



Platinum
Transparency
2025

Candid.

2025 End of Year Letter

A word from our Founder & Executive Director

Written by: Hannah Vlach



*"In the midst of darkness, light persists."
(Mahatma Ghandi, 1947).*

We are walking through dark times. Each generation is bestowed upon it a series of challenges. For some, war. For others, famine. For those of us working with refugee communities, we are experiencing an attempt to erase the humanity and dignity of the most vulnerable people amongst us.

Targeted food withdrawal from thousands in Omaha. Deep deportation fear campaigns. The reopening of refugee files for people who have already been cleared by six national security agencies and resettled into the USA by our government; now being threatened to be sent back to countries where death or imprisonment is imminent.

We stand at a precipice where we must act. There are many things out of our control, and for those things, we can only hope that people in higher positions will do the right thing and fight to make changes.

Our focus needs to be on what we can do here in our city:

We can help keep the most vulnerable fed. We can donate clothes and toiletry items. We can call and write our elected officials. We can vote. We can continue supporting the efforts of all our refugee serving organizations who are on the ground, including Restoring Dignity. We can speak up when people around us are speaking narratives of erasure. And we can and must keep hope.

Even in the darkest of times, one light can illuminate more than we realize.

The refugee families we serve have experienced more darkness and despair than we can understand. All have lost their homes. Many have witnessed the death of loved ones due to war, sickness or famine.

Each family we serve was carefully vetted by the US Government and brought here to restart their lives. Since 1948, US Presidents and both sides of the aisle in Congress have supported the resettlement and integration of refugees into our country.

Refugees make us stronger. Economically, by filling critical job shortages, paying billions in taxes and creating billions in revenue through small businesses. Societally, by bringing strong family-centered values to our country, along with a deep respect for education and democracy.

Any of us could become a refugee at any point in our life. We must do to our refugee neighbors what we would want done to us, if the situation were reversed.

**Thank you for your tireless support.
You are making a tremendous difference!**

5,276 lives impacted in 2025!



READ MORE ABOUT THE IMPACT OF YOUR SUPPORT



In 2025 we...

Welcome Home Classes Shine Bright in 2025!



TAUGHT IN 18 LANGUAGES

2025 was a busy year for our **Welcome Home Program!** We taught 2,726 in-home classes, with eleven family educators visiting the homes of hundreds of refugee families in Omaha.

We recently received innovation funding to make the HOME curriculum open source & to expand its reach to 14 languages by 2027.



SERVED 27 ETHNIC GROUPS

We hired our first-ever Spanish-speaking educator, and are now reaching more families than before!

In 2026, we will add a new class to the Welcome Home Program: *Financial Survivorship*. This class will teach survivorship budgeting to refugee families who have lost SNAP. We have partnered with the Center for Immigrant and Refugee Advancement (CIRA) on these new classes.



DISTRIBUTED 13,695 CLEANING PRODUCTS



PROVIDED 3,780 FIRE SAFETY SUPPLIES

We also conducted 15 community outreach events, which expanded the program and allowed us to reach more families.



GAVE HOME OWNERS 33,900 ITEMS

Our Home Owners Maintenance Education (HOME) classes expanded to even more communities! We are now teaching HOME classes in Karen, Karenni, Burmese, Arabic, Pashto, Dari/Farsi, Nepali and French!



IMPROVED FIRE SAFETY FOR 315 HOUSEHOLDS



IMPACTED 4,623 LIVES

Welcome Home Stats



67% of participants made \$40k or less with an average family size of five



27% of participants never had the opportunity to go to school in their lifetime



88% of primary class participants are women. We are empowering women within their homes and families!



44% of participants have lived in the USA for more than 5 years

HEALTHY HOME CLASSES

Teaching how to safely clean a home.



854 CLASSES TAUGHT!

	Before Class		After Class
	3.1%	>>>	97%
	3.7%	>>>	98%
	3.5%	>>>	95%

Percentage of families who successfully knew & demonstrated how to clean their stove, floors and toilet

HOME/FIRE SAFETY CLASSES

Teaching fire safety, emergency readiness and home safety.

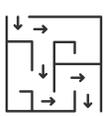
969 CLASSES TAUGHT!



290 fire extinguishers given to families



381 smoke & carbon monoxide detectors installed



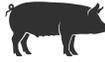
315 fire escape plans created & practiced



HOME OWNERS MAINTENANCE EDUCATION (HOME) CLASSES

Teaching homeowners essential maintenance skills to protect and sustain their homes.

903 CLASSES TAUGHT!

	Before Classes		After Classes
	10%	>>>	94%
	8%	>>>	99%
	6%	>>>	99%

Adjust water heater temperature
Clean refrigerator coils
No farm animals in city

Percentage of home maintenance knowledge from class participants



**BECAUSE OF YOUR SUPPORT
2,230 CHILDREN ARE LIVING IN SAFER & HEALTHIER HOMES!**

\$1M HUD Grant Awarded to Restoring Dignity



Restoring Dignity was honored to receive a 4 year, \$1 million dollar highly competitive Healthy Homes grant from HUD, to perform critical safety repairs in the homes of families we serve. This funding is allowing us to make urgent repairs in 100 family homes.

We named the program **Restore and Repair**, and the talented Cydnee Mosley has worked hard to get the program up and running.

The first family home inspections have already revealed serious health and safety hazards: high levels of radon, serious mold conditions, life-threatening fire safety concerns with people sleeping in basements with no egress windows, and other hazards.

Through this grant, we are able to make up to \$10,000 in health hazard repairs per home.

Based on our time spent in family homes, our educators have identified over 600 homes needing safety interventions. This data was the basis of our grant application, and we are now able to start working towards reducing these serious health and safety situations.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Cydnee tests for for carbon monoxide and natural gas leaks at a family's home inspection



Testing the water temperature from a family's kitchen sink



Cydnee and the homeowner inspect the exterior of the home. Homeowners are involved in each step of the inspection.

Since fully launching the program in the Fall of 2025, we have already begun installing radon mitigation systems, putting egress windows in basements where people are sleeping and remediating mold situations caused by leaking pipes. We also check for gas leaks (and can get them fixed) and are providing pest infestation control, to help improve healthy living conditions in family homes who cannot otherwise afford it.

Window A/C Program



40 Window Air Conditioners Installed in 2025!

For the eighth summer in a row, Restoring Dignity provided immediate relief from life-threatening heat conditions for dozens of refugee families in Omaha. A 100% volunteer crew went above and beyond to ensure that 40 air conditioners were quickly installed this year! Thanks to the incredible generosity of our supporters, we raised enough funds to buy all the a/c units needed for this year (plus some for next year)! Thank you!



Housing Advocacy

In 2025, we successfully served **45 households** that experienced housing issues. This was an 18% increase in demand from 2024. We assisted clients with eviction notices, finding rental assistance, mediating between landlords and tenants, and getting repairs made. Our incredible housing advocate, Elizabeth Ajongo, went the extra mile for our clients!

We sent in letters of support to the Nebraska legislature for:



LB223: *prohibiting landlords from denying potential tenants simply due to their source of income.*

LB92: *allowing tenants to have their eviction records sealed in a variety of different situations.*

Gala!

April 2025 brought our second **Welcome Home Gala** to life! After countless hours of planning and organizing, we gratefully welcomed 130 guests to Yates Illuminates (immediately following a tornado warning and flash flooding!). Cultural performances from seven different groups set the stage for a night of celebration and community.



This event was an important fundraiser for our organization, and also a chance to bring our supporters and community members together to celebrate our impact and Omaha's incredible refugee community. Guests dined on food from five different refugee or immigrant-owned restaurants and tea from 4 different countries. Save the date for our next gala in Spring 2027!



Advocacy 2025

*"It is those who are most vulnerable who are most often violated."
-Tara Brach*

Restoring Dignity has been at the helm of substantially advocating for our refugee communities in 2025. We tremendously care about and advocate for the families we serve, and that will never change. These communities have faced increasingly difficult situations over the past year, and we are going to continue fighting for our refugee community rights, their human dignity, their access to food, their access to safe housing, and their overall well-being as they work tirelessly to rebuild their lives here in Omaha.

How we advocated in 2025:

Started and led a biweekly advocacy group called **The Fight for Refugees and Immigrants**, bringing together Omaha leaders, caseworkers & advocates.

Worked closely with Rep. Bacon's office to write a bipartisan letter asking President Trump not to shut down the US Refugee Admissions Program

Attended Federal and State level policy trainings, learning new ways to advocate effectively

Met with Sen. Ricketts, Sen. Fischer and Rep. Bacon's offices and advocated for a **repeal of Section 10108** (SNAP ineligibility) of the One Big Beautiful Bill

Helped plan the **Sanctuary and Solidarity** community events, bringing people together in support of refugees & immigrants

Created the **Feed A Family** program to help very vulnerable families not become homeless due to loss of food access

Created multiple videos in 17 languages explaining what is happening with SNAP and immigration changes

Created and translated 18 **food pantry flyers** in 17 languages and made them publicly available on our website:
rdomaha.org/food
Over 200 total flyers!



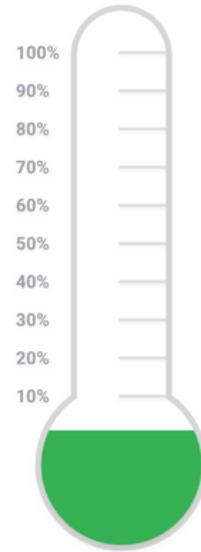
WE NEED 2,500 PEOPLE TO GIVE \$10/MONTH TO HELP KEEP VERY VULNERABLE FAMILIES FED

Through our **Feed A Family** program, we are providing **grocery gift cards** to the most **vulnerable families** in Omaha. 100% of all money donated to this fund is turned into grocery gift cards and given to families.

2025 has been our most challenging year to date. Over 1,600 Restoring Dignity clients are losing SNAP benefits, because they have not received their green cards yet. Some of these families are critically vulnerable, meaning that they will become homeless without food assistance. These families include those who have blind and/or disabled adults who cannot work, elderly adults with severe health conditions, single parents, and families with no vehicle (cannot drive to food pantries).

Once a green card is approved, these families can begin receiving these life-saving supports again. However, all green card applications are no longer being processed, leaving families in life-threatening limbo.

We are in a true crisis and food emergency in Omaha, that will continue to worsen as more families fall off SNAP through April 2026 (when the final SNAP recertification cycle is complete).



\$190
0% of \$25,000 goal

The *One Big Beautiful Bill* that was passed by Congress and signed into law by the President prohibits all legally present refugees, Afghan SIVs, Ukrainians, and others from being able to access SNAP (and soon Medicaid, starting in October 2026).



Scan the QR code to begin your monthly donation

THE GREEN CARD DILEMMA



Refugees are legally brought to America by the U.S. Government, and then must wait a year before applying for their green card. However, the U.S. Government has recently paused all green card application processing indefinitely. This means that over 3,000 refugees in Omaha (and 7,000+ throughout Nebraska) cannot access SNAP (and soon Medicaid), and have no ability to get their green cards, because the government is not processing applications.

Home Makeover

In November, we completed our 44th home makeover for a Karenni family of six facing immense hardship after the father was diagnosed with advanced lung cancer. Our staff and 163 volunteers came together to transform their home into a peaceful, restorative space.

The Omaha community purchased more than 350 items chosen by the family, while volunteers cleaned, organized, repaired, furnished, and decorated every room. With support from Genuine Pest Control and photographer Elissa deFreese-Marking, the family also received free pest treatment and a professional portrait session.



NYALIEP'S FAMILY UPDATES



Nyaliep's Children: Kay Gee, Kobe, Khan, Mercy, and Mogah

In January 2025, we tragically lost Nyaliep Kuany (age 29), who was a Restoring Dignity home-makeover recipient the previous year. She left behind five children, all under the age of 8. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our supporters, money was raised to help pay for funeral costs and short-term living expenses for her children. Restoring Dignity continues to work with Nyaliep's parents, who have taken in their daughter's five children and are raising them. Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to cover: all funeral/burial costs, moving costs from the apartment, clothes and shoes for the children, and a 7-passenger minivan that can transport everyone.

Volunteers

The beating heart of Restoring Dignity

In 2025, **417 volunteers** gave **845 hours** to Restoring Dignity, bringing both helping hands and energy to our team! In-office volunteers packed **851 cleaning kits** for Healthy Home classes and **903 bags** for Home Owners' Maintenance classes, and laminated more than **4,000 tags and posters**. Three dedicated volunteers supported us week after week, alongside **14 volunteer groups** from local companies, organizations, and schools. We are deeply grateful for every volunteer who makes this work possible.



Get Involved in 2026



Donate freshly washed clothes that are in great condition to the Yates Illuminates Clothing Closet! This provides free clothing to families in need, including many Restoring Dignity families who have lost SNAP. Sign-up for the Yates Illuminates newsletter for more info (scroll to bottom of page).



Bring your work group, friend, group or family to volunteer in our office! Schedule a 2 hour shift for up to 10 people by emailing Bridget: bridget@rdomaha.org



Give \$10/month to our Feed A Family program and help keep families fed!



Support all of our programming to help us keep going!



Check it out!

We were in the news in 2025



Omaha mother's hope of reunion with her baby dim as pause in US refugee program looms
Lucia Wamukonde made the "devastating" decision to leave her baby and husband behind in an African refugee camp in hopes they could join her in Omaha soon. Nine months later.
Omaha World Herald | Jan 6, 2025



Even with government reopened, refugees still ineligible for SNAP benefits
Even though SNAP benefits were revived after the federal government shutdown, there are still people without food assistance who previously relied on it. Refugee families are finding themselves ineligible.
Nebraska Public Media



Alghan refugee, father of 10 in Nebraska, faces hunger under 'big beautiful' law • Nebraska Examiner
A NE Alghan refugee who said he worked for the U.S. military is bracing for hunger pangs as SNAP and other program changes impact his family.
Nebraska Examiner | Oct 20, 2025



NONPROFIT INSTALLING A/C FOR REFUGEE FAMILIES
On sizzling hot days like this one, organizations like Restoring Dignity is there to help.
KQWT | Jul 23, 2025



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