

# 2016

## Executive Summary

world relief<sup>®</sup>

SEATTLE

Thank you for your support in this crucial season. 2016 was marked by steady growth, new partnerships and a leadership transition at World Relief Seattle. At the beginning of 2017, we welcomed a record number of refugees and also welcomed our new Executive Director, Chitra Hanstad.

Chitra comes to us with decades of experience working with those on the margins, as well as experience in the corporate and foundation worlds. As an immigrant herself, Chitra has a heartfelt affinity for those who have crossed borders and gone on to thrive.

With new leadership in place and new challenges ahead, World Relief Seattle will forge new paths forward with courage and creativity. Our commitment to stand with refugees and immigrants is as firm as ever.

*Luke Williams, Associate Director*

**My first few weeks at World Relief Seattle have been a whirlwind.** I am getting up to speed quickly in an unprecedented time. We had to absorb the ramifications of the President's Executive Order on immigration and make weighty decisions just as I was beginning to meet—and fall in love with—the resilient participants and talented staff I have been called to serve and lead. In these uncertain times, two things are quite certain—our call, and our gratitude for all of you who make this possible. Whether it be a phone call of encouragement, a prayer for those we serve, or a handwritten note accompanying a donation, you have reminded me that we're in this together.



I invite you to learn more and to continue partnering with us to provide excellent services and a warm welcome to refugees and vulnerable immigrants in our community.

*Chitra Hanstad, Executive Director*

# Highlights

- In September we expanded into a bigger office space to accommodate a rapidly-growing staff.
- In January, Chitra Hanstad joined World Relief Seattle Executive Director.
- 244 people got jobs with 114 companies.
- 67% of students made a full level gain within 6 weeks of English class.
- Volunteers were paired with 96 families as Cultural Companions or Host Homes.
- Volunteers donated more than 30,000 hours of their time working directly with local refugee families.
- 6 local churches launched Good Neighbor Teams, each taking responsibility for the details of a family's resettlement, including housing, community orientation, help with the job search, and much more.

## The Church at Work

### detention center ministry

Volunteers conducted 8 worship services each week last year at the Northwest Immigration Detention Center in Tacoma, where more than 100 nationalities are represented. 1,578 of the detained men and women accepted Christ and we celebrated 440 baptisms.

Discipleship volunteers like Ruth (pictured, right) visited and wrote letters of encouragement to new believers in detention like Lisbeth (pictured, left). After Lisbeth was deported, the women reunited in Mexico, where Ruth helped connect her to a church community in Tijuana!



### good neighbor teams

Sitting over dinner with his friends Jamie and Andy Alm, Basim doesn't hesitate when asked whether he has extended family living in America. "I have *five* families," he says.

When Basim, Nazneen, and their two small children arrived at SeaTac Airport in May, Basim quickly told his caseworker that he wanted to move. He had a friend in California and California was where he wanted to be. Minutes later, however, they rounded the corner to baggage claim where they were welcomed warmly by the Alms and four other families from Rainier Avenue Church.

With the help of World Relief, this *Good Neighbor Team* had been preparing for weeks to welcome the Iraqi refugee family to Seattle. The team members were already close-knit, having been in the same church small group for over a decade.

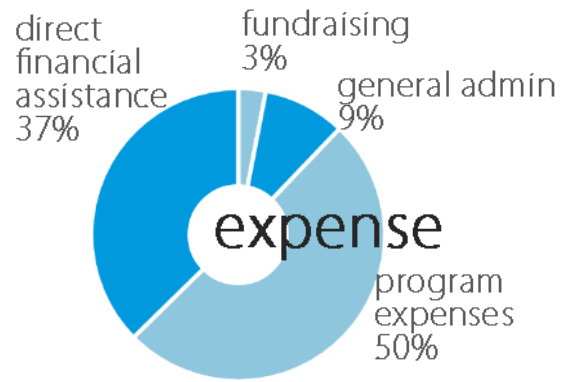
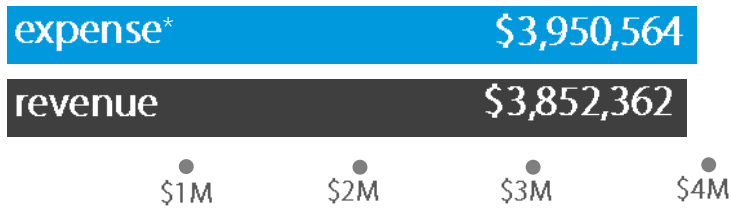
Basim and Nazneen stayed with Jamie and Andy for their first days in the country. The team found and furnished an apartment near the church for them to move into. And with the help of the team, Nazneen found a job as a paraeducator in the Highline School District and Basim now works a janitorial job in the airport.

In the midst of Basim and Nazneen's now-busy schedules, they still regularly visit with their new friends. If he's not too exhausted from his night shift, Basim likes to walk over to church on Sundays to see friendly faces. "It's very hard when you come to a new city," reflects Basim. "It's a new life, a very different life. But I've never felt I'm by myself here."

Even his opinion of Seattle has changed. "Now," he says, "if they send me to California, I won't go!"

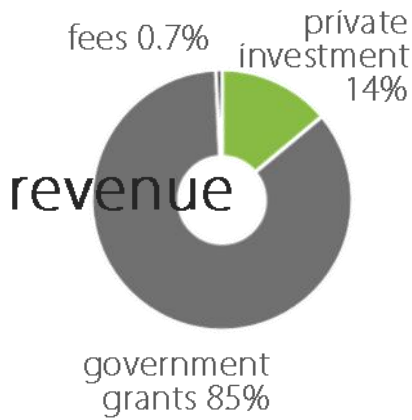


# Fiscal Recap



With your support, we saw a 49% increase in investments from private sources in FY2016 over FY2015; notably, the number of unique donors more than doubled over this same period.

\*Surplus funds, intentionally set aside in previous years, were invested in critical infrastructure in 2016, thus the discrepancy in revenue and expenses for FY2016.



## private investment

FY 2016 \$507,553

FY 2015 \$340,853



# Osman's Story

When you meet Osman, you can see the kindness in his eyes. Throughout his journey from Burma to Malaysia and finally to America, this kindness has always driven him to help others.

Osman left Burma when he was 15 after a conflict at school resulted in expulsion. Because he is Rohingya, a minority Muslim ethnic group in Burma, Osman's school would not provide him with transfer papers and he was unable to enroll in another school.

Osman's only option seemed to be to move to nearby Malaysia. He received documents to live there, though he wasn't authorized to work legally. Despite this barrier, he found a job and was active in welcoming other Burmese refugees to Malaysia by helping them to find jobs and housing. *continued on next page...*



With your support and his determination, Osman quickly found a job. He was recently promoted to supervisor.

Osman would never return to Burma. He heard stories about others who'd returned home only to be robbed, jailed, and, sometimes, killed.

During this time, Osman married a woman who was also a Burmese refugee and they had a baby boy. As his son grew up, Osman thought about his family's future. It was clear that their minority ethnic status would bar his son from ever attending school in Malaysia.

Osman applied for his family to be resettled to a safe country, determined to find a way for his son to attend school. He didn't care which country they went to, as long as they could live and work there legally. After four separate interviews and after waiting nearly two and a half years, Osman's family arrived to SeaTac Airport in September 2015.

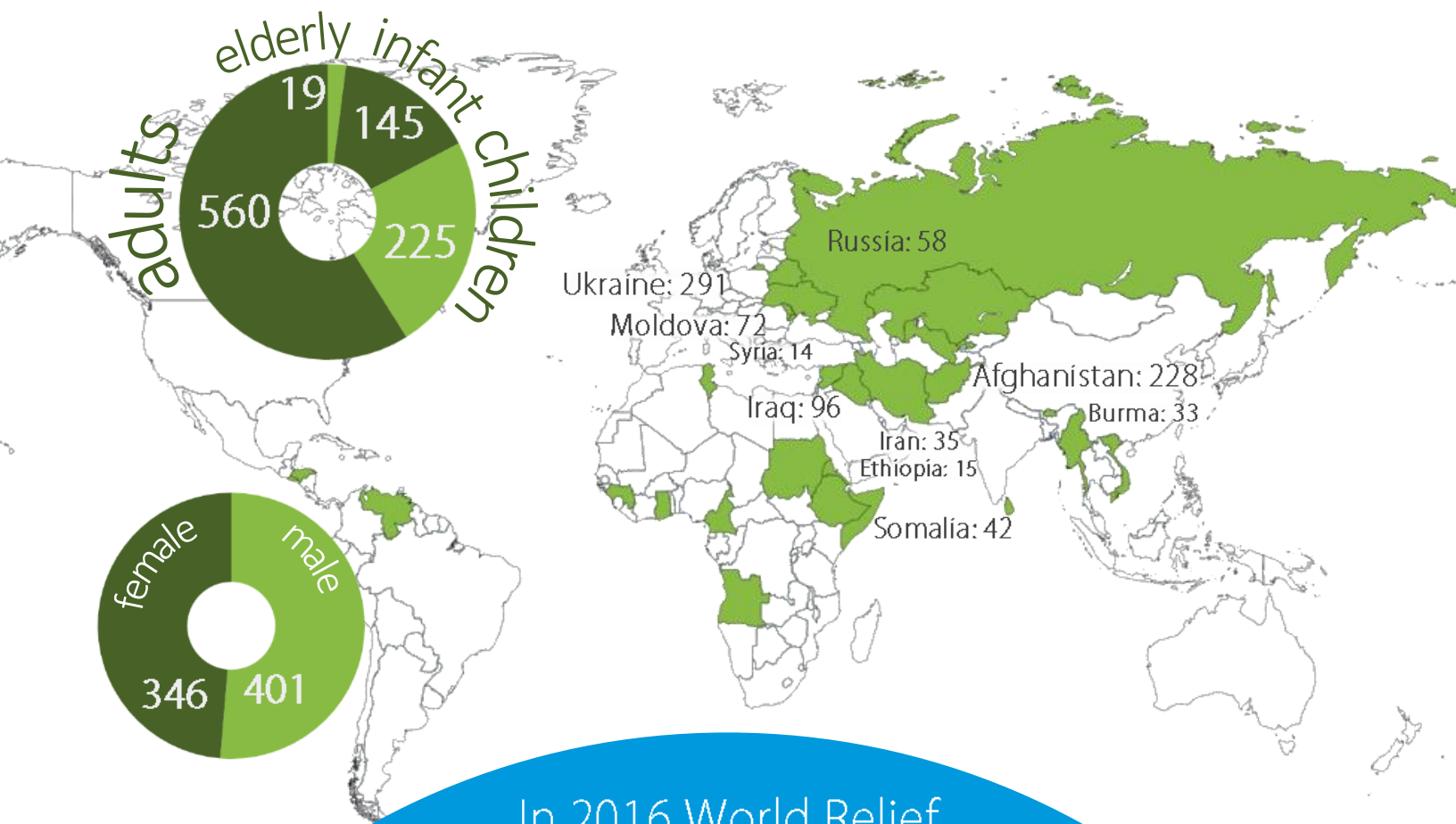
Through your support of World Relief's programs, Osman got a job at a local hotel within a month of arriving to the

country. His employer quickly saw how Osman went above and beyond by doing things like replacing lightbulbs and fixing plumbing. And so, just months after being hired, Osman was promoted to supervisor.

Even though he was just getting established in his new home, Osman was looking to help others. He recently asked his employer to host English classes for his coworkers who struggle with the language. Management approved the class, and it's set to begin soon!

Whether he's helping newly-arrived refugees find employment at his hotel, sending money back to Burma, or facilitating donations from his hotel to refugees, Osman is focused on making others' lives better.

"This is the good country for us," says Osman. It is a country where his son can go to school, the family can freely practice their faith, and Osman can continue to give back.



In 2016 World Relief welcomed 949 refugees & asylees from 26 countries to the Seattle area.