



Educate. Empower. Embrace.



*(Pictured) High School English Learner students at World Refugee Day*

# 2022

## Annual Report

Fostering New American integration through work with individuals, families, and the Greater Grand Forks Community.



### Photo Credits

Cover: Mark Broden (2022)

Inside Cover: Mark Broden (2022)

Back Cover: Mark Broden (2022)

Inside Cover: Mark Broden (2022)

Pages 8, 9, 16, 17: Mark Broden (2022)

*All other photos provided by staff or volunteers (2022)*

*(Pictured) Attendees eagerly await free cultural foods at our Community Picnic*



## 2022 Board of Directors

**Marina Kojic**, President  
**Ione Seidlinger**, Vice President  
**Cindy Jensen**, Secretary  
**Robbin Rendahl**, Treasurer  
**Faye Pederson**, Member-at-Large  
**Chyna Lynner**, Member-at-Large  
**Elias Dean**, Member-at-Large  
**Andria Pinkerton**, Member-at-Large  
**Maura Ferguson**, Member-at-Large  
**Sahra Abdullahi**, Member-at-Large

**Ranju Dhungana**, Advisor  
**Aisha Hassan**, Advisor



*(Pictured, L-R) Faye Pederson, Ione Seidlinger, Maura Ferguson, Marina Kojic, Cindy Jensen, Andria Pinkerton, Cynthia Shabb, Sahra Abdullahi, (front) Prakash Pathak*

## 2022 Staff & Interns

**Cynthia Shabb**, Executive Director  
**Adam Fortwengler**, Program Coordinator  
**Faith Peterson**, Social Work Intern, University of North Dakota  
**Terra Lindquist**, Public Administration Intern, University of North Dakota  
**Houefa Dossou Gouchola**, Public Health Intern, University of North Dakota



*Faith Peterson  
Spring 2022 Intern*



*Terra Lindquist  
Summer 2022 Intern*



*Houefa Dossou Gouchola  
Summer 2022 Intern*



## From Our President

2022 was a big and memorable year for Global Friends Coalition! Your commitment to continue to welcome and to support the new Americans is inspiring and motivating. Here are just a few big things that happened this year:

The Global Friends Coalition board voted to broaden our mission to include all New Americans. As a result, we will continue to work with and advocate for New Americans who come to Greater Grand Forks as refugees, as well as those who choose this area as their home through other means of immigration.

Our application to be an affiliate of Church World Service was approved by the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration for the 2023 year. For the past fourteen years the mission of Global Friends Coalition has been to foster refugee (New American) integration. As an affiliate of CWS we will be expanding our mission to include refugee resettlement.

Cynthia and Adam's application to be legal representatives for clients seeking legal immigration assistance had been approved by the Department of Justice.

My favorite event continues to be the Community Picnic. The different food, speakers, conversations, games, music, and the people who came to share information and resources about their organization was fantastic! We estimate that 700 people attended. The Liberian Community went all out in showcasing some of their cultural artifacts and foods. Grand Forks is fortunate to have West African Cuisine. They made delicious Jollof rice and meat pies. All of the ethnic restaurants including Mount Everest, Chino Latino, Juba Cafe, and French Taste did their very best.

I am beyond thankful for all your support to the Global Friends Coalition. It is because of this support that we are able to commit to resettle New Americans and to continue our current integration programs to everyone, including in-home mentoring, adult education classes, direct services, in-school tutoring, and youth programming, as well as our outreach to the community.

Thank you!!

With a grateful heart,

  
Marina Kojic



## From Our Executive Director

If you're like me, you wonder where 2022 has gone! For us at Global Friends Coalition, it was a year of deciding where our organization wanted to be with the future of refugee resettlement. The Global Friends Board and staff were moved to apply to Church World Service (CWS) to resettle refugees due to the large number of displaced persons in the world. In May 2022, when we were making these decisions, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reported 100 million people displaced by war, violence, persecution, and human rights abuses. As a result, we worked on an application to become an affiliate of CWS. This entailed meetings, talking to various individuals and groups, to ensure there is support in Grand Forks for resettlement. The good news is that we had outstanding support from everyone we talked with: from City and County leaders to faith leaders. We learned in November of 2022 that we were accepted as an affiliate of Church World Service, allowing us to resettle approximately 60 to 90 refugees in Fiscal Year 2023.

We took another step: that of becoming partially accredited legal representatives through the Department of Justice. The application process for that entailed completing courses, attending webinars, and job shadowing attorneys who provide legal immigration services. Our application for that was approved in November 2022, along with the news that we were accepted as affiliates of CWS! As a result, we are able to assist with some legal immigration services.

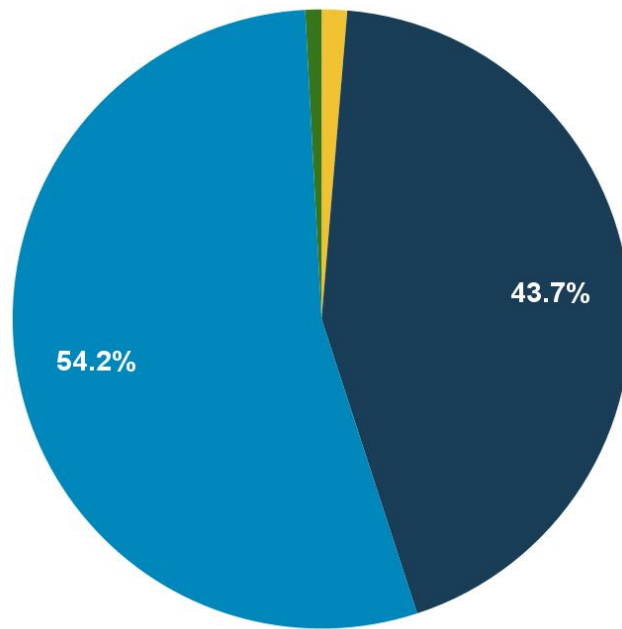
For the past fourteen years the mission of Global Friends Coalition has been to foster refugee (New American) integration. As an affiliate of CWS, this responsibility of resettlement comes with funding from the federal government and will expand our welcoming efforts. We will be the point of contact for new arrivals and will work with individuals and families in their journey of acclimating and becoming part of Greater Grand Forks. Our strong network of community collaborators that we have built as a coalition will be instrumental in providing assistance to newcomers. Additionally, Global Friends is committed to maintaining its three existing programs: Family Mentors and Adult Education, Resilient Youth, and Outreach and Advocacy. We are still figuring out how to fit all of this together. We hope you come along with us on this journey.

In friendship,

Cynthia Shabb  
Executive Director, Global Friends Coalition

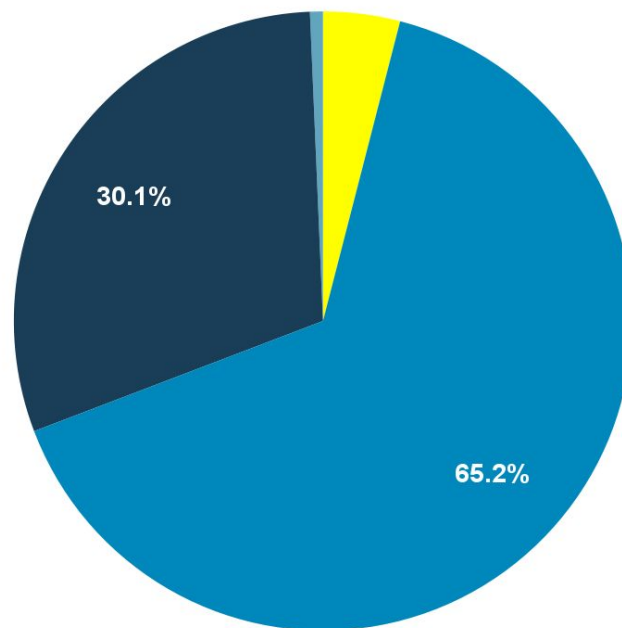
# Our Financials

**Revenue**  
**\$167,573.34**



- Events
- Individual Gifts
- Grants
- Investment

**Expenses**  
**\$179,260.22**



- Building & Facilities
- Programming
- General Admin
- Fundraising

# Fundraising Highlights

**270 individuals and 15 organizations donated to Global Friends in 2022!**

Our endowment through the Community Foundation, established in 2016, ended the year at **\$28,606.31**.

Our monthly giving program grew to over \$3,840.



*(Pictured) Ivona Todorovic, ND's 2023 Teacher of the Year, speaks about her resettlement experience at a Slice of Thanksgiving.*

## Giving Hearts Day

**TOTAL: \$21,776.52**

196 donations, averaging \$111.10

*We were able to break the \$20k mark for the second year in a row!*

## A Slice of Thanksgiving

**TOTAL: \$4,085.22**

37 donations, averaging \$110.41

*More than 50 people attended the event at Calvary Lutheran Church - enjoying pie from area bakeries and great speakers.*

## Year End Giving

**TOTAL: \$6,111.44**

41 donations, averaging \$149.06

*Our letter campaign was sent to nearly 400 households.*

# Volunteer of the Year



## 2022 Global Friends Volunteer of the Year Terra Lindquist

Terra received this award in recognition of her valuable contributions to the lives of New Americans and to the work of Global Friends. Her compassion and empathy are key to her ability to quickly build relationships with the New Americans she volunteers with. Terra's connection with one family was so strong that the woman she was working with considers Terra a sister and even trusted her to be with along side of her throughout the entire labor and delivery of one of her children. Additionally, as an intern in the summer of 2022, Terra helped Global Friends tremendously with building stronger relationships with other New American-focused organizations in the community, conducted a community-wide survey on how Global Friends could best help families, and represented Global Friends at a number of events and meetings. Throughout the fall of 2022, Terra also assisted with vaccine education and outreach.





*(Pictured) English learner students celebrate with flags on stage at World Refugee Day celebrations in downtown Grand Forks.*

# Integration Programming

*The core of our work since 2008, our integration programming, made up of our three traditional programs, continued to directly serve over 150 New Americans in our community through in-home, in-school, and community-wide initiatives.*



*Red River HS EL students with their art.*

## Family Mentors & Adult Education

- More than nine people who attended our classes obtained U.S. citizenship in 2022!
- We provided direct service to over 100 New Americans, filling out forms, organizing documentation, and advocating for families with service providers in our community.
- Our Easy English News class continued, helping more than a dozen individuals further their literacy and speaking skills.

## Resilient Youth

- Two groups of high school English learners participated in field trips at Turtle River State Park with an emphasis on improving our mental health.
- Red River High School English Learner seniors participated in a year-end art project with a local artist.
- English learners worked with playwright Kathy Coudle-King and presented on stage at World Refugee Day.
- Four elementary-aged children attended art camp through the ND Museum of Art.

## Community Outreach & Advocacy

- We held more than 23 events and speaking engagements in 2022, presenting information to over 1,300 individuals.
- Our Community Picnic, co-hosted with the Liberian Community of Grand Forks, served more than 700 people with free cultural foods, music, and activities. Speakers included: Brandon Bochenski (GF Mayor), Dr. Andrew Armacost (UND President), and Dr. Terry Brenner (GF Public Schools Superintendent).

# Planning for the Future Of Global Friends

*2022 was a year of planning our next steps as we grow as an organization. Two new initiatives were strategically selected to best fill vital roles in our community, especially after the closure of Lutheran Social Services of ND.*



**CWS**  
Church World Service

## **Refugee Resettlement**

Global Friends became a resettlement affiliate of Church World Service, one of nine national resettlement agencies in the United States. Exhaustive planning and training was required, and many consultations with community stakeholders took place in order to both qualify as a primary resettlement site, and ensure our community was ready for larger numbers of resettlement again. We were approved for up to 60 individuals to be resettled through Global Friends in fiscal year 2023 (October 2022 - September 2023). As part of our “reception and placement” responsibilities, we must find suitable housing for the family, furnish the apartment, meet them at the airport, provide initial necessities, and provide case management for their first 90 days after arrival.

## **Immigration Legal Services**

Partnering with the Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC), both staff members underwent extensive legal training, observation, and hands-on experience as part of the Department of Justice’s Recognition and Accreditation program. This program allows non-attorneys employed at recognized nonprofits to become accredited to practice immigration law with a narrow scope of services targeted towards mostly low-income clients. Global Friends received DOJ recognition, and Cynthia and Adam accreditation, in late November 2022. We are now able to offer immigration legal services such as naturalization, green card services, family sponsorship, and more.



*(Pictured) Global Friends intern, Faith Peterson, and the elementary after school mentoring group she oversaw at East Grand Forks Senior High School.*

# Thank You Donors!

*\* Donations received between 1/1/22 - 12/31/22. While we try not to make mistakes, please contact us if you see an error or have been left out of our report.*

## **Philanthropists (\$1000+)**

Charles Christianson & Mary Wakefield  
Hal and Kathleen Gershman Family Foundation  
Kelly Ham  
Sarah & Nick Jensen  
Erin & Carter Kunz  
Dakota Don's Artisan Waffles  
Cynthia & John Shabb  
Joe & Janice Sowokinos  
Sue & Keith Swanson  
Jenna & Joe Zavoral

## **Humanitarians (\$500 - \$999)**

Kaye Carlson  
First Presbyterian Church  
Robin David & Brian Schill  
Gail Hand  
Donna Hastings  
EERC  
Janice Jelliff  
Patti Jensen  
Kathryn Kester  
Dave Lambeth & Cecilia Volden  
David Nelson & Joyce Wicklund  
Sing Along Messiah Fundraiser by the GF  
Chorales  
Galstad, Jensen & McCann, P.A

## **Visionaries (\$250 - \$499)**

Karen & Rich Axvig  
Patricia Berggren  
Irena Bobicic  
Heidi Heitkamp  
Cindy & Warren Jensen  
Clara Jurivich  
Marina & Marko Kojic  
Marsha & Kevin Lange  
Karen & Kent Lovelace  
Dr. Eric Lunn  
Dean Opp & Mary Haslerud  
Kristine Paranica  
Cathy & David Perry  
Courtney Ritterman  
Mark & Gloria Sanford  
James & Judy Schill  
Gary Towne  
GIFT of Grace Lutheran Ministry

## **Providers (\$100 - \$249)**

Emily Adams  
Valerie & Vincent Ames  
Jen and Dave Berger  
Brent Braga  
Tim Brakke  
Terence Brenner  
Roxanne Burkholder  
Sharon Carson  
Ed Christ & Kelly Chris  
Julie Christian  
YeeHan Chu  
Jonathan Ellwein  
Cassel Everson  
Steven Finney  
Angela & Cory Floden  
Barry & Ann Folsom  
Ron Franz  
Devi Gatraj  
Lisa Gibson & Ronald Lozano  
Gretchen Graf  
Benjamin & Rachel Greenlee  
Rachelle Haga  
Katelyn Hildebrand  
Rex Huss  
Tori & Mike Johnson  
Katherine Sukalski & Thomas Johnson  
Brenda & Stephen Johnson  
Sam & MaryAnn Johnson  
Andre Kehn & Carolyn Ozaki  
Susan Kiesow  
Stephanie LaDue  
Tracy LeDuc  
Samuel Lerma  
Joel & Amy Medd  
Barry Milavetz  
Dawn Morken  
Kevin & ViAnn Olson  
Treasure Omdahl  
Casey Ozaki  
Glenn & Jill Ozaki  
Madeline Patterson  
Rolf & Linda Paulson  
Faye & Billy Pederson  
Betsy & Dexter Perkins  
Dynamic Life Enhancements LLC dba  
LefseStore.com

# Thank You Donors!

## **(Providers Continued)**

Allison Peterson  
Sally Pyle  
Michael Rabon  
Robbin Rendahl  
Youna Rhee & Chang Yi  
Mary Jo & Ken Schill  
Vicki Schmidt  
MIZUHO SCHWALM  
Ione Seidlinger  
Alice Senechal  
Connie Sherwood  
Grace & Everett Sondreal  
Carla Steen  
Karen Tankersley  
Jennifer Tarlin  
Ivona Todorovic  
Coiya Tompkins  
Terrance Traynor  
Aida & Richard Wakefield  
Bret Weber & Carenlee Barkdull  
Brad Westrum  
Kay Williams  
Sonia & Delore Zimmerman  
Sharon Lutheran Women of the ELCA  
JLG Architects

## **Advocates (\$50 - \$99)**

Claire Anderson  
Ernie & Sarah Anderson  
Becky Ault  
Sarah Barron  
Becca & Wayne Baumbach  
Kaia Berggren  
Cheryl Biller  
JOSHUA BOSCHEE  
Evan Boucher  
Dawn & Bob Boyd  
Rose Brandt  
Lizzi Brosseau  
Kiersten Brutger  
Dominique & Max Buchholz  
Beth Carlson  
Anneetta Jean  
Karen Cisek & Van Doze  
Karla & Peter Coen-Tuff  
Jane Croeker  
Becca Cruger  
Marian DeBeltz  
Kristijana Dogan  
Suraya Driscoll

## **(Advocates Continued)**

Amy Eisenmann  
Elizabeth Ferguson  
Kathleen Fick  
Rosemary Flynn  
Corinna Fortwengler  
Brad Gibbens  
Catherine Gillach  
Karen Givand  
Melissa Gjellstad  
Cherie Graves  
Julene & Paul Griffin  
Chris & Christopher Henderson  
Harvey Henderson  
Michele & Joel Iiams  
Zachary Ista  
Brent and Kristi Hall Jiran  
Bethany Klemetsrud & Tawanda Murinda  
Jeff & Kristi Larson  
Karna Loyland  
Doug & Sandi Marshall  
Richard McGurran  
Sue McLeod  
Deborah Morrison  
Sally Nordlie  
Lorraine O'Shea  
Kylie Oversen  
Laurel Payne  
Ann Porter  
Dalton Ramos  
Emma & Darien Schreiber  
Don & Bobbie Shields  
Molly Soeby  
Terri Staples & James Pender  
Deborah Swanson  
Janice Tangen  
Kyle Thorson  
Daniel Todorovic  
Heidi Undlin Stevens  
Jack & Charan Wadhawan  
Rebecca Waege  
Joel Walz & Hayley Svedjan  
Geneva Weekley  
Pat & Russell Wilber  
Tom Wogsland  
Greater Grand Forks Retired Teachers Association  
St Mark's Women of the ELCA

# Thank You Donors!

## **Neighbors (\$1 - \$49)**

Sheri Altepeter  
Barbara Beach  
Linda Bedard  
Tricia Berg  
Katelyn Bohan  
Mike Brue  
Roberta Carrlson  
Lorraine Clemens  
Paul Clemetson  
Building Bridges  
Matt Collings  
Kathleen Coudle-King & Alan King  
Mary Crow  
Katie Dachtler  
Elias Dean  
Elisabeth Deere  
Christine Dewey  
Sage Doehler  
Nikolina Dogan  
Keenan Ebey  
Ann Ercelawn  
Jonas Ferguson  
Maura Ferguson  
Rocco Ferguson  
Dana Fiedler  
Jill Ford  
Adam Fortwengler  
Catherine Gillach  
Barb Heap  
Molly Haagenson  
Cheri Halcrow  
Catherine Harden  
Kylie Hastings  
Judith Heier  
Nancy & Robert Helgerson  
Emilia Hodgson  
Jonathan & Emily Holth  
Tawnia Horn Hoidahl  
Rosemary Hoverson  
Catherine Johnson  
Marsha & Peter Johnson  
Christie Johnson  
Kadan Kaej  
Sara Kaiser  
Linda & Ross Keys  
Mina Kharel  
Judith Kletzien  
Sandra Knight

## **(Neighbors Continued)**

Theresa Knox  
Kristina Knutson  
Lacey Kraft  
Karyn & Patrick Krause  
Lillie Lambert  
Kristen & Brian Larsen-Schmidt  
Mary Ann Laxen  
Jane LeDuc  
Matthew Leiphon  
Brenda Lewis  
Emberly Lietz  
Maggie Lou  
Daniel Luney  
Chyna Lynner  
John & Cathy Martsolf  
Lucy Matejcek  
Bruce Morlock  
Betty Nordeng  
Olivia Novak  
Paul Olson  
Rosa Panzarella  
Andrea Parks  
Andria Pinkerton  
Cynthia Prescott  
Rachael & Randy Puttbrese  
Fred & Donna Remer  
Susanne restemayer  
Katie Rose  
Kayla Salyers  
McKenzie Salyers  
Ryan Salyers  
Cheryl Schaeffle  
Katie Schuler  
Kaleena Seidlinger  
Kia Seidlinger  
Lisa Shapiro  
Milo & Fawn Smith  
Callie Smith  
Jeannie Sollom  
Barb Solway  
Kristina & Travis Stepps  
Fayme Stringer Henry  
Trisha Stromsodt Hoefs  
Sue Thomes  
Zachary Tomczik  
Kari Torkelson  
Joshua Tripp

# Thank You Donors!

## (Neighbors Continued)

Juli Tubby  
Roselynn Urness  
Brooke VanLooy  
Katie and Ricky Vogel  
Carol Wendel  
Annella & Steve Winger  
American Sugar  
Red River Valley Commodities  
Gate City Bank



*(Above) UND Medical School students provided wellness checkups and taught about the importance of wholistic wellness with Red River HS EL students.  
(Below) High school EL students perform a play written and directed by Kathy Coudle-King at World Refugee Day*





# Thank You Volunteers!

*\* Volunteers who submitted hours and/or completed orientation between 1/1/2022 and 12/31/2022. While we try not to make mistakes, please contact us if you see an error or have been left out of our report.*

Sahra Abdulahi  
Deka Ali  
Alexis Anderson  
Corey Birkholz  
Craig Burns  
Elise Carroll  
Jenessa Casey  
Stacia Cherne  
Elias Dean  
Ranju Dhungana  
Houefa Dossou Gouchola  
Jonathan Ellwein  
Emily English  
Maura Ferguson  
Camille Finney  
Lisa Gibson  
Chuck Haga  
Kassidy Hager  
Amber Harmel  
Aisha Hassan  
Kelly Hisek  
Jeremy Horbul  
Caitlin Hovde  
Therese Hugg  
Audrey Hung  
Kara Hung  
Madison Iverson  
Jan Jelliff  
Cindy Jensen  
Marina Kojic  
Terra Lindquist  
Madison Longtin  
Chyna Lynner  
Jordan Machacek  
Jade McGuire  
Kaha Mohamud  
Tina Morris  
Cindy Newton  
Miina Okino  
Sean Oppenheimer  
Prakash Pathak  
Faye Pederson  
Samantha Penland  
Betsy Perkins  
Faith Petersen  
Janae Phillips  
Andria Pinkerton

Gloria Popoca  
Hannah Prody  
Kati Quaintance  
Susilla Rai  
Odele Rajpathy  
Robbin Rendahl  
Elizabeth Rosseau  
Ione Seidlinger  
John Shabb  
Bailey Soupir  
Ashlei Stanczyk  
Kira Symington  
Kirati Tayutivutikul  
Savannah Vance  
Ashley Wavra  
Pat Wilber  
Julie Zamkulu  
RRHS Students  
UND Medical School  
UND Nursing  
UND OT  
UND Social Work



*(Pictured) Attendees at our 2022 Community Picnic*

# Thank You Grantors!





*(Pictured) Soccer at our 2022 Community Picnic*



**For more information, to volunteer,**  
**or to request a volunteer:**

[www.GFCoalition.org](http://www.GFCoalition.org)

[facebook.com/GlobalFriendsCoalition](https://facebook.com/GlobalFriendsCoalition)

[info@GFCoalition.org](mailto:info@GFCoalition.org)

701-746-8233