



*Immigrant & Refugee*  
**RESOURCE COLLABORATIVE**

2024  
ANNUAL  
REPORT



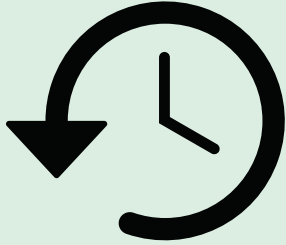
## OUR VISION

WE ENVISION A  
COMMUNITY WHERE  
THOSE NEW TO THE  
COUNTRY, AND THOSE  
WHO HAVE BEEN HERE  
FOR GENERATIONS, ARE  
ABLE TO ACCESS  
OPPORTUNITY AND  
IMPACT CHANGE

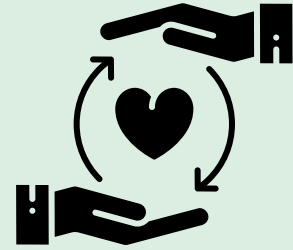
## WE OFFER

A PLACE TO LEARN  
A PLACE TO NETWORK  
A PLACE TO WORK  
ALONGSIDE NEW  
AMERICANS

# Our Touchstones



We stand on the shoulders of yesterday's pioneers, whose sacrifices shaped today's welcoming community.



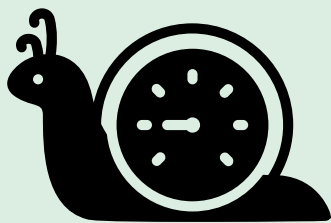
We build a place where everyone feels valued and connected, fostering collaboration and belonging.



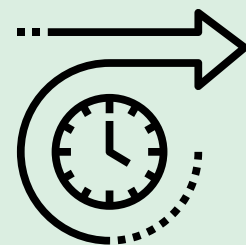
We seize every chance to grow, helping newcomers and established communities thrive together.



We seek nontraditional collaborators to help the community embrace New Americans, knowing true change comes from uniting for a shared purpose.



We move forward united and thoughtful, knowing that, as Welcoming America reminds us, "To go fast is to go alone, but to go slow is to go together."

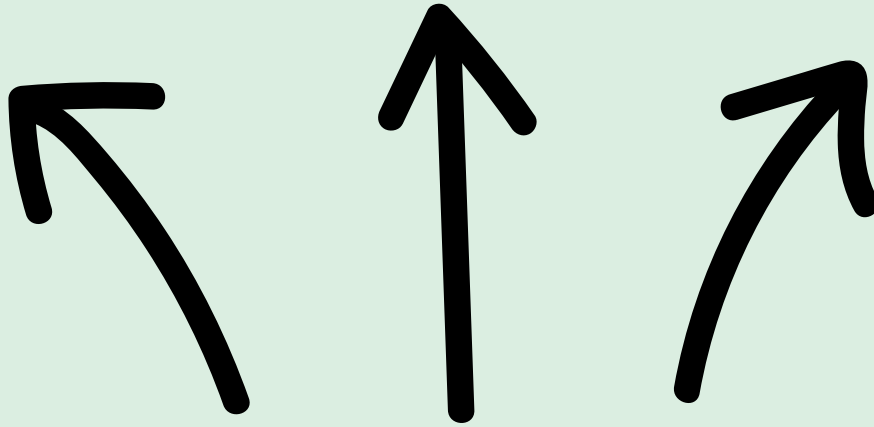


We work for a future we may never see, building a better tomorrow from the actions of today

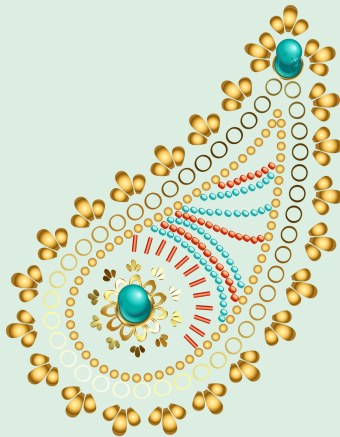
Maximize collaboration  
to tackle key integration  
and inclusion  
challenges (Operations)

Support non-traditional  
partners and assist New  
Americans in celebrating  
their cultures and  
advocating for their needs  
(Advocacy)

Build connections  
between stakeholders  
and New Americans  
(Community  
Engagement)



# Our Focus Areas





### Where We Started

60% of existing IRRC stakeholders entered in the Central Michigan 211 system

No multilingual flier available to non-English speakers



### Where We Ended

90% of eligible IRRC stakeholders entered in 211 system

A multilingual flier translated into 12 languages!

*Our Work with  
Central Michigan*

*211*

# New Resources

Multilingual Informational Guides on financial matters (buying a home or car, insurance, renters rights, filing taxes, banking etc.)

Train-the-Trainer Resource Guide demonstrating how community partners can use the Money Smart website to assist clients with financial literacy

"Get Help Now" Flier in 12 languages created for Central Michigan 211 system



Financial Empowerment Resources

Community Training Resources inventory compiled

Newcomer Welcome Guide for volunteers working with new arrivals

Local Tax Filing Services and Sites

Cultural Briefing on Islam added to our Resource Bank of Cultural Briefings

Halal Food Guide for community partners working with Muslim clients

# This Year's Events

Facilitated  
Summer Community  
Read,  
Fall Events Series, &  
Companion Guide  
for  
*When Stars are*  
*Scattered*

Supported the Youth  
Summit and MIARC  
Newcomer Summit

Hosted a quarterly  
book club, Global  
Voices Book Circle



Worked with  
multiple newcomer  
communities on  
ethnic events

Co-Sponsored Civic  
Engagement Fair

Partnered with Lansing  
School District to offer  
literacy nights

Offered a  
presentation at the  
2024 Newcomer  
Education Summit.

Hosted a Supper Club  
called Heritage Hearth &  
Plate

# Neighborhood Outreach

Safe and secure car seats!

Navigation Support

Applications  
for Rental  
Subsidy  
Assistance

Neighborhood  
Surveys!



Health Care Sign  
Up

Translated  
signage  
welcoming  
neighbors to  
share from a  
garden's bounty!

## **ALLEN NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER & AFGHAN COMMUNITY OF MICHIGAN**





# IRRC Signature Event: Summer Community Read



[Click here](#) for the Companion Guide for *When Stars are Scattered*



## 2024 IRRC Book Events

SEPT / OCT 2024

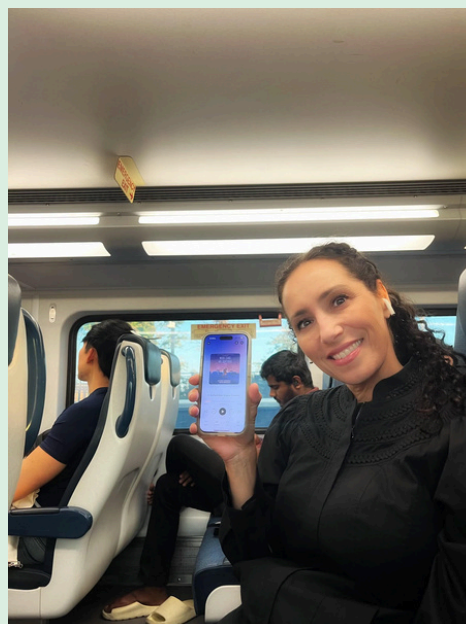
ONGOING	Let's Spark Conversations! Host your own <i>When Stars Are Scattered</i> book circle with friends, family, or neighbors! Whether it's a small gathering or a large community event, send us a photo at <a href="mailto:irrcmidmichigan@gmail.com">irrcmidmichigan@gmail.com</a> , and we'll add you to the collage!
SEPT 10	Discover the Flavors of Somalia while connecting with your community! Join our cooking class to learn how to make sambusas and enjoy an evening of cooking, stories, and community. <a href="#">Register Here Please</a> .
SEPT 19	Unleash Your Inner Artist! Join a graphic novel workshop inspired by <i>When Stars Are Scattered</i> and learn how to tell your own stories through pictures and words! This hands-on workshop is perfect for teens who love comics and want to learn new skills. <a href="#">Register Here Please</a>
OCT 1	Meet the Authors! We're thrilled to announce that the authors of <i>When Stars Are Scattered</i> , Omar Mohamed and Victoria Jamieson, will be joining us for a virtual visit! Get ready to be captivated by their powerful journey.

More Details Below! [www.irrc Lansing.org](http://www.irrc Lansing.org)

# June Book Reveal as part of World Refugee Awareness Week



This summer, the book was read by community partners and little ones, shared in local book stores, and enjoyed as an audio book!



**100 copies given to children at summer camp in the Lansing School District!**



**Hosted a Community Convening around welcoming, including a book discussion and Somali artifact display**



## Celebrated with a Somali Cooking Class!



## Sambusas and more sambusas!



# Celebrated with a youth graphic novel workshop!





And the authors visited us - *virtually!*



**We ended with an invitation:**

***“Write a note, share your book in a Little Library.....spread the seeds”***

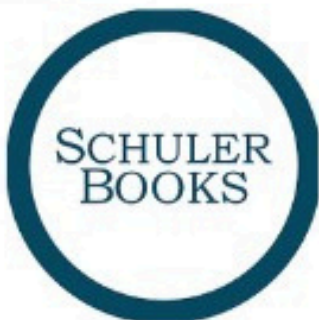


# Summer Community Read

Supported By:

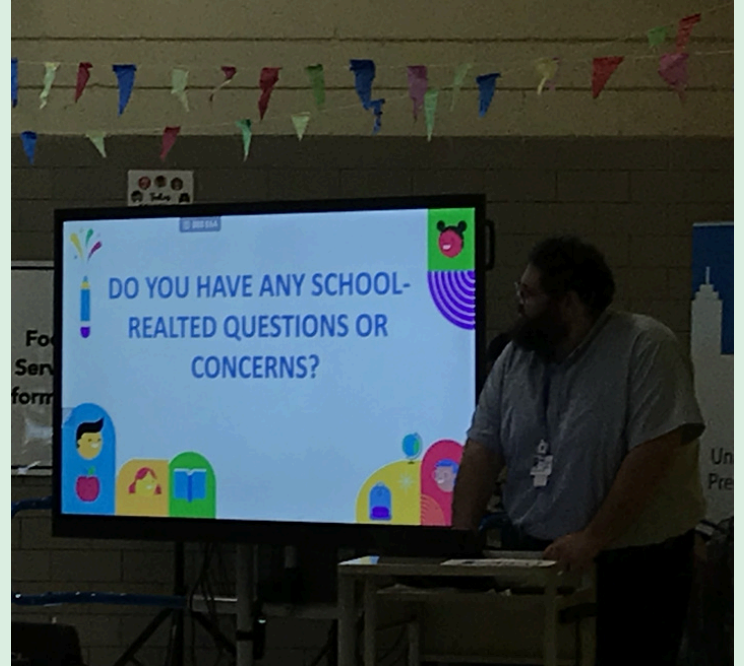


Office of Global Michigan



**SOMALI COMMUNITY OF LANSING!**

# Our year in photos



Nepali Cultural Night at the Lansing School District. Other Cultural Nights were offered for Latino and Afghan communities this year



Greater Lansing Food Bank / Garden Tour of refugee gardens!

# Our year in photos



Mayor's Ramadan Unity Dinner



Global Voices Book Circle:  
A Quarterly Book Club



Heritage Hearth & Plate - where  
we celebrate eateries new and old  
that have a story



World Refugee Awareness Week

# Our 2024 Community Partners

4C: Cross Cultural Community Connections

7 C Lingo

Allen Neighborhood Center

ALPACT (Advocates & Leaders for Police & Community Trust)

American Red Cross

Arts Council of Greater Lansing

Capital Area District Libraries

Capital Area Michigan Works

Capital Area Response Effort

Capital Area Sexual Assault Response Team

Catholic Charities of Ingham, Eaton & Clinton Counties (formerly STVCC)

Central Michigan 211

City of East Lansing

City of Lansing

City of Lansing-Neighborhood Arts and Citizen Engagement

Community Mental Health

Community Stakeholders

Congresswoman Elissa Slotkin's Office

Cristo Rey Community Center

Davies Project

East Lansing Police Department

Everybody Reads

Family & Community Development Services

Forest Community Health Center

Global Institute of Lansing

Greater Lansing Food Bank / Garden Project

Immigration Law & Justice Michigan

Ingham County DHHS

Ingham County Health Department / Family Outreach Services

Ingham County Health Department / WIC Program

Ingham Great Start Collaborative

Ingham Health Plan Corp

Ingham Intermediate School District

Interfaith Clergy Association of Greater Lansing

Islamic Center of East Lansing

Lansing Area Aids Network

Lansing Community College



# Our 2024 Community Partners

Lansing Police Department  
Lansing School District / Bilingual Education  
MI Department of Civil Rights  
Michigan Disability Rights Coalition  
Michigan Immigrant Rights Center  
Michigan Office of Child Support  
Michigan State University  
MPHI - Refugee Systems of Care Project  
MSU Extension  
MSU Refugee Outreach Collective  
Nonprofit Network  
Office of Global Michigan  
P Pamela Davies Esq. PLLC  
Peckham  
Rathbun Insurance Agency  
Reading People  
Refugee Development Center  
Retired & Senior Volunteer Programs of Ingham, Eaton & Clinton Counties (RSVP)  
Samaritas  
Sangwa  
Schuler Books  
Senator Gary Peters Office  
Strangers No Longer  
United Way of South Central Michigan  
Women's Center of Greater Lansing  
Woven Vessels International Ministry  
Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights  
Zaman International



# ADVISORY COUNCIL

Intisar Abdalsaar \* Ikram Adawee \* Claudia Cabrera-Rodriguez \* Dilli Chapagia \* Sue-bunch / Cecilia Dixon \* Hedel Essa \* Rawan Essa \* Karla Forest \* Fatemeh Ghorbani \* Lana Hadzajlic-King \* Mohibullah Israr \* Eric Mulanda \* Thang Mung \* Yesenia Murillo \* Dia Sabah



Maha Gabayre  
Coordinator



Anneli Mung  
Sustainability Specialist



Rebecca Meszaros  
Community Engagement



Lori Noyer  
Operations



Denise Paquette  
Advocacy



Shirin Kambin  
Director





*Immigrant & Refugee*  
**RESOURCE COLLABORATIVE**

The IRRC's logo features two interwoven lotus flowers, symbolizing the transformative growth that happens when New Americans and long-time residents of Greater Lansing connect, learn, and thrive together. It embodies our mission to cultivate a welcoming community that honors the richness of all people, cultures, and traditions.

*This logo was a gift to us from Piper & Gold*