



Manzanita House

2022 Year in Review

manzanitahousespokane.org



Annual Report 2022

Rooted in Welcome.

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Welcome

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01 About us

Manzanita House was founded in December 2021 as a 501c3 nonprofit to address the growing needs of the immigrant communities in Spokane, WA.

Our name is inspired by the resilience of the Manzanita plant that withstands and thrives in the wake of wildfires, which is echoed in the strength of the families and communities we serve.

Rooted in Welcome. We are devoted to creating a space where all immigrants have a place at the table to freely and fully participate in community.

Our mission is to embrace, equip, and empower immigrants through access to culturally informed essential services, and facilitate connections to grow deeper roots and thrive in Spokane.

Our programs

Affordable Legal Aid Manzanita Immigrant Legal Aid works with and for the immigrant community in Spokane to build stability and strength by providing low-cost, accessible legal services.

Education + Outreach. Supporting the former refugee communities, undocumented residents, and the broader immigrant populations through asylum clinics, know your rights workshops, distribution of accurate and up-to-date information, and more. MH is committed to being a trusted source in offering relevant and timely resources for all.

Community Events. Bringing together Spokane's immigrant and wider community through cultural celebrations and events. Facilitating connections to essential services and providers through the organization of resource fairs, health & vaccination clinics, school & clothing drives, and more.

Language Classes. Supporting families and connecting immigrant communities through offering heritage language classes. Allowing for former refugee and immigrant communities to celebrate and pass on their traditions including the importance of learning to read, write, and speak in their families' first languages.

02 Manzanita House Staff

Patricia Castaneda
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Samuel Smith
DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRANT
LEGAL AID & IMMIGRATION
ATTORNEY



Brielle Balazs
DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTOR



Stella Orellana
MILA PARALEGAL



Samantha Walters
LANGUAGE PROGRAM
COORDINATOR



Manzanita House Board of Directors



Balinda Kizembo
BOARD MEMBER



Hanncel Sanchez
BOARD MEMBER



Jeremy Beal
BOARD MEMBER



Madison Beal
BOARD PRESIDENT



Wasan Hassan
BOARD MEMBER



Thank you, volunteers!

Total number of
2022 volunteers

50+

Total number
of volunteer
hours

3,490

**Total represents volunteers participating at MH events, Language classes, in-office, and interns.*

Beginnings, support and growth.

Thank YOU Spokane.

2022 was our first year. We started with a dream and the passion to help Spokane's immigrant and refugee communities in the best, most inclusive, and equitable ways. We had to be leaders, community organizers, staff, volunteers, friends – trusting our own and each other's abilities, and relying on the support of our community.

From the very beginning, we committed to honor our mission, vision, and values through the removal of barriers and the creation of opportunities and programs that serve immigrants through intentional welcome, collaboration, empowerment, equity, transparency, and integrity.

Every month was a milestone. We built an effective network, developed services and resources to address the immediate needs of the communities we serve, and collaborated with other organizations in building a support system to refer our clients with a warm hand. Accessing funding opportunities and looking to the future as we build a foundation that will stay for many years to come. It has not been easy, but we are proud to reflect on these accomplishments in showing where we have come in this short time, as we also look to the future with excitement in all we can and will accomplish together.

Manzanita House started as a dream, but I could not have dreamt of all the things we would experience in just one year. At our first Block Party, you showed up to support us walking around to celebrate with umbrellas in the pouring rain. At the Back-to-School Resource Fair our friends from the Arab community came hours before the event started to help in putting everything together. We ran a language pilot program for 8 weeks on a shoestring budget, taught & staffed entirely by volunteers. We began 2022 with zero paid staff members and finished the year with 6 employees serving hundreds of immigrants. At the end of the year when working on funding opportunities, letters of recommendation and words of support from partners and other organizations were overwhelming.

Thank you, Spokane... I see your love for immigrants and refugees, your support, grace, laughter, tears, compassion, and absolute joy.

Now we look at the future with the experience of overcoming 2022, and the hope of an even better 2023, 2024, and more.



Pat Castaneda

Manzanita House had such a fun filled June!
From our Community Block Party to YMCA
Healthy Kids Day & World Refugee Day, We've
loved seeing everyone's smiling faces!



Community Partners

- Smith-Barbieri Progressive Fund
- Better Health Together
- CHAS Health
- Comunidad Christiana de Spokane
- Gonzaga School of Law
- Hispanic Business Professionals Association (HBPA)
- The International Rescue Committee (IRC)
- Knox Presbyterian Church
- Latinos en Spokane
- Mujeres in Action (MiA)
- Refugee & Immigrant Connections Spokane
- Spokane Immigrant Rights Coalition (SIRC)
- Thrive International
- United Health Care
- World Relief
- The Zone at Northeast Community Center

Grants Received

- Smith-Barbieri Progressive Fund
- WA State Bar Foundation:
Powerful Communities
- WA State Department of Health:
COVID Education Outreach
- AVISTA Foundation
- Group Health Foundation:
Community Learning Grant

04

Outreach + Education

Manzanita House staff, interns, volunteers, and board members participated in many community events including speaking at college universities, partnering at neighborhood block parties, as well as organizing multiple resource fairs and asylum clinics.



Asylum Clinics

MILA partnered with organizations including The Catholic Charities Immigration Clinic at Gonzaga School of Law, Latinos en Spokane, Thrive International, Ukrainian Relief Coalition, and Spokane Slavic Association to both lead and participate in Asylum Clinics. Directly serving members of the Latinx, Ukrainian, and Afghan communities, as well as the broader immigrant communities.

Local impact from crisis in Ukraine

Spokane has been home to thousands of Ukrainian-Americans, and a flourishing Slavic community, for decades. Responding to the recent war in Ukraine, Manzanita House stood alongside leaders from this community to equip & welcome new families fleeing the current violence. MILA immigration attorney, Sam Smith led three separate Asylum Clinics, reaching hundreds of newly arrived Ukrainians with accurate legal immigration information and essential tools needed to begin their new lives.



Events in 2022

Bringing the community together to celebrate and connect with essential resources and services.

COMMUNITY BLOCK PARTY | JUNE 4, 2022

Bringing together the Spokane community to a fun event, focused on connecting with the immigrant communities through cultural food, music, and services. Including organizations working directly with former refugee & immigrant populations, and providing a platform for small local immigrant-owned businesses. Connecting to essential services and resources including a partnership with 2nd Harvest Mobile Market to give away a total of 5,190 pounds of food to families in need (serving approx. 182 individuals).



LILAC CITY CUP | JULY 16, 2022

Bringing together teams of players originally from Sudan, Afghanistan, Kenya, Dem. Rep. Congo, and the United States – for a fun day of community building through the universal love of soccer



BACK-TO-SCHOOL RESOURCE FAIR | AUGUST 27, 2022

Connecting families representing many immigrant communities including the Marshallese, Latinx, Afghan, Ukrainian, and Arabic speaking communities among others, to resources for heading Back-to-School! Manzanita House distributed fresh food, school supplies, winter coats, and children's shoes. Free popcorn, yard games, balloon art, traditional face painting and henna. Agencies such as SNAP (rental & utilities assistance), ESL schools at SCC and Barton, the Spokane Fire Department, and others were there to connect families to essential services. Along with over 100 backpacks filled with school supplies distributed during the resource fair, Manzanita House followed up to distribute an additional 50 backpacks to families who attended the event, connecting them to additional resources before school started.



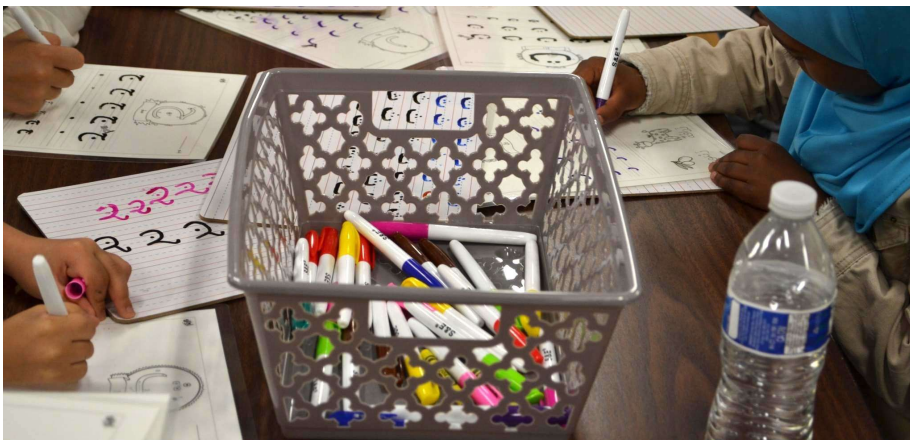
CHAS MOBILE HEALTH CLINIC | SEPTEMBER 10, 2022

In partnership with CHAS Health, Manzanita House was able to provide immigrant families with FREE sports physicals. This has been an expressed need from within the immigrant communities, and we know can be a barrier for youth who wish to participate in these school activities. The event was a great success, and families were excited to be able to be connected with these services.

COLLABORATIVE WINTER COAT DRIVE NOVEMBER 18, 2022

To meet the need of immigrant families this winter, Manzanita House collaborated with local organizations to organize a Winter Coat Drive. Hosted at the Thrive Center through partnerships with Feast World Kitchen, Lutheran Community Services, MiA – Mujeres in Action, Refugee & Immigrant Connections Spokane, Thrive International, and World Relief. 693 Winter Coats were requested through pre-registration by immigrant families. Overwhelming support resulted in over 700 winter coats, along with winter boots, children's snow pants, sweaters, and hundreds of hats, scarves, gloves donated from the Spokane community at drop-off locations, as well as contributions from: Knox Presbyterian Church, Palisades Christian Academy, Southside

Christian Church, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, YMCA Spokane, Northeast Community Center, The Discovery Shop, Crossover Church, Greenacres Baptist Church, North Addison Baptist Church, Center of Life Church, and many individuals. Donations were distributed directly to immigrant and former refugee families including those from Afghanistan, Burma/ Myanmar, Iraq, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and a large majority to newly arrived Ukrainians. Additional coats and winter items were given to leaders and organizations serving the Latinx and Marshallese communities, the Newcomer Center at Ferris High School, and newly arrived refugees in Spokane.



With the expansion of funding and community support, planned program growth includes: community gathering space, expansion of language classes, additional immigrant legal aid capacity, and the development of the Cultural Education and Implementation Program (CEIP).

05 Arabic Language — Pilot Program

Year-round Arabic Language Classes will begin January 2023! Future plans include the expansion of classes to serve more immigrant communities and languages in Spokane.



PILOT PROGRAM

This program was developed in partnership with the Arabic speaking community to address the expressed, growing need for a space where the immigrant communities can teach their first language to their children. Families wish to ensure that their children continue to speak, read, and write the parents' first language of Arabic. Goals include: strengthening families and continuing to be able to communicate with family members (particularly inter-generationally) and providing a safe space to celebrate and continue their cultural heritage.



LANGUAGE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT & EXPANSION

Manzanita House was thrilled by the excitement for the pilot program, levels of involvement from immigrant families, and positive feedback from families inquiring about a continued program. One parent volunteer sent a message saying, "I want to ask you about the Arabic School... my kids always ask me they miss Arabic so much!"

QUICK FACTS

- 8-week summer pilot program | July 5th – August 25th
- Hosted: at the Northeast Community Center
- 35 Youth regularly attended
- Ages 6 to 16 years
- Included families from: Iraq, Jordan, Sudan, Syria, Egypt
- Volunteers: All classes were staffed and taught by volunteers from within the Arabic speaking immigrant community. With direct invested involvement totaling over 195 hours of volunteered time throughout the 16 classes.

06

Manzanita Immigrant Legal Aid (MILA)

“Easy, attentive, responsive, and always willing to help with any questions.”
–MILA Client

With a focus on family-based and humanitarian immigration, MILA provides legal aid for:

- Adjustment of status
- Naturalization
- Consular processing
- Employment authorization
- Family petitions
- Temporary Protected Status
- T and U visas
- Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) petitions
- Limited removal defense
- Special Immigrant Juvenile Status

385

Total number of clients provided with access low cost immigrant legal aid March 2022 – December 2022

Naturalization Cases

37

Family Reunification

15

Recently arrived cases from Afghanistan

107

Green Card Cases

55

Asylum

36

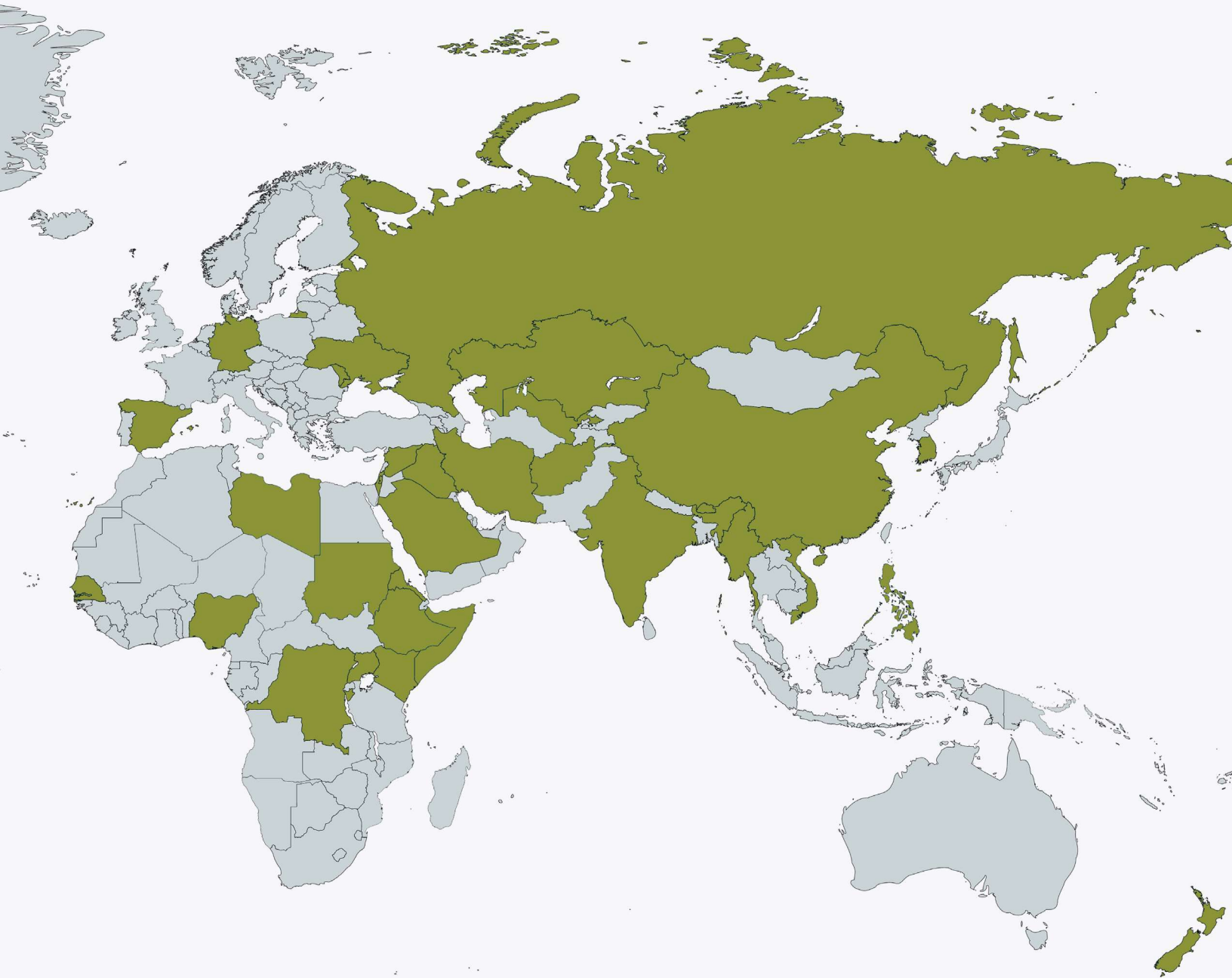
Recently arrived cases from Ukraine

21

SPAIN
LIBYA
CHINA
COSTA RICA
SOMALIA
BURMA (MYANMAR)
NEW ZEALAND
UGANDA
PANAMA
SYRIA
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
GERMANY
VIETNAM
BURUNDI
SUDAN
NIGERIA
ISRAEL
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
HONDURAS
KENYA
BHUTAN
IRAN
EL SALVADOR
PHILIPPINES
GAMBIA
ETHIOPIA
KAZAKHSTAN
GUATEMALA
RUSSIA
SENEGAL
UKRAINE
VENEZUELA
AFGHANISTAN
MEXICO
INDIA
COLOMBIA
CUBA
IRAQ
NICARAGUA
HAITI
SOUTH KOREA
UZBEKISTAN
PALESTINE
SAUDI ARABIA
ERITREA
TURKEY
UAE
PAKISTAN
MOLDOVA



MILA CLIENT COUNTRIES



ES OF ORIGIN

Our year in review:

Manzanita House Founding Board Members & submit non-profit paperwork

December 2021



Fiscal Sponsor & First Grant Award: Smith-Barbieri Progressive Fund
Rented office space at Knox. Pres.

January



Received the Washington State Bar Foundation – Powerful Communities Grant

February



June

Community Block Party



July

Arabic Language Pilot Program (8 weeks)
Lilac City Cup
AVISTA Foundation Grant
Group Health Foundation
Community Learning Grant (3 years funding)



August

Back-to-School Resource Fair



Awarded 501c3 Status
 Received Business License • Hired first MH employee: Sam Smith, MILA Director & Immigration Attorney

March



Organized multiple Asylum Clinics for Newly Arrived Ukrainians

April



WA State Dept. of Health Covid Education Outreach Grant

May



September

CHAS Mobile Health Clinic



October

Hiring Executive Director & Development Director (Staff expansion) MILA Paralegal (Staff expansion) Language Program Coordinator



November

Winter Coat Drive (Staff expansion) Lead Arabic Language Teacher



December 2022

Financial Literacy Workshops & Vaccination Clinic

Impact + Financials

2022 Local Impact



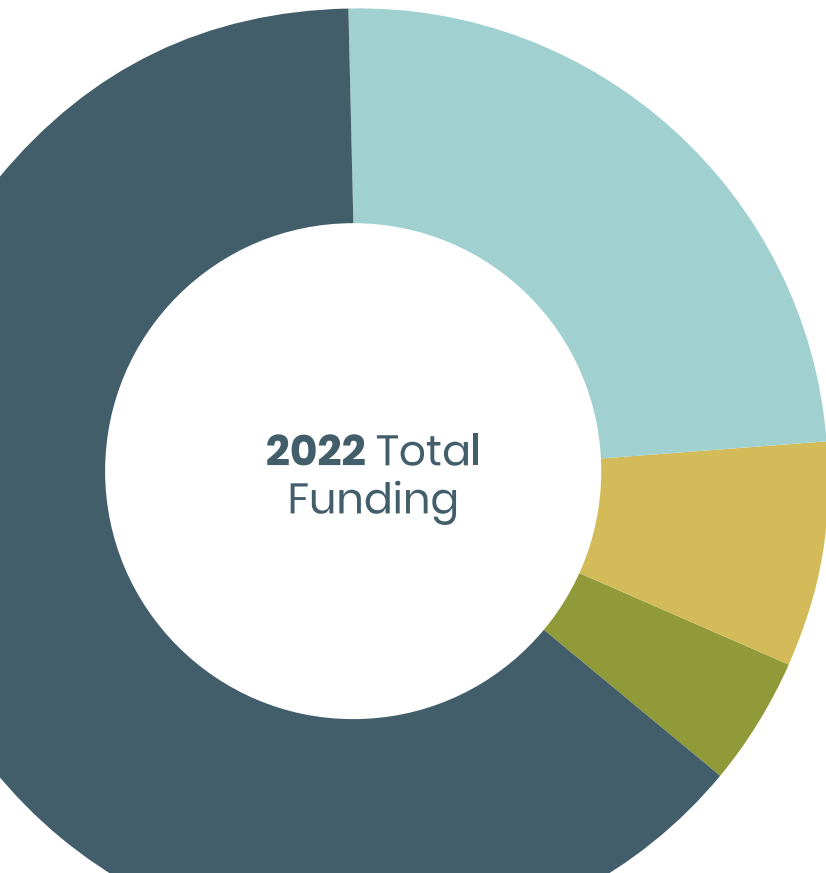
Total vounteer hours



Community education events



Individual private donations



63.8%

Fee-based services

24.0%

Grants

8.0%

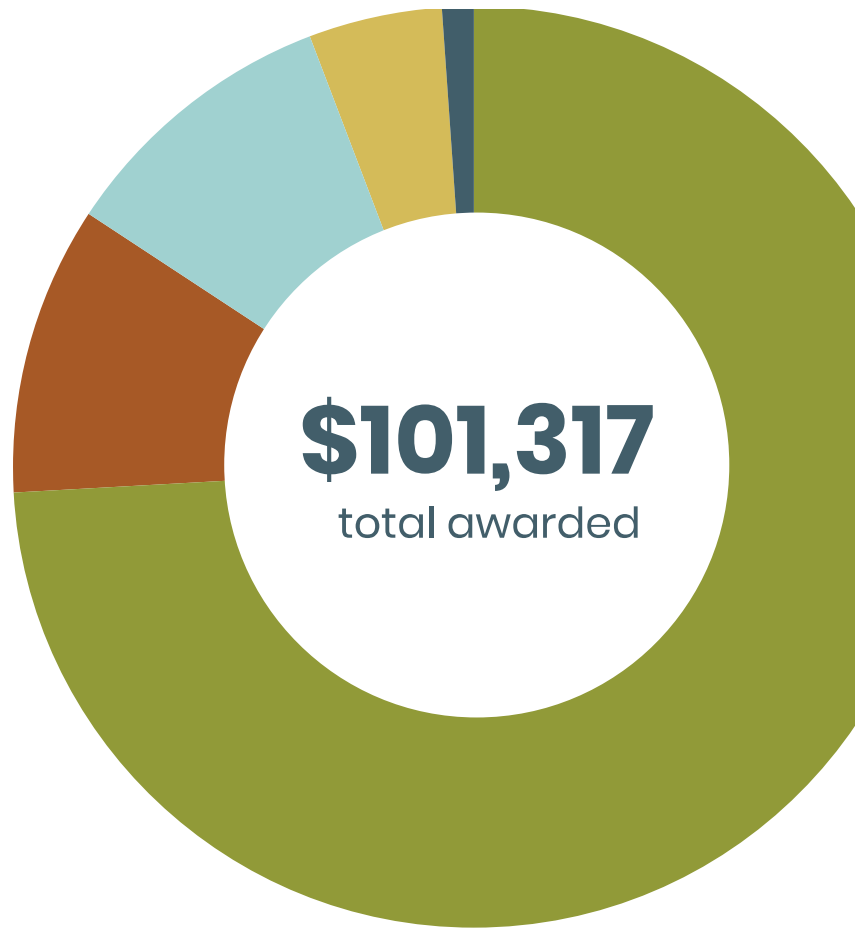
Individual donations

4.2%

Partnership contracts

Grant Awards in 2022

-  **Group Health Foundation**
-  **WA State Dept. of Health**
-  **Smith-Barbieri
Progressive Fund**
-  **WA State Bar Foundation**
-  **Avista Foundation**



“Incredibly Grateful. In the face of the heartbreaking humanitarian situations this past year we are reminded, through our clients, the power that exists from being in and working in community to face challenges and find reasons to celebrate. We have provided legal services and education to hundreds of individuals, assisting them in taking the best steps for them and their families, finding protection from violence, and pursuing new opportunities to grow. Thank you for your support and belief in building a better world—it couldn’t happen without you.”

—Samuel Smith, Director of Immigrant Legal Aid



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