

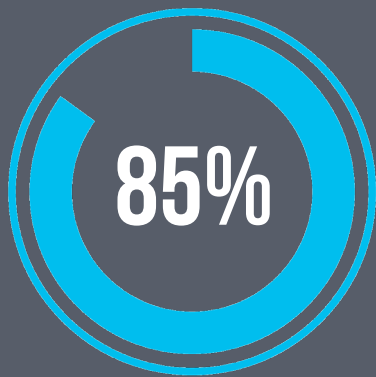
TRANSFORMING REFUGEE LIVES
WITH LASTING CHANGE.

IMPACT REPORT



2024





**85% OF DONATIONS
ARE SPENT ON
PROGRAMS**



**3
KEY
INITIATIVES**

**34
PARTNER
ORGANIZATIONS**

**6119
CLIENTS
SERVED**

**56
NATIONALITIES
INVOLVED**



DEAR FRIENDS

"As we share our 2024 Impact Report, we want you to know how deeply we value your support."



AHMAD ALASWAD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to embrace and empower those who seek refuge in the United States, providing the support, guidance and resources they need to build brighter futures.

OUR VISION

We envision a future where all refugees have an equal chance to build happy and productive lives in America, flourishing independently, and contributing positively to the community.

As we look back on 2024, we are reminded of the profound impact your support has made in the lives of refugees in our community. Thanks to your generosity and partnership, Amaanah has been able to bring hope, opportunity, and empowerment to those who need it most.

This year was one of transformation and growth for Amaanah. Guided by our mission to embrace and empower refugees in the U.S., we reached new heights in ensuring all refugees have an equal chance to build happy and productive lives in American society. Here are just a few highlights from the year:

- **Teach 360:** Our educational programs provided tutoring and mentoring to over 3,000 refugee students, helping them succeed in school and build confidence for the future.
- **Women Empowerment Programs:** We launched initiatives that equipped refugee women with the skills and resources needed to achieve financial independence, impacting [number] families.
- **Amaanah Lions:** Through our youth soccer program, we created a sense of belonging for 94 young refugees, fostering teamwork, resilience, and community pride.

- **Guiding Stars Scholarship Program:** This year, we awarded 20 scholarships to refugee students pursuing higher education. By alleviating financial barriers, Guiding Stars is empowering a new generation of leaders to achieve their dreams and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

None of this would have been possible without you. Your commitment to our vision has enabled us to provide vital services, advocate for refugee rights, and build brighter futures. Every dollar donated, every hour volunteered, and every word of encouragement has helped transform lives.

As we share our 2024 Impact Report, we want you to know how deeply we value your support. Together, we are making a difference—not just for today, but for generations to come.

Thank you for being a part of the Amaanah family. We look forward to continuing this journey with you in 2025 as we expand our programs, deepen our impact, and strive to ensure all refugees have the opportunity to thrive.

Ahmad Alaswad, March 2025

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

ANNUAL REPORT
2024



CHRISTINA DEGBO
SR PROGRAM
MANAGER

“We create a welcoming environment where every student feels valued and empowered.”

At Amaanah, empowering young people is at the heart of everything we do. Through our Youth Empowerment Services, we are dedicated to breaking down barriers, creating opportunities, and fostering a brighter future for students across our community. Over the past year, our programs have positively impacted more than 3,000 students, and we are proud to play a role in shaping their journeys toward success.

One of our most significant accomplishments has been awarding 20 scholarships totaling \$50,000 to deserving students. These scholarships provide crucial financial support, enabling young people to pursue their educational dreams without the burden of financial insecurity. For us, this isn't just an investment in individuals; it's an investment in the future of our community.

Our commitment to education extends beyond scholarships. We have supported eight schools across the community, ensuring they have the resources and tools to provide students with quality education. From classroom supplies to tailored programs, our efforts enhance learning environments and create a foundation for student success.

To address the diverse needs of our community, we've hired 10 Language Acquisition Coaches (LACs) directly from within the neighborhoods we serve. These professionals provide invaluable support by working with students in 11 different languages. Their work ensures that language barriers never hinder a child's ability to learn, grow, or feel included.

Diversity is central to our mission. We are privileged to support students from 24 different countries, fostering a culture of inclusivity and mutual

respect. By celebrating this rich diversity, we create a welcoming environment where every student feels valued and empowered to succeed.

Our team has dedicated over 10,000 hours to supporting students, providing academic guidance, mentorship, and emotional encouragement. Every moment we invest in these young people brings us closer to our vision of a community where every child has the opportunity to thrive.

At Amaanah, we believe in the transformative power of education and empowerment. These are more than just services—they are lifelines to brighter futures. Together with our supporters, partners, and community, we are building a legacy of hope and opportunity, ensuring that every child can dream big and achieve even more.

\$50,000

**IN SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED**

3,000

**STUDENTS
SERVED**

10,000

**SUPPORT
HOURS**



GUIDING STARS



LEONEL'S STORY

"It was a turning point in my life."



The Guiding Stars program is dedicated to empowering refugee youth by providing scholarships that open doors to education and opportunity. These scholarships help young people overcome financial barriers, giving them the resources they need to pursue their academic goals and build a brighter future.

Refugee youth often face unique challenges, including adapting to a new culture and overcoming economic obstacles. Guiding Stars addresses these hurdles by offering financial support for tuition, books, and other educational expenses. By easing these burdens, the program allows students to focus on their studies and unlock their potential.

The scholarships provided through Guiding Stars represent more than just financial assistance—they are a source of hope and encouragement. They remind refugee students that their aspirations matter and that they are supported on their journey toward

success. The program also fosters a sense of confidence and belonging, empowering young people to integrate into their communities while excelling in their education.

In addition to financial support, the program offers mentorship to scholarship recipients. Each student is paired with a mentor who provides guidance, encouragement, and practical advice throughout their educational journey. Mentors help students navigate academic challenges, explore career pathways, and develop the skills needed to achieve their goals.

The impact of Guiding Stars extends beyond individual students. By empowering refugee youth with education, the program strengthens families, enriches communities, and contributes to a more inclusive society. Scholarship recipients often become role models and leaders, inspiring others to pursue their dreams and break down barriers.

Leonel's story is one of determination, resilience, and the transformative power of education. After immigrating to the United States, and joining the Amaanah Lions, Leonel faced the challenge of navigating a new culture while pursuing his dream of higher education. Thanks to a scholarship provided through a partnership with Lone Star College, he was able to take the first step toward achieving his goals.

With the financial support from the scholarship, Leonel enrolled at Lone Star College, where he began his journey in computer science and cybersecurity. The scholarship covered crucial expenses, allowing him to focus on his studies without the overwhelming burden of financial stress. "I am so grateful for the opportunity Amaanah gave me," Leonel shares. "It was a turning point in my life. Without the scholarship, I wouldn't have been able to continue my education."

After excelling at Lone Star College,

Leonel transferred to the University of Houston-Downtown, where he is now completing a four-year degree in computer science and cybersecurity. This field, he says, is his passion and a way to build a meaningful career that can give back to the community.

The journey has not been without challenges, but Leonel credits the scholarship and ongoing support as vital to his success. "The help I received didn't just open doors; it gave me the confidence to walk through them," he says.

Today, Leonel is on the brink of achieving his dreams, and his story is a testament to the life-changing impact of education and opportunity. "I am forever thankful for the support," he says. "Programs like this don't just change lives—they create futures."

Leonel's success exemplifies the mission of empowering individuals to overcome obstacles, achieve their dreams, and inspire others to do the same.

A LOOK AHEAD AT THE NEW BORDERLESS PROJECT...

LAUNCHING IN 2025

The Borderless project is dedicated to empowering marginalized communities, with a special emphasis on refugee women, by offering them the means to develop essential creative and artisanal skills and achieve economic growth.

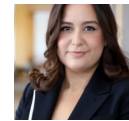
This initiative is centered around the creation of upcycled products from discarded clothing and textiles. By providing comprehensive skills development, business support, and sustainability education, the project aims to foster self-sufficiency among refugee women. Through

this endeavor, we seek to achieve multifaceted impacts: economic empowerment, environmental sustainability through waste reduction, the promotion of gender equality, and the creation of a supportive community.

Ultimately, the project's success will be measured not only by the upcycled products it produces, but also by the lasting positive changes it brings to the lives of those involved, leading to a more equitable and sustainable future.



"dedicated to
empowering
marginalized
communities"



MICHELLE SHATTUCK
SR OPERATIONS
MANAGER

YEXSI'S STORY



The journey was not easy. There are no words sufficient to describe what we went through: sleepless nights, fear of being detained, walking without knowing if we would reach the next city. We met generous people, but also others who made us feel less human. There were moments of complete despair, like when my daughter got sick, and we had neither the means nor the help to get her medical care. Or when we met other desperate immigrants who

were just trying to survive. But here we are, after crossing seven countries and facing countless challenges. We arrived in the United States—a place full of promises but also full of difficulties. I don't know what the future holds, but what I do know is that although we have suffered greatly, we have also learned a lot. And that's what keeps me strong: the hope that in this country, our daughter will have a chance, a dignified life, far from the violence and poverty we left behind.

This is how our stay began in a country so different from our culture. Thanks to God, I met a teacher from my daughter's school. She gave me a number and said, "Keep it and call—it will help you a lot." I called insistently because we had nowhere to sleep and nothing to eat. We slept on the floor, and every day our lives were filled with sadness. But we continued trusting in God, believing that things would improve.

Days went by, and I received a call from a woman who told me there was only one spot left—and it was mine—

to attend English classes. What joy! Little by little, I became part of the Amaanah program through the Big Sisters. To my greatest surprise, I was selected for a complete renovation of my home—a tremendous blessing for me and my family. That day will forever be unforgettable for us. To me, Amaanah means so much—a foundation that helps those in need regardless of race, color, or religion. I will always be grateful to the entire team for the support we received and for giving me the opportunity to say that you can count on me to continue moving forward on this journey of life.

Sometimes sadness overwhelms me when I remember everything we've lost. But I am also grateful for everything we've gained: strength, resilience, and above all, the unity of our family. If this journey has taught me anything, it's that despite the suffering, family is the most valuable thing we have. And no matter how far we are from home, we will always be together, facing whatever comes. Thank you, Amaanah, for your blessings.

WOMEN'S PROGRAMS

This year our programs brought new hope and new futures to women from a wide array of backgrounds.

Amaanah Refugee Services' Women's Empowerment Programs are designed to uplift and empower refugee women, equipping them with the skills, confidence, and resources they need to thrive in their new communities. These programs focus on fostering independence, building community connections, and promoting personal and professional growth.

At the core of these initiatives is the belief that empowering women is essential to creating resilient families and stronger communities. Through workshops, mentorship opportunities, and cultural integration activities, refugee women are supported in navigating challenges such as language barriers, cultural adaptation, and employment readiness. Amaanah provides tools and training that help participants enhance their financial literacy, improve their English language skills, and access career pathways, enabling them to achieve self-sufficiency and long-term success.

A key aspect of Amaanah's Women's Empowerment Programs is creating a supportive environment where women can build relationships with peers and mentors. Programs such as the Big Sisters Circle connect refugee women with compassionate

volunteers who provide guidance, friendship, and encouragement. These connections help women build confidence, overcome isolation, and develop a sense of belonging in their new communities.

Beyond skill-building, the programs also focus on holistic well-being. Initiatives such as wellness workshops and community outings offer opportunities for women to focus on their mental and emotional health while embracing joy and creativity. For example, a visit to the Seismique Art Installation gave participants a chance to explore art, self-expression, and camaraderie in a unique and inspiring setting.

By fostering independence, self-confidence, and connection, Amaanah's Women's Empowerment Programs play a vital role in transforming the lives of refugee women, ensuring they have the support and tools needed to create brighter futures for themselves and their families.

"empowering women is essential to creating resilient families"

29

WOMEN GRADUATED FROM THE BIG SISTERS CIRCLE IN 2024



94 PLAYERS WERE ENGAGED WITH THE AMAANAH LIONS DURING 2024



“Our team has never been more diverse, or our reach more inclusive.”



AMINE AMROUNI
HEAD COACH

Soccer is more than a game; it's a universal language that transcends borders, cultures, and backgrounds. For the Amaanah Lions, it is a bridge to a brighter future and a means of fostering unity among young refugees. As a coach and mentor, I've witnessed firsthand how this program transforms lives—not just on the field, but off it as well.

The Amaanah Lions provides young refugees with more than just an opportunity to play; it offers a sense of belonging. Many of these children have experienced upheaval, leaving behind friends, family, and the familiarity of home. Soccer becomes a safe space, a place where they can rediscover confidence, build

friendships, and express themselves.

Teamwork is at the heart of the program. On the field, these players learn to trust and rely on one another, developing skills that translate into their daily lives. Communication, leadership, and resilience are cultivated with every pass, every goal, and every challenge they overcome together. These lessons build a foundation for success beyond the game.

What's more, the program connects participants with mentors who guide them through challenges, both athletic and personal. They gain access to resources, workshops, and opportunities that enhance their education and personal growth.

Soccer is the catalyst, but the impact of the Amaanah Lions reaches far deeper.

Most importantly, the Amaanah Lions fosters pride in their identities and stories. By wearing their jerseys, they represent hope and strength—not just for themselves, but for their families and communities.

Programs like this remind us of the power of sport to unite, heal, and inspire. For the Amaanah Lions, soccer is more than a game; it's a path toward empowerment, resilience, and a brighter future. Together, we build not just a team, but a family.

35 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES ARE REPRESENTED IN THE PROGRAM



AMAANAH LIONS

The Amaanah Lions program brings young refugees and immigrants together through soccer, providing mentoring and support with education, jobs & healthcare.

The Amaanah Lions have had an extraordinary season, marking a significant step forward in our mission to empower refugee youth through soccer. With 94 players involved this year, the program has reached new heights, providing young people with opportunities to excel both on and off the field.

One of the most exciting achievements has been the team's promotion to the HFA Championship division, one of the highest levels of amateur football. This accomplishment highlights the dedication, teamwork, and talent of our players, many of whom have overcome incredible challenges to reach this milestone.

This season, several young people earned college scholarships thanks to their hard work and the opportunities provided by the program. These scholarships allow the players to pursue higher education and secure brighter futures.

The Lions also played a central role in fostering community engagement. The Community Cup brought together families, fans, and supporters, creating a celebration of unity and sportsmanship. Additionally, the popular Lions Awards recognized players for their achievements and contributions, further strengthening the bonds within our community.

Many of the young Lions were regular attendees at Amaanah events, volunteering their time to give back to the community that supports them. We're also thrilled to see leadership emerging within the team, as Jake Love, one of the Lions' coaches, has joined the Amaanah Ambassadors program to take on a greater role in supporting initiatives.

The Amaanah Lions exemplify the power of sport to inspire and uplift. As we celebrate this season's successes, we look forward to continuing this journey of empowerment and community building in years to come.

\$20,000 OF COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED.

	1ST TEAM	2ND TEAM	
16	PLAYED	PLAYED	18
11	WON	WON	7
5	DRAWN	DRAWN	4
2	LOST	LOST	7

1ST TEAM PROMOTED TO HFA CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION.



Our players thrive in the HFA league alongside mens teams from the city.



Players have contributed regularly to endorsing and promoting Amaanah.



The Lions Awards recognize on and off field contributions and sportsmanship.

AROUND AMAANAH

Here are just a few other highlights from our 15th year - our busiest year yet...



LOCAL EVENTS BROUGHT FAMILIES TO VOLUNTEERING

Several events created opportunities for parents and children to volunteer together, fostering teamwork, strengthening bonds, and instilling a commitment to community.



AMAANAH AMBASSADORS PROGRAM LAUNCHED

The program launched to empower community leaders, fostering advocacy, raising awareness, and expanding support for initiatives benefiting refugee and immigrant families.



THE 'ALL YOU CAN CARRY' PODCAST TOLD REFUGEE STORIES

The Amaanah Podcast, All You Can Carry, launched this year to share inspiring stories of resilience within the refugee community.



WE HELD THE FIRST AMAANAH COMMUNITY CUP...

This soccer event welcomed teams from eight different community organizations, along with their families, for a day of community fun.





**WE HOSTED A
15 YEAR
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION
500 PEOPLE
JOINED THE PARTY**



HOME TRANSFORMATIONS CHANGED REFUGEE LIVES AND BROUGHT VOLUNTEERS TOGETHER.

Amaanah's home transformations redefine living spaces for refugees, replacing outdated or unsuitable furnishings with modern, functional, and welcoming essentials.

These transformations create a sense of comfort, dignity, and belonging, providing families with an

environment where they can thrive. Each redesigned home offers a fresh start and renewed hope for the future. We thank everyone who partnered with us to deliver these incredible projects this year.

It's one of the most immediately impactful things that we do.

Thanks to all our partners over the last year...

Albert Schweitzer Fellowship of Houston Galveston
Arab American Cultural and Community Center
ArchPoint Pain Institute
Baylor College of Medicine
Big Tex Injury Lawyers
Bilingual Education Institute
BNI Go Getters North Houston
Catholic Charities
Chammeli
Chinese Community Center
Church World Service
Dr Haris Baig
Harris County
H-E-B
Hewad Multi-Services
Heward
Hope Clinic
Houston Community College
Houston Health Department
Houston ISD
Houston Volunteer Lawyers
IMGH
Keating, Rudy & Abdel-Rahman, LLC
Lone Star College
Naseem Husain
Dr Pernia Latif
PSSI Shuttle Services
Pure Direct Coffee
Syrian American Club of Houston
The United Way of Greater Houston
UNA-USA
University of Houston
US Anesthesia Partners
YMCA



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