

GERA Impact Report



**Upholding the dignity of
those affected by conflicts**

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**GLOBAL EMERGENCY
RESPONSE AND
ASSISTANCE**

Introduction

OUR VISION

GERA's vision is to help create, advocate for, and manifest a world in which every refugee, migrant, or displaced person receives the basic living necessities to ensure that they live a healthy and just life in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

OUR MISSION

The mission of Global Emergency Response and Assistance (GERA) is to protect human rights, and restore the dignity, well-being, and safety of those physically, emotionally, and mentally affected by conflicts.

ABOUT US



Global Emergency Response and Assistance (GERA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides aid, relief, and alleviation assistance to refugees, new arrivals in host countries, and internally displaced persons.

By assisting such individuals with basic supplies and supporting their assimilation process, GERA helps support the values of human dignity and human rights.

GERA works on the ground in coordination with like-minded individuals and organizations within the community for a more effective delivery of services.

In conjunction with local governments and community based organizations, GERA has been working to support the resettlement of refugees from all over the world since 2016.

GERA's programs have positively impacted over 12,000 refugees from Syria, Afghanistan, Nicaragua, Ukraine and elsewhere.

GERA operates in New Jersey and California.



Impact Snapshot

2021-2023

10,000+

Afghan refugees received emergency assistance at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst

1,825

Individuals received wraparound services in NJ and CA

300+

Afghan, Nicaraguan, Ukrainian, Eritrean, Venezuelan refugees received support and donations from GERA

116

(100) Displaced women and children in Burkina Faso, (12) children in Nicaragua, (1 family) Kenya and 3 refugees in (Germany) received international aid from GERA

PROGRAMS

2021-2023

PROGRAMS	DETAILS	MAJOR OUTCOMES
Medical Assistance	Provide direct medical services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provided full check-up and follow-up care for 10 pediatric patients• Provided for prescription medications for women's health, pediatrics, and other ailments
Food Security	Provide food assistance to individuals and families in need	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$12,000 spent in direct food assistance to 300 families in compliance with cultural and religious dietary restrictions• Partnered with DoorDash to provide food vouchers worth \$5,000
Employment Support	Support clients in their pursuit of obtaining gainful employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partnered with Pfizer to hire refugees• Participated in multiple job fairs• 140 Uber rides to provide clients with a way to travel to interviews.



PROGRAMS

2016-2023

PROGRAMS

DETAILS

MAJOR OUTCOMES

Humanitarian Assistance

Provide wraparound services and direct aid

- **40 truckloads** of donations to Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst valued at **\$500k**
- **100 Syrian refugees** provided aid
- Hosted donation drives for Ukrainian Refugees.
- Supported the reunification of refugee families in Germany
- Supported housing for families forcefully evicted in Kenya
- Humanitarian visit to Turkey refugee camp to provide necessities
- Provided aid for **100 displaced women and children** in Burkina Faso



Housing and Rental Assistance

Provide assistance for the most prominent financial hurdle to refugee families.

- Oversaw the direct resettlement of **25 Afghan Refugees**
- Provided direct assistance for rent and utilities to **30 newcomers**.
- Secured mattresses, bed frames, furniture, TVs, rugs and more.

English Language Acquisition

Teach English in a culturally sensitive manner

- **120 Refugees** have been equipped with English knowledge to work, attend school, and build relationships.

Supporting Afghan Newcomers

Following Kabul's fall and the refugee crisis, GERA tackled unique challenges in aiding Afghan refugees on military bases and supporting their resettlement.

GERA assisted families in applying for benefits - including SNAP, TANF, NJ Family Care, Charity Care, and Medical appointments. Twenty-five Afghan children were successfully enrolled in schools. GERA also leads the [New Jersey Coalition for Afghan Refugees](#) and advocates for the passing of the [Afghan Adjustment Act](#).

SUPPORT TO AFGHAN FAMILIES

10,000

Afghan refugees received emergency assistance at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst

32

Families provided wraparound services

25

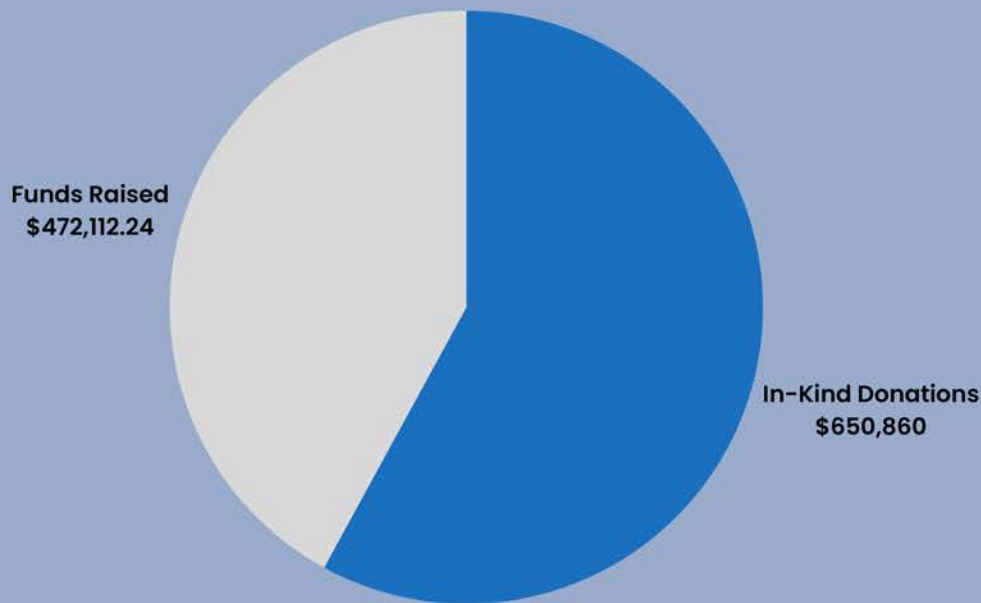
Afghan Children Enrolled in School



FUNDS RAISED

FUNDS RAISED 2021-2023

\$ 1,122,972.24



- Over the last three years, GERA has received support in various forms, including corporate giving, grants, and in-kind donations, totaling \$1,130,888.52.
- The in-kind contributions include winter coats, Uber rides, sanitary items, DoorDash certificates, beds, furniture, and 40 trucks filled with donations valued at \$500,000, including essential sanitation and healthcare items.
- Grants were received from **IRUSA, Columbia Bank, Robert Woods Foundation, Fidelity Charitable, North Jersey Interfaith Care, Walmart Foundation, Dollar General, Hello Neighbor, John P and Anne Welsh McNulty Fund, North Jersey Interfaith Care, Chase, Charles and Marilyn Clark Charitable Fund, Welcome US.**



Our Work





IN THE NEWS

The New York Times

Music and Cookouts in a Tent City for Afghans Starting Life in the U.S.

On a military base in New Jersey, 8,500 people who fled their country as it fell to the Taliban await the next step in their journey.

News Bergen Passaic Essex Sports HS Sports USA TODAY Obituaries eNewspaper

'Extraordinary effort': Volunteers in Paterson collect donations for Ukraine



Jim Beckerman
NorthJersey.com

Published 6:58 p.m. ET March 19, 2022 | Updated 7:10 p.m. ET March 19, 2022



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ABOUT US

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INSIGHTS

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HOUSING

OUR STORIES

DONATE

Federal Immigration Policy Refugees

Local Aid Groups Help Nearly 9,000 Afghans Housed at New Jersey Military Base

The capacity at the Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst is expected to expand in order to house at least 10,000 individuals

GIULIA McDONNELL NIETO DEL RIO
SEP 13, 2021

PARTNERS

Pfizer successfully employed 500 refugees due to partnerships with organizations like GERA.



Kabir Kamall, a client of GERA, on his first day working at Pfizer

GERA's collaboration with Pfizer, pledging to employ 500 refugees, is pivotal in tackling a crucial challenge faced by refugees upon arriving in the United States: job insecurity.

This partnership not only emphasizes GERA's dedication to comprehensive and sustainable refugee support but also showcases its proactive stance in overcoming barriers that impede refugees from accessing meaningful employment opportunities.

ADVOCACY



Since 2016, GERA has been supporting the values of human dignity and human rights by advocating for the rights of refugees and those affected by conflict.

GERA works with elected officials to ensure that human rights and the protection of human dignity remain at the forefront of refugee assistance and policies.

- GERA is affiliated with the **United Nations' Department of Global Communications**.
- In 2021, the government of **Passaic County, NJ** recognized GERA with an official proclamation commending GERA for its work, and joined other local governments to declare June 20th World Refugee Day.
- GERA's leadership team has led workshops with a network of **over 2,000 young leaders** on how to advance the rights of displaced people and participated in panel meetings and conferences at the United Nations to advocate for social protections for refugees.
- GERA is part of the Ukraine Initiative led by the **US Government and Welcome.US**, and is part of the Coalition to welcome Ukrainian refugees to the United States.
- GERA has supported **UNICEF's Refugees Welcome Campaign** and World's Children's Day events.

RECOGNITIONS

In April 2022, GERA was featured in the One Young World 2021 Impact Report, which allowed us to amplify our mission on a global platform.

In June 2022, Valeria Gomez Palacios, GERA Co-Founder, engaged in the Business Fights Poverty Global Summit 2022, prioritizing cross-sector partnership against multidimensional poverty.



In December 2023, Valeria Gomez Palacios, was awarded the *Hispanic Star Award: Changemakers Shaping the U.S.* presented by ASHOKA & the We Are All Human Foundation. In recognition of outstanding contributions and fostering positive change within the Latino and Hispanic communities through her work with GERA.



In October 2022, our commitment to impactful change was recognized as our Executive Director Sikandar Khan and Advisor Freshta Taeb were honored with the Muslims For Peace (MFP) Humanitarian Award.

EXPANSION

In 2022 GERA expanded its operations to California

Through the creation of a California branch, GERA continues to carry out its mission of protecting the dignity, well-being, and safety of those affected by conflicts.

The California branch is led by Soleiman Rahel, U.S. Air Force Colonel, who served as the Governor of Task Force Liberty at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst where he oversaw the operation of the largest and most successful refugee operation in the US. During this time Col. Rahel led over 1400 airmen, soldiers, sailors, and marines in welcoming over 16,000 displaced Afghans into their new homes across the U.S. GERA California is supporting various newcomers, asylum-seekers, and refugees by providing rental support, hosting job fairs, and providing immediate assistance.



After overseeing the largest and most successful refugee operations in the United States, Colonel Soleiman Rahel now serves as the Director of GERA in California.

GERA CALIFORNIA

Established October 2022, GERA California has successfully delivered essential services to refugee families in Sacramento, CA, and beyond.

- Distributed over 200 Chrome books to refugee families.
- Hosted the Nowruz festival in April 2023 with over 1500 individuals in attendance, with music, games, food, and an art therapy workshop attended by over 200 children and families.
- Provided \$10,000 in rental assistance to families facing eviction.
- Distributed household goods including - beds, mattresses, and furniture to families.
- Created legal videos to explain asylum and general immigration questions and concerns.



- Created the GERA robotics team made of 10 refugee teenagers.
- Hosted monthly women's wellness programs focusing on women's health attended by 45 refugee women.
- Led digital literacy classes to assist families in being better equipped to tackle school, doctor, and other daily interactions.
- Supported the USCIS Afghan Support Center in Sacramento registering 45 families for various supports

- Provide weekly conversational English classes to assist refugees in improving their communication skills.
- Conduct cultural programs to help refugees maintain social connection and preserve cultural identity while integrating into a new society
- Lead youth field trips to local science museums and local art centers.



- Hosts monthly art therapy workshops addressing trauma in youth.
- Provide skills-training workshops to youth and their parents to help them address and manage trauma(s). Workshops have an average of 50-75 children in attendance.
- Host Robotics workshops to bring STEM programming to newcomers and drive them to explore technology fields as careers with the participation of 40 children and teenagers.



PARTNERS, FUNDERS, FRIENDS

- Andre Sayegh, Mayor of Paterson
- CAIR USA
- Catholic Charities Trenton
- Charles and Marilyn Clark Charitable Fund
- Chase Bank
- Columbia Bank
- Communities for Hope
- Sen. Corey Booker
- Dollar General
- DoorDash
- Fidelity Charitable
- GERA's Board of Directors
- GERA's Advisory Board
- Hello Neighbor
- ICNA Relief
- IRUSA
- John P. and Anne Welsh McNulty Fund
- Meghan Kabir
- Mozhdah Jamalzadah
- North Jersey Interfaith Cares
- NJ Coalition for Afghan Refugees
- One Young World
- Passaic County Board of County Commissioners
- Pfizer
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Asw Sadaf Jaffer, PhD
- Uber Technologies, Inc
- UC San Diego
- Ustad Mangal
- Walmart Foundation
- Welcome.US



**We're
grateful to
you!**

We couldn't have done it without your generous

support.


Thank you

to all our partners,
advisors, donors,
funders, and
volunteers.

GERA's work with refugee families would not have been possible without the contributions of the people who worked tirelessly on the projects mentioned within.

 info@gera-ngo.org

 www.gera-ngo.org

 229 Crooks Ave Ste 402
Clifton, NJ 07011-1614

