Arrivals



Abdul Rahim was born in Balkh, Afghanistan, and served the Afghan government at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. With the assistance of KOP, Rahim, his wife, and three children were resettled to Rochester in April 2022. Rahim assists with arrival preparations, offers verbal translation assistance and manages the apartment set ups.



Kristen Makineci: Health Education and Arrivals

Kristen was born and raised in the Greater Rochester area, but spent 20 years as an expatriate in Turkey. During her time overseas, she was involved in a mix of leadership, fundraising, donation collection and interpreting roles for various charitable and state organizations. Kristen is fluent in Turkish and assists with arrival preparations, and is managing health grants and health education for the community.

Lou Spiro: Bookkeeper (volunteer)



Retired from SUNY Brockport as the Interim Vice President of Administration and Finance, Lou has been KOP's bookkeeper since August 2021, meeting with staff weekly to reconcile purchases with receipts, and manage reimbursements to volunteers. He is also the Principal Consultant for "Nonprofit Management Solutions." Lou is also a SCORE Mentor, working with clients who are interested in starting a business or growing a business. This involves a number of meetings to discuss their interests and to work with them to develop business plan and financial plan materials.

Judy Weiner: SIV Advocacy Coordinator



Judy Weiner is KOP's volunteer advocacy coordinator. She attends meetings with government partners to discuss data we've gathered pertaining allies still in Afghanistan. KOP is a member of the national #AfghanEvac organization, and Judy's detailed advocacy work was formally recognized, along with other AfghanEvac members, by Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Mara Tekach, the coordinator for Afghan relocation at a ceremony in Washington. D.C. on June 12, 2023, at the National Museum of American Diplomacy.



Washington, D.C., June 12, 2023: Left to right: "Lucky" (SIV Afghan interpreter); Iowa Congressman Zach Nunn (United States Air Force officer); KOP Advocacy Coordinator Judy Weiner; Former Branch Chief of Defense Intelligence Agency Catalina Gasper; Task Force Argo Executive Director Anna Lloyd; President of #AfghanEvac Shawn Van Diver; U.S. Ambassador to Qatar and former U.S. Marine Timmy Davis.

2023 - Volunteers and Partners

6,866 Volunteer Hours Logged!



Courtney Larson
Doxy.Me



Alex Tubman
Computer Coordinator



Karen Crummins
Geek on the Go

Laptops for Every Family Our KOP Computer Coordinator Alex Tubman with Courtney Larson at **doxy.me** and Karen Crummins from **Geek on the Go** made sure that each SIV family had a working laptop for school, job searches and zoom meetings.



Diapers, Cleaning and Hygiene Supplies

. **Dulcy Lecour** has been gathering cleaning and personal hygiene supplies and distributing to each of our families for seven years! **Union Congregational United Church of Christ** also helps Duly gather supplies.

School Supplies

In her fourth year of helping, **Marilyn Roche** gathers supplies from the community so each child has a back pack and school supplies.





Kitchen Setups

Susan Hetherington (left) and **Trish Harren** (right) are KOP's Kitchen Coordinators. They sort through collected donations weekly and offer each family a kitchen setup that exceeds federal resettlement standards.

2023 - Volunteers and Partners



Toys for Every Child

Kim Schmidt coordinates with the **Pirate Toy Fund** to provide toys for our newly-arrived Afghan children. **The Kade Project** offers hundreds of toys for our parents to choose from during the holiday season.





Food and Clothing

Cindy Malone coordinates with **Asbury Methodist Church** to provide 20 food baskets each month through its Grocery Ministry for our most recent arrivals. The **Asbury Methodist Church Storehouse** offers clothing to our SIV families when they first arrive.



ASBURY FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

526 Sets of Linens and Pillows

Barb Mueller is the coordinator for the KOP Linen Closet hosted by the **First Presbyterian Church of Honeoye Falls, NY .** The KOP “Linen Closet” and provides every SIV family member with two sets of sheets and blankets for each person. Each family gets bath towels, hand towels and wash cloths, bath mat and dish towels. Each adult gets two pillows.

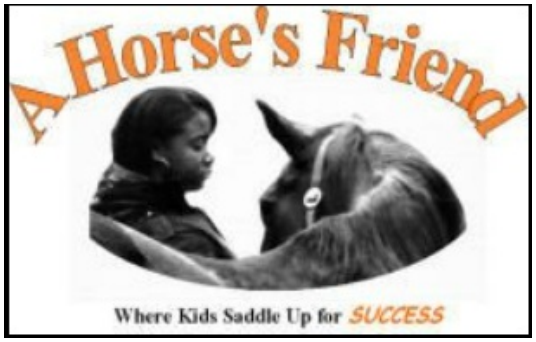


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Honeoye Falls, NY

2023 - Volunteers and Partners



Anne Thorne & Jean VanEtten coordinated Home Inventory for the 66 apartments and houses furnished by KOP. Jean also coordinates the summer camp riding program for SIV children at A Horse's Friend.



*The children's riding camp is funded through a grant from **Andy Dutcher** and **Jessica Scott Dutcher***

Phones and Service For Each Family

Welcome.US

In partnership with Welcome.US, T-Mobile pledged to provide up to 200,000 lines of service to Ukrainian and Afghan refugees entering the U.S. KOP was awarded 100 phones in 2023 to give to each SIV and spouse coming to Rochester. Each phone has one year of free, unlimited service, and families can renew their service for $25/month once their year of service has expired.

The William & Sheila Konar Foundation supports scholarships for SIV children to attend Camp Seneca Lake, and supports our resettlement efforts!

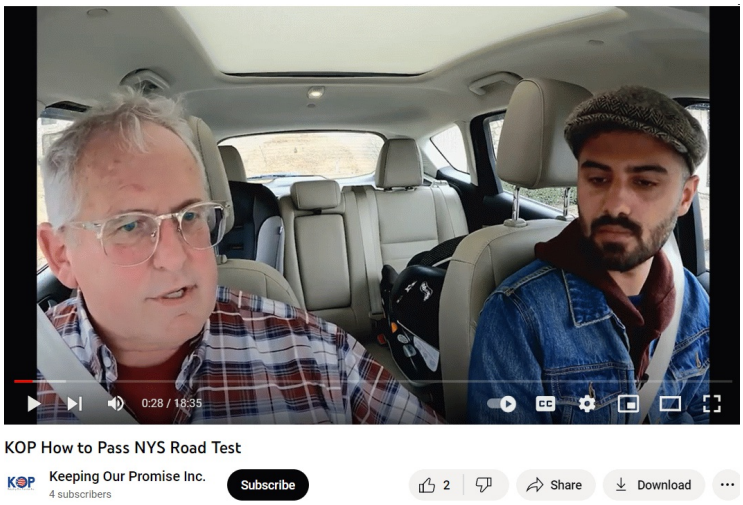
Camp Seneca Lake



SewGreen@Rochester
Community • Creativity • Sustainability

Henrietta Forester teams up with **Sew Green of Rochester** to offer free sewing machines to families who request them.

Fred & Flo Wilmot Foundation



Thanks to the **First Unitarian Church of Rochester** and its Greater Good grant, along with the **Fred & Floy Willmot Foundation**, KOP continued our Wheels for Work Driver's Education Program for 45 SIVs. Our partners includes **Al Granger** and the **Canandaigua Driving School** that provides discounted driving lessons. KOP provides the NYS Driver's Manual in Dari and Pashto, and have shared the manual with other organizations in New York State. We give free car seats to each family.

Helen Wiley coordinates monthly diaper deliveries to arriving families with infants and toddlers. Diapers are provided by the **Junior League of Rochester** and community donations.





Catherine Burke
Baby Gear Coordinator

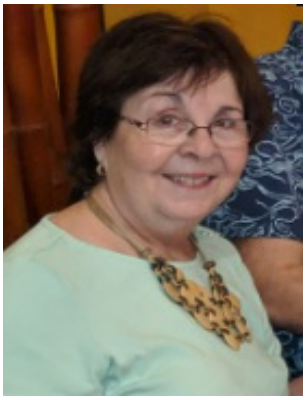


Judith Bose
Literacy Coordinator



Jill Stanger, Book Coordinator

2023 - Volunteers and Partners



Nancy Westendorf is an essential partner as our School Liaison. She navigates school enrollment for SIV children in all schools in the Rochester Region, keeps all families up-to-date on school closures, which is very important during the winter. She keeps families up-to-date on other school-related information. She insures that the children have necessary school vaccinations, and will take them to medical appointments when needed for school enrollment.



Terry Jahnke coordinates rides for newly arrived families who do not know the bus system, SIV moms expecting babies, or SIVs needing medical treatment and need rides to medical appointments.

ROCHESTER GREENOVATION

Collaborative Partner since 2020

Rochester Refugee Resettlement Services

Collaborative partner since 2017

We met our challenge grant to fund our box truck cooperative!

The **ESL Community Foundation**, The **Davenport Hatch Foundation**, **Tom and Ellen Rusling** and local donors helped us raise funds to get a much-needed truck to move donations for our families. KOP partnered with **Rochester Refugee Resettlement Services** and **Rochester Greenovation** to form a "truck cooperative," raise funds, and purchase a 16-foot, 2022 Ford box truck with a hydraulic lift, backup camera and only 42,000 miles on it!



2023 - Volunteers and Partners

Dear Volunteers,

Thank you for your incredible dedication and hard work in 2023. Your commitment to logging 6,866 hours resettling our Afghan friendso served alongside the U.S. military is truly commendable. Your compassion and relentless effort have made a significant impact on the lives of these brave individuals and their families. We deeply appreciate your selflessness and the countless hours you've devoted to this crucial mission. Your work not only aids those in need but also strengthens the bonds of our community. Thank you for making a difference and for your unwavering support.



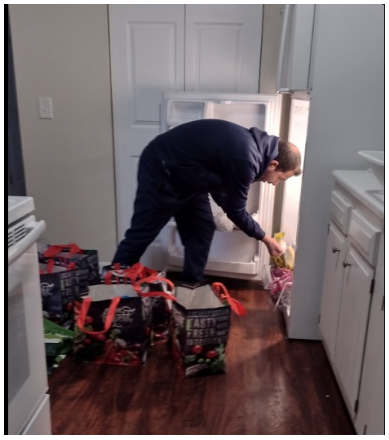




Deborah Abell
Yoka Adar-Stam
Deborah Allen
Karlyn Alvarado
Susan Amrine
John Amrine
Mohammad Sadegh Ansari
Kallie Arksey
Sarah Asermily
Patricia Axsmith
Tavolette
Callie Babbitt
Frances Barg
Jill Baszczynski
Andrew Baum
Kathleen Beabout
David Berg
Joel Bettinger
Stephen Blackwell
Joe Blakely
Lorie Boehlert
Jane Boomer
Judith Bose
Jennie Brant
Larry Broser
Alison Brumm
Heather Buckley
Catherine Burke
Rosemarie Burke
Nancy Burkin
Lauren Burnham
Chris Burton
Anna Carroll-Nellenback
Barbara Castle
Bob Castle
Julie Cataldo
Sue Clifford-Alvut
Tara Close
Wendy Cohen
Karen Cole
Yvonne Colton
Susan Conley
Judy Couture
Elizabeth A Crofton
Jayana Cross
Earl (Alan) Dailey
Mallory DePew
Tara Dumont
Tess DuMont
Andy Dutcher
Christopher Dygert
Katrina Ehmann
Tina Engels Vattana
Midge Englund
Andrae Evans
Alfred Fant
Timothy Faulkner
Karen Fernandez
Sara Flanagan
Henrietta Foster
Merrie Franklin
Christine Funt
Lily Glaser
Ruth Goldberg
Janet Goldman

2023 - Volunteers and Partners







Anne Gomez
Kristy Gonzalez
Daniel Gorman Jr.
Leah Granger
Gina Grasso
Sandra Gunning
Carley Haft
Heather Halstead
Cassie Hamilton
Cindy Hamilton
Nancy Hammer
Kathleen Hanney
Trish Harren
Paula Harris
Jessica Heasley
Polonsky
Brian Hendrick
Jeanne Herrick
Joshua Herz
Susan Hetherington
Donna Hickling
Richard Hochreiter
Shoshaunah Jacob
Teresa (Terry) Jahnke
Michele (Shelley)
Jentzen
Jane Jezsu
Karen Keenan
Nancy Kehoe
Elizabeth Kelly
Lori Kemp-Schneider
Marybeth Knowles
Elizabeth Kosoff
Kate Kressmann-Kehoe
Jill Lavigne
Pam Lazio
Dulcy Lecour
Sandra Lehning
Barbara (Barb) Lemcke
William Leve
Jeffrey Levinn
Benjamin Levy
Kathy Lewis
Jenny Lim
Kelly Lincoln
Elizabeth Lind
Mary List
Suria Lloyd
Keith Lyman
Sandra Lynch (McAlister)
Kristen Makineci
Cindy Malone
Janice Marsden
Barbara Mattingly
Charles "Rod" Mattingly
Sherri McArdle
Deborah McAuley
Elva McBride
Stacey Miller
Susan Morien
Kathleen Morton
Peter Morton
Danielle Moskowitz
Dennis Moss
Wendy Moss
Barbara Mueller
Kaylie Northrup
Dayna Orione-Kim
Jean Ott
Wendy Papadopoulos
Jacqueline Parks
Barbara Parmeter
Thomas Pawlowski
Nathalie Pearson
Anne-Marie Pearson
Caren Peffley
Denise Phillips-Dickinson
Scott Pugliese
Abdul Rahim Rahim
Lisa Rapchick
Bobbie (Roberta) Reif
(Kavanaugh-Reif)
Marge Ricotta
Aileen Robbins
Vicki Robinson
Diana Robinson
Marilyn Rosche
Kirstin Rose-Bean
Marilyn Rosen
Joan Rosenthal
Leslie Rowe
Sue Rowe
Heather Ruchman
Susan Rupp
Thomas Rusling
Jawaid Samadey

2023 - Volunteers and Partners







Linda Schlosser
Kim Schmidt
Marjorie Searl
Mary Segrue
Noreen Selinger
Mena Shaheed
Sheryl Silberman
Mary Smith
Jennifer Smith
Irwin Solomon
Ellen Solomon
Joan Spencer
Louis Spiro
Tara Spitzer-List

Jill Stanger
Darlene Steele
Nicholas Stefanovic
Alexei Taskovski
Bruce Thompson
Cheryl Thompson
Anne Thorne
Catherine Torregiano
Alex Tubman
Rachael Tylock
Molly Vadala
Jean Van Etten
Lynn VanDerBeck
Lin Vanderstyne
Amie Wagner

Henry Walters
Sue Weiner
Judy Weiner
Howard Weiner
Alice Wells
Margaret Wemett
Dawn Wendt
Nancy Westendorf
Helen Wiley
Marc Williamson
Sarah Willoughby
Fred Wurtz
Eileen Yatteau
Tracey Youngblut
David Youngblut



Tony donated his Subaru to help one of our SIV families get to a job that was not on a bus line.

Wheels For Work

In 2023, Keeping Our Promise assisted 47 families with modest grants for cars. Each family had to log 100 hours of community service in order to obtain a $3,000 grant or the gift of a donated vehicle.

A vehicle helps families get to jobs, medical and school appointments. A car allows families to go on social outings and helps lessen the post-traumatic stress of the war and moving to a new country.

A vehicle also leads to homeownership! Over the last five years, 26 SIV families have become homeowners and credit the Wheels for Work program to help them get the employment needed in order to be able to work and save for a down payment for a home.

2023 - Volunteers and Partners

COMMUNITY BIKES INC.
WE'VE GIVEN AWAY 29,918 BIKES SINCE 2008.

NEIGHBORS FOR REFUGEES
Collaborative partner since 2020

Catholic Charities
Family and Community Services

Catholic Charities accepted our SIV families as "walk-in" clients, and files all of the necessary paperwork for DHS, SNAP and Medicaid Benefits.

world relief
WESTERN NEW YORK

KOP partners in SIV resettlement with WR in finding housing, furnishings and offering phones for SIV families, with WR filing necessary paperwork for benefits.

Miles4Migrants

Miles4Migrants is a resettlement partner that secured emergency flights for 15 SIVs to come to Rochester in 2023. You can help bring our wartime allies to their new home in Rochester by donating credit card points and frequent flyer miles to **www.Miles4Migrants.org**



Noah launched a pillow drive with McQuaid Jesuit School Students

Noah saw a segment on the news a few months ago about our pillow drive done by Mercy student Rabina, whose family was resettled by KOP, and Noah decided to do the same! Thanks to McQuaid students we were able to give every family ample pillows and towels.

Our staff and volunteers helped to resettle 66 Afghan families totaling 264 individuals in 2023!





This is what new life in Rochester looks like!

Thanks to a grant from **Greater Rochester Health Foundation**, we held a winter and emergency preparedness fair for Special Immigrant Visa Afghan families resettled by KOP.

RG&E provided energy efficiency kits to all households that included LED light bulbs, energy efficient power strips, foam weatherstrip tape, and low-flow shower heads to help conserve water and energy. SIV Families received translated health and safety information on natural gas, carbon monoxide, smoke detectors.

Dr. Brach and Dr. Ferdows of **United Memorial Medical Center Family Medicine** offered information and appointments for the flu vaccine, and free covid test kits were given to the community.



The **Rochester Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints** hosted the event, doing face painting, games for children, and a Corn Hole tournament for children and adults!

Halal-N-Out provided a delicious meal for everyone.

Budding Readers and KOP book coordinators distributed age- appropriate books to children.

And, as we've come to expect by now, someone always finds a long-lost friend.
Dr Ferdows and one of our SIVs served together in Afghanistan and were surprised to be reunited through KOP on this day!

2023 - Faith Partners

Our faith partners are an integral part of resettlement of our wartime ally resettlement program from gathering linens, providing food baskets, beds and furniture, kitchen items, driving lessons for families, and tithing gifts to help cover resettlement expenses, and sponsoring families.

St. Catherine of Siena in Mendon, NY, hosted a “Food for Thought” dinner gathering. Each table had an SIV table captain who could share their story on what it meant to be an American ally, work for freedom and reforms, and try to rebuild their country from years of civil war. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints donated new beds, dining tables and chairs and dressers.

Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Boston, Mass., enabled us to welcome an additional 16 families!





Asbury First United Methodist Church

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Christ Community Church

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Combined Jewish Philanthropies

First Baptist Church of Penfield

First Presbyterian Church of Honeoye Falls

First Unitarian Church of Rochester

Gates Presbyterian Church

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church

Mother Cabrini Health Foundation

Our Lady of Mercy

Rochester Christian Reformed Church - Deacons Fund

Saint Catherine of Sienna

Spiritus Christie Church

Webster Presbyterian Church

Women of Reform Judaism/Temple B’rith Kodesh Sisterhood

Union Congregational United Church of Christ

Anonymous Donors Helping in Emergencies



KOP relies on donated frequent flyer miles, but sometimes we are facing immediate emergency needs, with no easy answers. Anonymous donors have made the difference in helping our families out of dire situations.

Jawed and his family (pictured left) received their U.S. visas on a Friday. It was late in the afternoon when we received information on this case. Monday was a national holiday, and the family had to be out of Pakistan in 4 days. In addition, the Pakistan government was deporting a record number of Afghans. It was a grim situation for this family.

An anonymous donor read a Facebook post on this family's life and death dilemma, and stepped in to fund the tickets, ensuring the family's safety and preventing deportation to Afghanistan.

"You guys are simply amazing. I cannot believe you spent your weekend time helping me... and above all, a person who doesn't know you. I am speechless. Beside all mentioned above I can see something else, it's the power of women." (Jawed - SIV holder)

Faheem (pictured right with two of his children) worked for the U.S. from 2004 - 2018 until he was attacked by the Taliban. He was left for dead with multiple stab wounds on his arms, legs and torso. Once he recovered, he and his family fled to Kahramanmaraş, Turkey.

His visa application was initially denied for lack of complete documentation, and KOP worked with his former supervisors, Jerry Orange and Cheryl O'Dell, to get updated letters of support.

Just as it seemed that the visas would be granted, the family was caught in the Feb. 5, 2023 earthquake that devastated the region of Kahramanmaraş where he was living.



Faheem with two of his children the morning after their arrival to Rochester telling their story to WXXI's Beth Adams.

Congressman Joe Morelle's office made calls to Turkey to help get the visas issued and an anonymous donor paid for tickets to get the family out of Turkey and to Rochester.

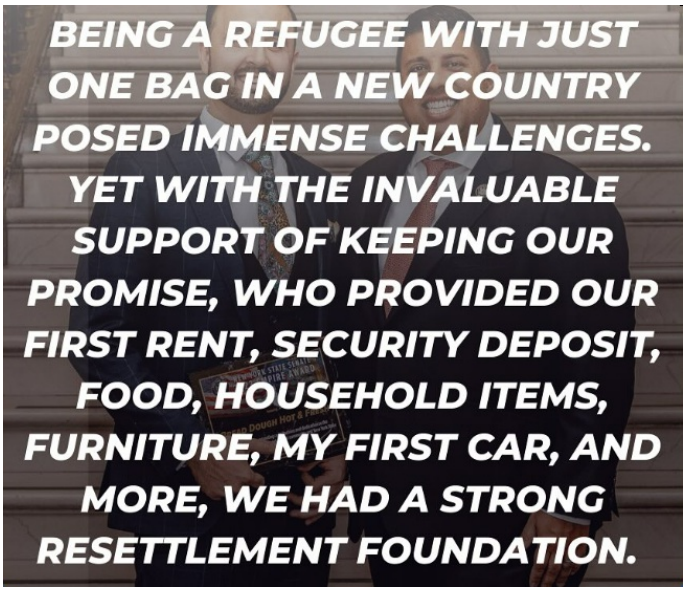
Faheem attended the OACES mechanics program, and he is now working for a car dealership in Rochester.

These collective efforts by KOP supporters like you make a profound difference in saving lives and offering hope to those in dire situations.

SIV Highlight: Mustafa Dawran

Mustafa Dawran, owner of Breaddough Hot&Fresh, resettled to Rochester in 2016 with the help of KOP. He was honored in December 2023 with the Empire Award from NYS Senator Jeremy Cooney.







2023 KOP Program Expense Highlights

Total families assisted with resettlement in 2023: 66 families / 264 individuals

Carryover caseload from 2022: 24 families / 76 individuals

In 2023 KOP helped Afghan families legally arrive from Turkey, Pakistan, Portugal, Italy, Rwanda India, Germany, and Kenya, in addition to those at our military bases in Qatar and Germany. We also stayed in communication with SIV applicants while they were in Afghanistan waiting to be relocated by our government, and tracked their cases as they made their way through the SIV system of background and security checks.

What your donations pay for:

- Security deposit and rent for a house or apartment until they receive benefits. KOP also covers the difference between an SIV family's rent and the social service benefit they receive the first few months of their arrival. If the head-of-household enters into Monroe County approved skilled trades program, KOP will continue to pay this difference to help the head-of-household get through training, which is generally six months.
- Grocery store and halal market gift cards for food until SNAP is approved. KOP also does a "first shop" so the family has food and a hot meal upon arrival.
- RTS bus passes.
- Utility bills on an as-needed basis before the family has employment.
- 48 Wheels-For-Work car grants once an SIV has employment. (*Grant and donation dependent. Program is temporarily discontinued for 2024).
- Driving lessons for 42 individuals to get their NYS license.
- Case management services when there are problems with benefits, or if benefits have been incorrectly denied to a newly-arrived family. KOP also offers health referral services.
- Each family is assessed for English comprehension and enrolled in the Office of Adult Education Services for English or enrolled in skilled-trades training. We are now working with local unions to increase training opportunities for SIVs.

KOP Program Expense Highlights	
SIV Car Grants	$150,268
SIV Expenses	$22,556
SIV Apt essentials	$45,196
SIV Apt Rehab	$100
SIV Food/Groceries	$43,725
SIV Apartment Insurance	$2,183
SIV Rent	$154,028
SIV Phones	$6,404
SIV Utilities	$3,706
SIV Driving Lessons (designated donation)	$14,472
SIV Children's Kids Camp (designated donation)	$4,500
Donation Storage rent	$4,900
Background checks for volunteers	$3,783
Staff Expenses	$158,575
KOP Vehicle & Insurance	$8,514
KOP Operations	$12,168

2023 Board Members

Board Chair: Danielle Moskowitz, Esq. **Treasurer:** Leah Granger

Vice Chair: Noreen Selinger **Secretary:** Jill Baszczynski, LMSW

Dr. Deborah Abell
Andrew Dutcher, Esq.
Thomas Rusling
Benjamin Levy

Jawaid Samedey
Nicholas Stefanovic, Director, Monroe County Veteran Services

Irondequoit Town Supervisor, Retired Lieutenant Colonel Andraé Evans



Monroe County Legislator Carolyn Delvecchio Hoffman, with KOP's Ellen Smith and KOP Board member Nick Stefanovic, Director Veterans Service Agency, at a County Legislature awards ceremony recognizing Ellen's work.



Ellen Smith, (foreground) Faheem Asfe , and Andraé Evans on "Connections with Evan Dawson" on Friday, November 10, 2023 discussing the stories of Afghans who waited years and traveled across borders with their families to flee the Taliban. Joining by phone on Connections were guests: Hamed Safa, Afghan refugee who served the U.S. government and is now living in Rochester, General John Bradley, retired lieutenant general in the United States Air Force, and co-founder of the Lamia Afghan Foundation.

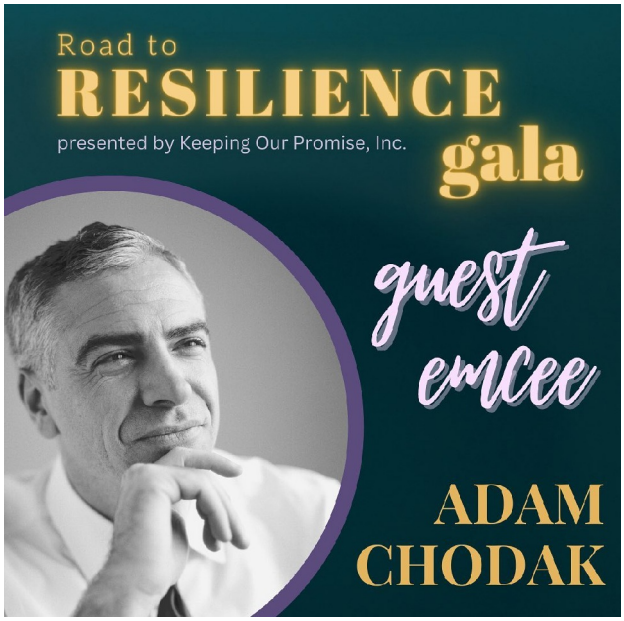
We would like to thank the following 2023 Gala Sponsors and 565 donors* for your support of our wartime ally resettlement program.

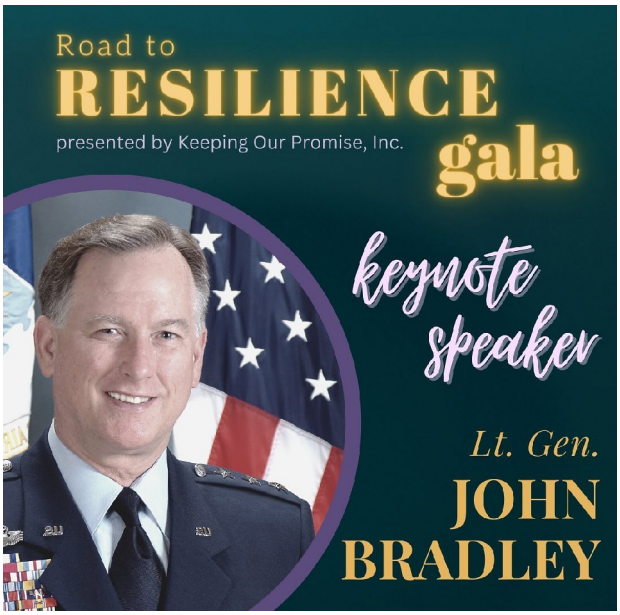
To each and every one of you - We express our gratitude for supporting our cause!

Community driven resettlement work is what saves the lives of our wartime allies.



**If you do not see your name mentioned it is because you checked a box to remain anonymous.*





Deborah Abell
Abundance Food Co-op
Jacob Adams
Elizabeth Affolter
Kathleen and John Albertini
Elizabeth Alderman
Alpha Delta Kappa ETA Chapter
Amazon Smile
America On-Line Giving Fund
American Endowment Foundation
Anahata Mental Health Counseling
Rachelle Anderson
Dominick Annese
APK Charities Corporation
Asbury First United Methodist Church
Asbury Men's Devotional Group
Margaret Avery
Patricia and Paul Axsmith Tavolette
Jane B
Rebecca Bahr
Kenneth Ballard
Christina Bang
Linda and Jim Baroody
Shawn Bartnett
Jill Baszczynski
Kathy Battaglia
Robert Beabout
Kathy Beabout
Linda Beattie
Mary Beauchamp
Allison Bebee
Pamela Bebee
David and Joan Beinetti
Lois Benedict
Benevity Community Impact Fund / America On-Line Giving Fund
David Berg
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Big Lots Foundation
W Bishop
Bridget Blackburn
Joseph Blakely
Daniel Blanchard
M. Claire and John Blanton
Elizabeth Blevins
Lorie Boehlert
Beth Bojarski
Kirsten Bonnell
Laszio Boros
Judith Bose
Margaret (Peggy) Boucher
Robert Bourcy
Ann Michele Bouwmeester
Sheldon Boyce
John and Jan Bradley
Thomas Brazda
Michael Brisson
Judy Brustein-Brisson
Roberta Buckle
Miranda Burgess
William Burke
Rosemarie Burke
Nancy Burkin
Reagan Burns
Mary Ellen Burris
Lorraine Busch
Ebrahim Busheri
Creighton Camera
Lisa Cannon
Anthony and Mary Capozzi
Commonwealth Cares Fund Inc
Bryce Carey
Paula Carter
Faye Casey
Barbara Castle
Robert Castle
Julie Cataldo
Kathleen Cervi
Beth Chamberlin
Charities Aid Foundation America
Chili American Legion Post 1830
Christ Community Church



Christa Construction
Dan and Lisa Christensen
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Rochester NY - Primary children
Susan and Michael Church-Jamesson
Ellen Ciminelli
Edward and Gina Clair
Clear Benefits Advisors
James and Janice Cleveland
Sue Clifford-Alvut
Patrick and Latifa Cobb
Shelly and Frank Cogliandro
Donna and Bruce Cohen
Wendy Cohen
Peter Collery
Carol Collinge and Peter Thiel
Combined Jewish Philanthropies
Susan Connelly
Liz Cook
Carol and Stuart Cooper
Paulette Costanza
Rebecca and Daniel Cotter
Robert and Julianne Craig - Crisante
Stephen Craxton
Elizabeth Crofton
Mark Cronin
Marcia Cupery
Lauren Curtis
Sandra Dagan
Sallie and James Dakins
Julie and Ralph Damerell
Anthony Daniele
John Dash
Davenport-Hatch Foundation
David Swinford Charitable Fund
Jo Ann Deblinger
Christine Degolyer
Ken DePrez
Dipper Dan's
James Dolan
Nancy Donals
Sandy and Joyce Donsky
Patricia Dorland
Tara Dumont
Thomas and Maria Durkin
Stephen Dvorin
Christopher Dygert
Walter Eckhardt
Economy Self Store Inc
Matthew Ehlers
Ari Elliot
Scott and Jody Ellis



Virginia Elwell
Bev and Jerry Engel
Birgitta EngelESL Charitable Foundation
Andraé Evans
Thomas Fasoldt
Timothy Faulkner
Jeffrey Feldman
Judd Feldman
S Peter Feldstein
Thomas Finnefrock
First Baptist Church of Penfield
First Presbyterian Church of Honeoye Falls
Jennifer Fitzsimmons
Sara Flanagan
Cindy Fleischer
Vincent Flow IV
Gregory Flynn
Susan and Timothy Fogal
Steven and Gloria Foster
Daniel Fox
Lee Fox
Duncan and Jane Frame
Ruth Fried
Jay Friedel
Agnieszka Fryszman
Christine Funt
Gannett Foundation
David and Rita Garretson
Richard Garrett
Gates Presbyterian Church
Genesee Regional Bank
Genetaska Club of Rochester
Joan Gerrity
Michael Gersh
Joseph Gersitz
Samuel Gifford
Give Lively Foundation Inc.
Robert Goeckel
John Goetz
Ruth Goldberg
Deborah Goldman
Linda Y Gouaze
Suzanne Gouvernet
Edward Graham
Alan Granger
Leah Granger
Greater Kansas Community Foundation Silberman-Tuber Family Fund
Greater Rochester Health Foundation
Gay Greene
Neil Greenberg
Karl Greenhagle



Roger Griswold
Michael Grossman
Ann Groves Manson
Madelyn Gruber
Anthony Gugino
Monica GurellLucinda Haag
Deborah Hale
John Hamilton
Nancy Hammer
Melissa Hancock
Oren Harary
Trish Harren
Lynn Harris
Mary Harris
Paula Harris
Kitty Hawks
Laura Hayden
Susan Hellman
Amy Herbert
David Herbstman
Elizabeths Herlihy
H Robert and Joyce Herman
Jeanne Herrick
Joshua Herz
Susan Hetherington
Christopher Heywood
Donna Hickling
Edward and Carole Hicks
Pat Hoefler
Patricia Hogenmiller
Sandra Holloway
Honeoye Falls Lima Central School Middle School
Theodore and Barbara Horvath
Teresa Huebner
Mary-Lou Huff
William and Leslie Hulbert
Jane Humphrey
Zainab Hussaini
Peter Huvelle
Ionia Womens Club
Hans-J and Linda Irmer
Irondequoit Rotary Club
Island Sunrise Foundation - on behalf of Samuel Weber
Terry James
Vicky James
David and Dorie Jennings
Mary Jensen
Johnson & Johnson CyberGrants
Ralph and Patricia Jones
Daniel and Mary Joseph
Anne Jozwiak
Thomas and Elizabeth Judson - The Judson Foundation
John and Susan Kaemmerlen
Nancy Kanniainen
Hal and Ann Kanthor



Judy and Norm Karsten
Karen Keenan
Keep Kansas
Helen Keiser
Lori Kemp-Schneider
Nicki and Alan Kennedy
John Kerr
Mary Ellen Kesel
Judith and DS Kharbas
Howard Kirschenbaum
Barry Kissack
Jane Kjoller
Sharon Klots
Marybeth Knowles
Judith Kocsis
Mary Koegel
Konar Foundation
Katrina Korfmacher
Elsbeth Kozel
Mike Kramer
Patricia Kraus
Jane Kress
Kate Kressmann-Kehoe
Aaron Kroh
Bonnie Krzyzanowski
Jurij and Marie Kushner
L3 Harris
Alfred and Kathleen Laitenberger
Lakeshore Rochester Kiwanis
Don Lamb
Christopher Landon
Ann Landowne
Christine Lange
Susan Langmann
David Lanzillo
David Larson
Bryan LaVigne
Nancy Lavine
George Leaman
William Lear
Dulcy Lecour
Kathryn Leenay
Sandra Lehning
Christy Lesher
Jeffrey Levinn
Fraida and Steve Levinson
Katherine Lewis
Mary Ellen Lille
Wendy and William Lista
Vick Lukhaup
Helen and Dennis Lutz
Daniel and Cynthia Lynch
M&T Bank
Matthew Mack
AJ Magnan



Susan Mandl
Aaron Mannes
Amy and Dave Mantell
Marr Family Fund
Janice Marsden
Michele Martell
Christine Marten
David Mason
Stephen Maxon
Jennifer A McCall
p McCarthy
Sandra Anne McCausland
Gregory A. Franklin and Jean H. McCreary Charitable Foundation
Keith McCullough
Jeanne McElhinney
Karen McGarry
Maureen McGuire
Bruce and Jan McIntosh
Chuck and Judy McKeever
Nancy McMullen
Michael and Melissa McNaughton
Forrestine and Richard McNeary
Robert Meade
Louie Meader
Jackie Meese
Richard and Joanne Meisenzahl
Carmel Merrill
Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
Ruth and Lynn Messinger and Freedman
Diana Meyers
Jim Michels
Richard Micoli
Donna Mihalik
Stacey Miller
Tracy Miraglia
Cecily Molak
Cecily Molak
Ilene Montana
Christopher Moore
Gail Morelle
Robert Morris
Kathleen Morton
Ruth Morton
Danielle Moskowitz
Dennis Moss
Todd Moss
Mother Cabrini Health Foundation
Jodi Moughan
Barbara and Richard Mueller
Ellen Nakhnikian
James Napier
Neighbors for Refugees Inc.



Network for Good
Newark Rotary Club Inc.
Eugenia Nichols
Sarah Nicolson
Pam Notebaert
Jason Oaks
Oakwood Financial Services
Connor O'Brien
Mary O'brien - O'Brien Centennial Family Fund
Mary and Edward Olinger
Obaida Omar
Thomas Ort
Jean Ott
Our Lady of Mercy
Peter Owh
Ken Page
Michael Pallischeck
Wendy Papadopoulos
Jill Paperno
Amy and Keith Parr
Margaret Peet
Linda and James Peet
Jeannie Petrosky
Michael Philipson / The Philipson Group Inc.
Lindsay Phillips
Dominique Pierce
Ken Pitcher
Christine Platt
Jessica Polonsky
Joan and David Posner
Anita M Principi
William Prom
William Pryor
Barbara and Jeff Quine-Moran
Humeyra Rahim
Naveed and Caroline Rahman and Butler-Rahman
Chip Raines/Team Raines Inc
David Rakov
Susan Rayam
Jennifer Readlynn
Helen Reagan
Elizabeth (Betty) Reinhart
Arlene Reiser
Elizabeth Rennert - Exeter Trust
Lorilyn and David Reynolds
Susan Richane
Marcella Richer
Gail Richeson
Rose and Paul RichterHeppner
Marge Ricotta
Vicki Robinson
Rochester Area Community Foundation
Rochester Christian Reformed Church - Deacons Fund



Rochester Female Charitable Society
Anne Rodgers
Jessica Rodgers
Marilyn Rosche
Marilyn Rosen
Geoffrey and Janet Rosenberger
Joan Rosenthal
Jay Rowe
Margaret Ruehle
Susan Rupp
Tom and Ellen Rusling
Santa Sadat
Gunning Sandra
Mykel and Mike Sapienza
Sharin Sarfaty
Linda Schlosser
Kim Schmidt
J. Schmidt
Patrick Schmidt
Louis Schneider
Abbie H Schonfeld
Adriana Schubmehl
Jeffrey and Rita Schultz
Wayne Schultz
Wayne and Hilda Schultz
Jessica Scott Dutcher
Chandee Searcy
Marjorie and Scott Searl
Meg Segrue
SEI Private Trust Company
Wolf Seka
Noreen Selinger
Settlers Club
Leonard Shambon
Marcie Shapiro
Edward and Barbara Shapiro
Lucia Shaw
Robert Shaw
Gregor Shear
Ben Shobert
Barbara Shopiro
Jennifer Simson
Gregory Skalny
Judith Slein
James Sloan
Ellen Smith
Jennifer Smith
John Sobraske
Ellen Solomon
Irwin Solomon
Marc Solomon
Steven Solomon
Marilyn and Joseph Sottile
Mitchell Speicher
Spencerport Rotary Club
Spiritus Christie Church
Louis Spiro
Kim Staffieri
Darlene Steele
Nick Stefanovic
Peter Stein
Rosemarie and Frank Stepanik
Darren Stephens
Eugenia Steven
Vittoria Stirpe
Nathan Stodola
Irene Stumberger
Maximillian and Erica Suderow and Kaplan
Michelle and Bennett Sullivan
Summers Foundation Inc.
Albert Swett
Steve Szalowski

Paul Tamflin
Alexandra Terziev
Mary Lou Teumer
Bruce Thompson
Deni Thompson-Slaughter
Mary and Diane Thomson and Miller
Kim Tinder
Claire Torregiano
Jake Tower
Jeannine Tree
Ronald Trippodo
Alexander Tubman
Lois Tucker
Stacy Turowski
Kathleen Udavchak
Union Congregational United Church of Christ
United Way of Greater Rochester
Joan Updaw
Jean Van Etten
Lin Vanderstyne
Louise Vanni
Paulette VanSice
Vanteon CorporationDon and Cheryl VarnBeverly Verbridge
Veterans For Peace
Veterans Outreach Center
Sharon Vincent
Melissa Wade
Jill Wagstaff
Julia Walsh
Yvonne Wambach
Rand Warner - Rand L. and Marjorie Warner Foundation Trust
Estella and Richard Watkins
Jennifer Weber
Webster Presbyterian Church
Wegmans Food Markets Inc.
Sue Weiner
Arlin Weingold
Greg Weinrieb
Robin Weintraub
Brian Weireter
Jonathan Welch
Welcome Fund - Welcome.US
Alice Wells
Dawn Wendt
Nancy Westendorf
Sally and James Whitbeck
Karen White
Sarah White
Sarah and Richard White and McNeary
Carolyn Whitfield
Helen Wiley
Marc Williamson
WRJ/TBK Sisterhood
David Wunderlich
Fred Wurtz
Rona Wyner
Swellar Zhuo
James Zielinski
Karen Zielinski
Sabina Zolte
Aaron Zwas

