2026 IMPACT REPORT

Rides 4 REFUGEES of Central Ohio



Driver Training | Vehicle Support | Greater Independence

Moving Forward

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

We Are Moving Forward!

Thank you for believing in Rides 4 Refugees and supporting our mission with your time, talents, and generosity. Every contribution, large or small, helps change lives.

Together, we are doing much more than providing transportation. We are helping refugees rebuild their lives, become self-reliant, and discover new opportunities in their communities.

This past year has reminded me how much we can learn from the people we help. Their courage, determination, and willingness to start over is inspiring. And the joy on a family's face when they receive a vehicle reminds us why our work matters.

As you read this report, I hope you will see not only what we have accomplished together, but also the tremendous potential of the people we serve.

And do not miss our plans for 2027, as we have big things happening to grow and drive to be a sustainable organization and continue helping those in need with transportation support.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Let's keep **moving forward** together!

Thanks for reading, and I'll see you down the road!

Kevin Thelen
President, Rides 4 Refugees

OUR IMPACT

More Than Transportation. A Path to Independence.

Every refugee who comes to Central Ohio brings a unique story, personal challenges, and hopes for a better future.

For many, reliable transportation is one of the greatest barriers to rebuilding their lives. Without a vehicle, getting to work, attending classes, shopping for groceries, or taking children to appointments can be extremely difficult.





Rides 4 Refugees helps remove these barriers through driver training, vehicle purchase assistance, donated vehicles, and ongoing vehicle ownership support.

The impact goes far beyond transportation. A vehicle creates opportunities for employment, education, family stability, and independence.

Every family we help represents another step toward a stronger, more self-reliant community.





"Sometimes the greatest measure of our impact isn't a number. It's the excitement on a child's face."

A CLIENT STORY

Omar's Story: Courage and a New Beginning

When asked why he left Somalia, Omar explained that he could say he wanted a better life for his family. But years of conflict and instability had made even a reasonable, safe life difficult to achieve. Leaving was a necessity.

In Somalia, Omar was a history and geography teacher. Today, he works as a home health aide while continuing to improve his English and rebuild his career.

Learning to drive was another important challenge. It took patience, determination, and many hours of practice, but Omar never gave up.

With support from Rides 4 Refugees, Omar earned his driver's license and received a donated vehicle, giving his family greater independence and access to opportunities.

Given the opportunity, people like Omar can become valued coworkers, neighbors, friends, and leaders in our communities.



"Refugees bring education, experience, ambition, and a determination to contribute."

THE RIPPLE EFFECT

The Power of Giving Back

One of the most rewarding parts of our work is seeing what happens after someone receives the transportation support they need.

2023



Shokria– Rides4 Refugees Vehicle Match Grant Recipient

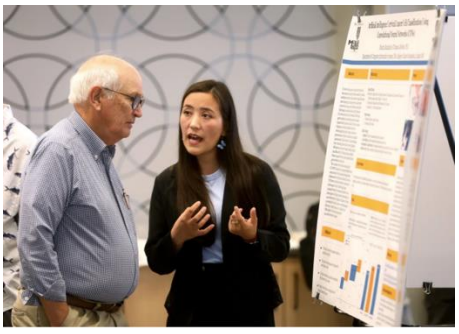
One of the first refugees we helped purchase a vehicle is now conducting advanced research using artificial intelligence to improve cancer detection.

Think about the possibilities. **Someone who once needed help getting to work may someday contribute to research that saves the life of someone we know.**

That is the lasting power of giving. Our support is not simply a gift to one person. It is an investment in their potential and in the future of our entire community.

What we do for ourselves may end with us. What we do for others can live on for generations.

2026



For Shokria, her project centered on using artificial intelligence to detect cancerous cervical cells in a matter of minutes, a process that normally can take weeks.
“My first semester here, it was very hard,” said Shokria, who immigrated to the U.S. from Afghanistan. “And I worked very hard, and I figured it out..”

“When we help someone become self-reliant, we create opportunities for them to help countless others.”

Our 2026 Achievements

BY THE NUMBERS

26 Driver Trainings

16

On Road Driver Training

Drivers who **earned their driver's licenses** after completing behind-the-wheel training and passing exams.

10

Advanced Driver Training

Drivers who **completed advanced driver training** to improve vehicle control in challenging driving conditions.

11 Vehicles

5

Vehicle Match Grant Clients

Clients who **purchased a vehicle** with Rides 4 Refugees' guidance and a **$4,000 matching grant**.

6

Mobility Now Clients

Clients who **received safe, reliable donated vehicles** by contributing toward refurbishment costs.

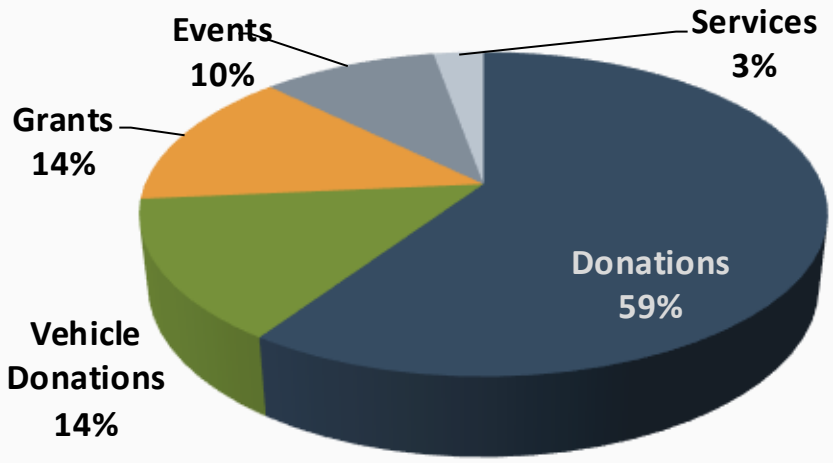
This adds an additional 5000 commutes per year. Along with trips to grocery stores, schools and doctor's visits and other activities like festivals, parks, recreation, concerts and family vacations.

"We continue to help refugees become safe and competent vehicle owner and operators – to rebuild their lives here in the U.S."

Financial Report

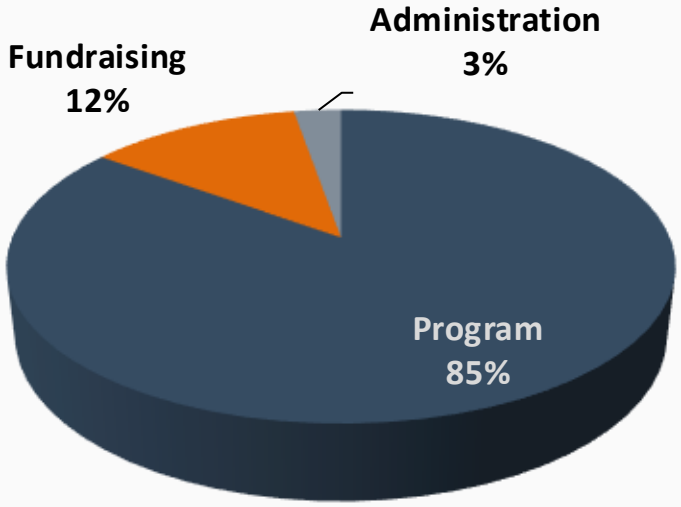
REVENUE

Total Income: $90,388



EXPENDITURES

Total Expenditures: $79,469



LOOKING AHEAD

“Moving Forward" Together

Newcomers bring fresh perspectives, new ideas, skills, and energy to our communities. Their determination to rebuild their lives reminds us of the importance of opportunity.

As we look ahead, our goal is to build **a stronger, more sustainable organization** that can serve more refugees and families throughout Central Ohio.

We are working to expand our programs, strengthen community partnerships, increase vehicle donations, and develop dedicated staff and leadership to support our growing mission.

We cannot solve every challenge a refugee family faces. But by removing one critical barrier, we can help open the door to a lifetime of possibilities.

Some changes we are planning for in 2027.

1. Bringing on an Executive Director – to carry forward the work we are doing in a sustainable manner

2. Expanding our board with visionary local leaders to guide the organization towards

3. Expanding our partnerships and relationships to work together to make Central Ohio stronger at integrating refugees into our community.

    Vertical partnerships with local governments agencies and community leaders

    Horizontal partnerships to get the driver training, vehicles and repair support

We are excited about about the future!

“We dream of a future where transportation is no longer a barrier to opportunity for refugees”

THANK YOU

The Next Chapter Starts With You.

Every success story in this report has something in common: someone cared enough to help.

Our volunteers give their time. Our donors provide resources. Our partners open doors. And the refugees we serve bring the courage and determination to build a new future.

Together, we are creating opportunities that extend far beyond the driver's seat

DONATE A VEHICLE — Give a refugee family the gift of mobility

GIVE FINANCIALLY — Support driver training, vehicle purchases, and repairs

VOLUNTEER — Share your skills, experience, and time.

SPREAD THE WORD — Introduce others to our mission.

Every contribution makes a difference. Thank you for believing in our mission and helping turn opportunity into reality.

www.rides4refugees.us

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Donate Now