

20
21



ANNUAL REPORT

Thank you for celebrating 40 years with us!

International House was founded by the Charlotte Area Clergy in 1981, the nonprofit organization was established to be a place of mutual learning, understanding, and sharing between local Charlotteans and the international community. We were created to be a safe haven, where immigrants and refugees could feel at home. Where no matter their race or culture they would find individuals that welcomed them and would stand beside them as they navigated a new country and city.

In 1981 the international population in Mecklenburg County was approximately 30,000, today census numbers show the population to be well over 160,000. The staff, volunteers, donors, and supporters of International House believe in making a difference in the lives of our international population. We work every day to help our foreign born neighbors integrate through legal action, education programming, and multicultural experiences.



In 2021 we introduced a new project, The Journey: Art Exhibit and Competition. We invited local, immigrant artists to submit creative representations of their journey to the United States. Ten of those artists were chosen to participate in the competition and to have their artwork showcased in both a physical and virtual exhibit. The winning artist, voted for by the community, created a mural that now hangs in our hallway.

Our hope with The Journey was to nurture, celebrate, and support immigrant artists in Mecklenburg County. We wanted to build a bridge between our communities and provide people opportunities to learn, share, experience, and understand our foreign-born neighbors a little better. With the help of our partners, we connected over 300 community members with our immigrant artists, sharing their culture and journeys.

Our Title and Journey level Partners:

Atrium Health
The Arts & Science Council
Stuart and Teresa Singer

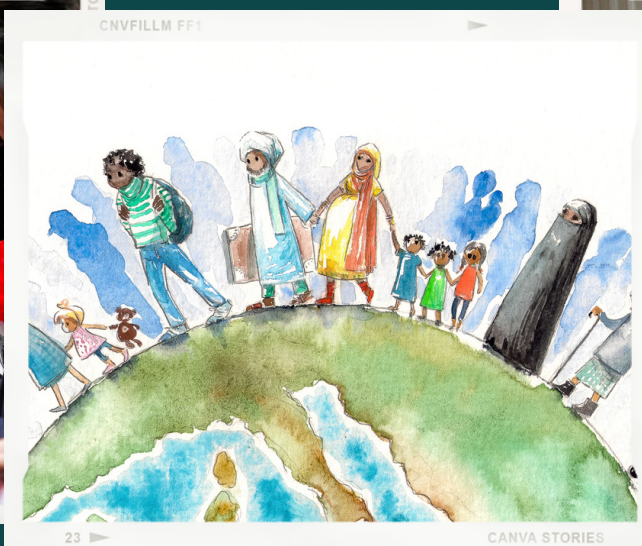
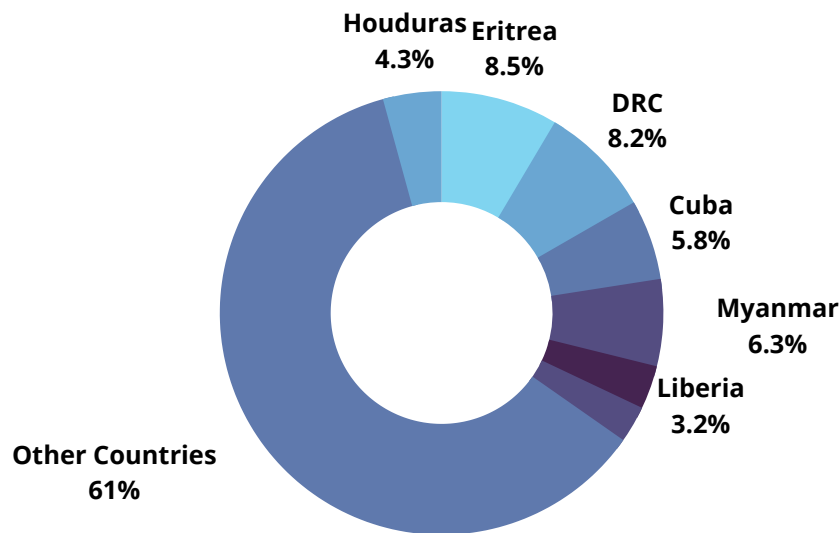


INTERNATIONAL ARRIVAL

Immigration Law Clinic

Each year immigrants enter the United States with disadvantages due to language, legal status, and an unfamiliarity with the culture. Since 2002, International House has stepped forward to provide high-quality legal representation to the Charlotte Metro region to aid immigrants and refugees in overcoming their vulnerability and stabilize their legal status. The clinic offers low-cost services to clients seeking family reunification, work visas, legal permanent residency, and citizenship.

The clinic still combated the effects of the pandemic but worked hard to meet the needs of our international community. Last year, they opened **434** new cases, 43 more than 2020, while maintaining a **98%** success rate.



"International House is critical in the community, now more than ever.. They are fighting for people with a weak voice. Without this assistance, challenges can become unsurmountable. And the people at International House do it from their heart - not for money or for business. They do it right."

A JORDAN REFUGEE

Citizen Diplomacy Program

Our Citizen Diplomacy Program (CDP) is part of a uniting network that works every day to engage our community with different cultures to promote international understanding. The program has been a leader during the pandemic, setting new standards for virtual experiences with visitors from around the world. In 2021, CDP hosted 17 virtual delegations with 141 participants. The program introduced local community leaders to international leaders from places like Ghana, Chile, Egypt, Guatemala, Lebanon, and Malta. These leaders joined together for discussions on combating human trafficking, human and civil rights for all, women in business, technology, and education; encouraging change and unity on a global scale.



**54 Countries
Represented**

141 Virtual Vistors

**500 Community
members
engaged**

"International House's devotion to connecting Charlotte to the world, even during the pandemic, has not only sustained but strengthened our sense of connection. The variety of programs, ranging from virtual student events to global conversations between educators and school leaders across the world, have provided welcome opportunities for understanding and growth."

DAVID LYNN, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL STUDEIS AT CHARLOTTE COUNTRY DAY

Rising Readers and Rising Up

In 2021, we were able to expand our Education Department to include an afterschool supplemental reading program at Briarwood Elementary. The covid pandemic had a detrimental effect on children's education across the board, but ESL children were disproportionately affected. This afterschool program was created to help address the education impacts of the pandemic on immigrant children here in Charlotte.

Rising Up offers extracurricular activities and class lessons taught by certified teachers to 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade English Language Learners. We look forward to expanding our reach to other locations while continuing to host our summer reading program Rising Readers.

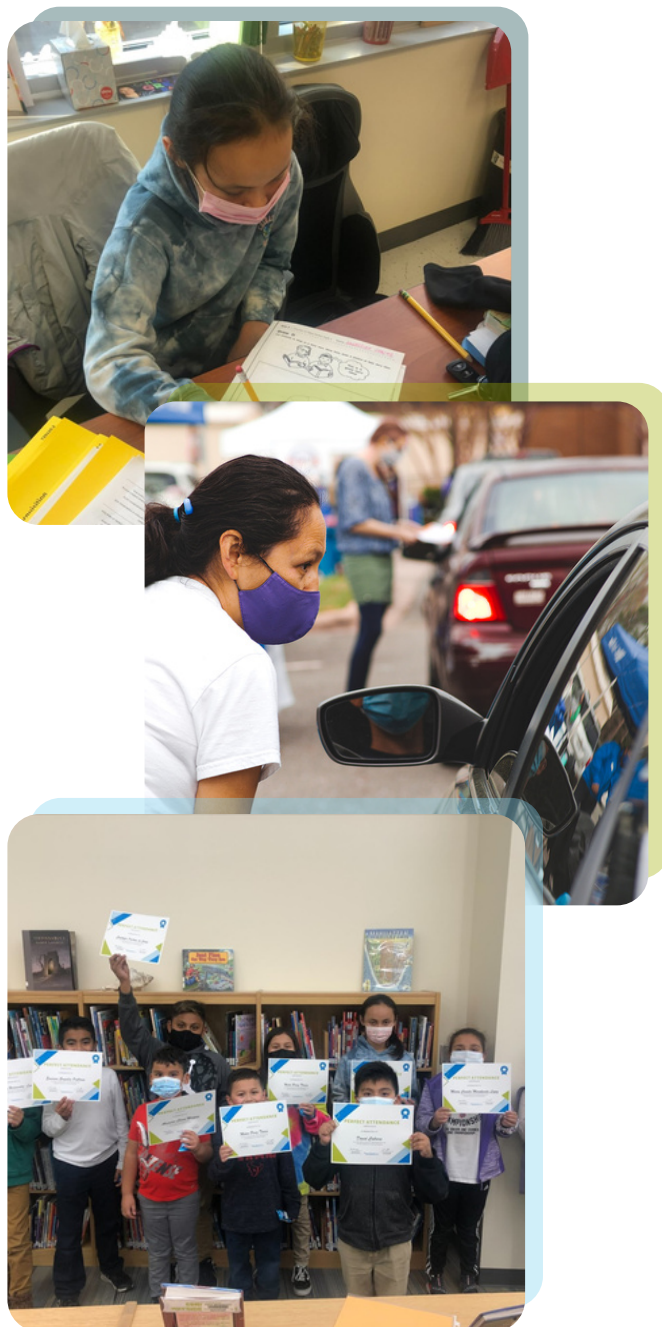
In 2021:

305

**ELEMENTARY
STUDENTS
SERVED**

247

**FAMILIES HELPED
THROUGH
OUTREACH EVENTS**



Cultural Programs

International House originated in 1981 as an organization to connect the local Charlotte community with our international community. Among the earliest programs of International House was the "Friendship Connection," a program to help internationals make new friends and develop English language skills in an informal setting. Today we have our conversation hours which include multiple languages outside of English. Another of our original programs was "Living in America: A Program for International Women," which provided practical information on living in Charlotte and the US, as well as an opportunity to discover new friendships and share cultural awareness. This program has since been adapted into what is called the Doorways International Women's Group, representing 38 countries with 78 members.

We continue to focus on raising interest and awareness among the local population about international issues and culture through our cultural events.

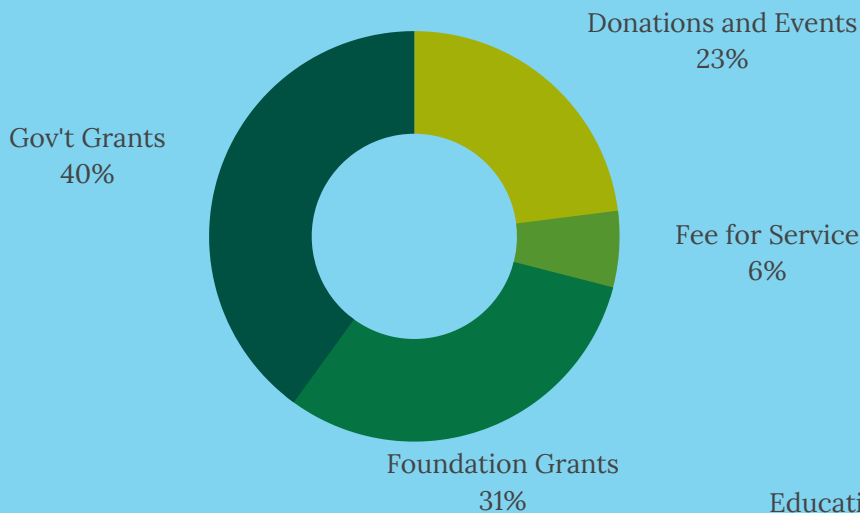


FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

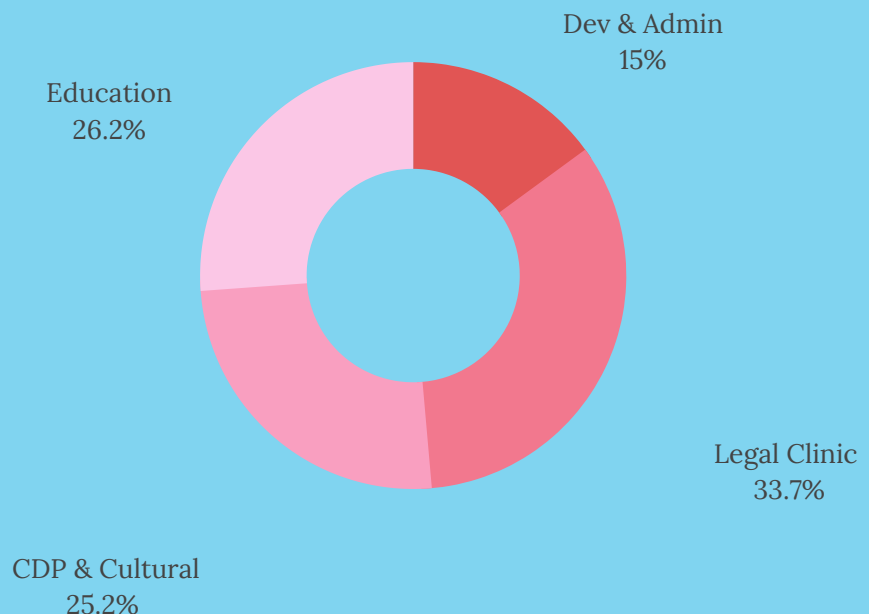
International House programming is made possible by:

Anonymous Benefactors	Ginter Foundation
BB&T Foundation	Global Ties Network
Belk Foundation	International House Doorways Members
The Blumenthal Foundation	International Paper Foundation
Charlotte Mecklenburg Community Foundation	J.A. Turner Foundation
The City of Charlotte	The Leon Levine Foundation
Community Foundation of Central Carolinas	The Merancas Family Foundation
Donald Haack Diamonds	NC Dept. of Health & Human Services
Dollar General Literacy Foundation	Sisters of Mercy Foundation
Duke Energy Foundation	The Stubblefield Foundation
Gambrell Foundation	Wells Fargo Foundation

Income



Expenses



ANNUAL REPORT

"I have been inspired and amazed at the resiliency of our staff, volunteers, donors, clients, and community. Despite the challenges we have faced as a community and as an organization because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen the impact of our mission play out in the lives of our international neighbors. Collectively, our team impacted over 4500 lives in 2021. I continue to be humbled by the passion that makes all of this possible and look forward to increasing our reach in 2022."

-Autumn Weil
Executive Director