2022

IMPACT REPORT

Luminus
Network for New Americans

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Message from CEO & Board Chair

A year that began with Afghan families crowded in hotels and Latinos facing food scarcity and eviction, ends this year with impact. We are pleased to share what Luminus has accomplished by bringing together people seeking help and volunteers offering it, and by brokering connections to provide both immediate help and long-term change. We are delighted to share the facts and statistics around what we accomplished and are grateful to the extraordinary volunteers, donors, and community stakeholders who made it possible. It was not easy. But we aren't here to do what's easy, we are here to do what's right.

Mike Mitchell

Luminus started its work more than 40 years ago to ensure that immigrants, refugees, asylees and others who settle in our community have the agency to fulfill their dreams and ultimately prosper. We do this as a direct service provider and more importantly, as a platform that channels the connections and support from our greater community to the New Americans who ultimately succeed because of it. Equity and inclusion are about more than tangible support people receive through Luminus. It's about the relationships that emerge from their connection to Luminus staff, to the volunteers they meet, to the company that offers them employment, and to the institutions and partners that follow and support our work. We are a stronger community together.

It is with great pride that we share this report which highlight specifics about our impact, none of which would have been possible without you.

This isn't about any member of our staff or Board, it is about all of US. It is the heart of who we are and why Luminus supports the journey of those we serve because we are from U-2-US, Luminus. Happy reading.

Danielle Duran Baron

THE IMMIGRANT STORY IS THE AMERICAN STORY

OUR MISSION

Empower New Americans by providing programs and direct services to help them achieve their goals and / or access community resources and opportunities.

OUR PURPOSE

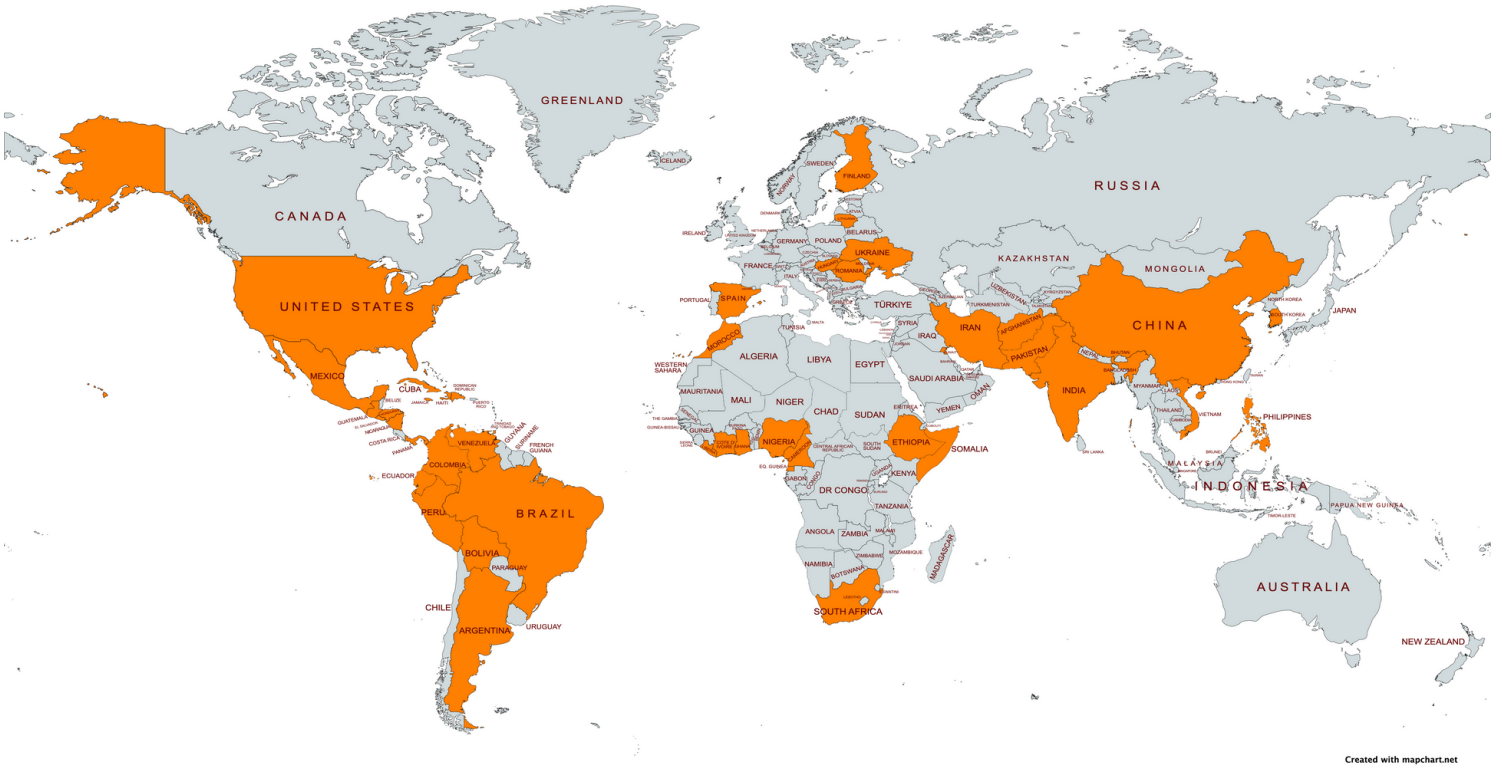
We believe that support for individuals and families is most impactful when services are integrated and holistic.

OUR VALUES

All of us can imagine and shape a better future. When new Americans are given support to navigate the unfamiliar alongside all of us, we all benefit and shape a better future.

CLIENTS IN 2022

45+ NATIONALITIES



Afghanistan
Argentina
Bahamas
Bolivia
Brazil
Cameroon
China
Colombia
Cuba
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
El Salvador
Equatorial Guinea
Ethiopia
Finland
Ghana
Guatemala
Haiti
Honduras
Hungary
India
Iran
Ivory Coast
Jamaica
Kuwait
Liberia
Lithuania
Mexico
Morocco
Nicaragua
Nigeria
Pakistan
Panama
Peru
Philippines
Romania
Somalia
South Africa
South Korea
Spain
Trinidad and Tobago
Ukraine
United States
Venezuela
Vietnam

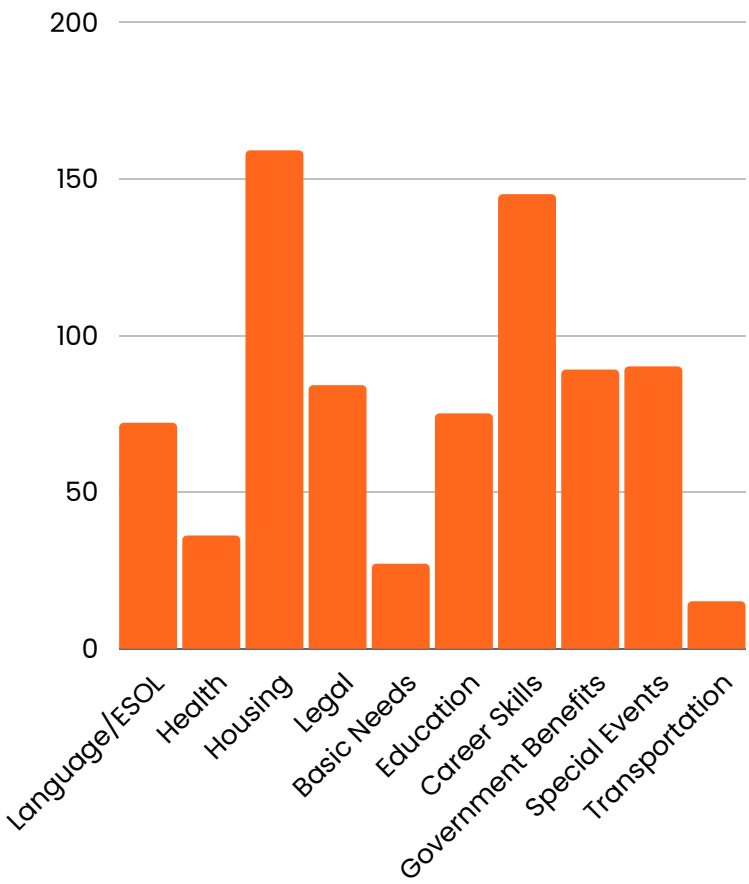
PROGRAMS & SERVICES

During the past year, the Luminus team provided more than 1,287 services to individuals and families. The top three services requested included rental housing assistance, assistance with applications for benefits such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and career skills such as creating resumes or assistance with submitting job applications.

1,287+

INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED & SERVICES PROVIDED

SERVICES PROVIDED



HOUSING & COVID-19 RENTAL ASSISTANCE

During the pandemic, the rental assistance program administered by Luminus offered Howard County residents financial support to pay their monthly rent and avoid eviction.

244

HOUSEHOLDS

750+

INDIVIDUALS

$2.6M

RENTAL ASSISTANCE

$108K

UTILITIES ASSISTANCE

HEALTH EQUITY

617 PEOPLE VACCINATED

Luminus understands the various barriers immigrants face to accessing quality healthcare and acts to ensure equitable access to health resources for New Americans in our community.

Our two initiatives this year focused on Covid-19 clinics and Engaging Communities to Address Tobacco/Vaping Prevention and Cessation. With the help of the Howard County Library System, Luminus worked to vaccinate immigrants and other vulnerable groups in Howard County. At the conclusion of our grant period, we vaccinated 617 individuals, including 118 children between the ages of five and eleven.

The creation of the Vaccination Equity Corps was instrumental in maximizing outreach to minority communities to help combat misinformation about the vaccine. In partnership with Howard County Public School System, Luminus was able to organize Spanish fluent students to help identify families in need of information about vaccines and help them get vaccinated throughout the summer. By the end of our grant period, Luminus was able to directly reach approximately 5,850 people in the Latino and African American communities.

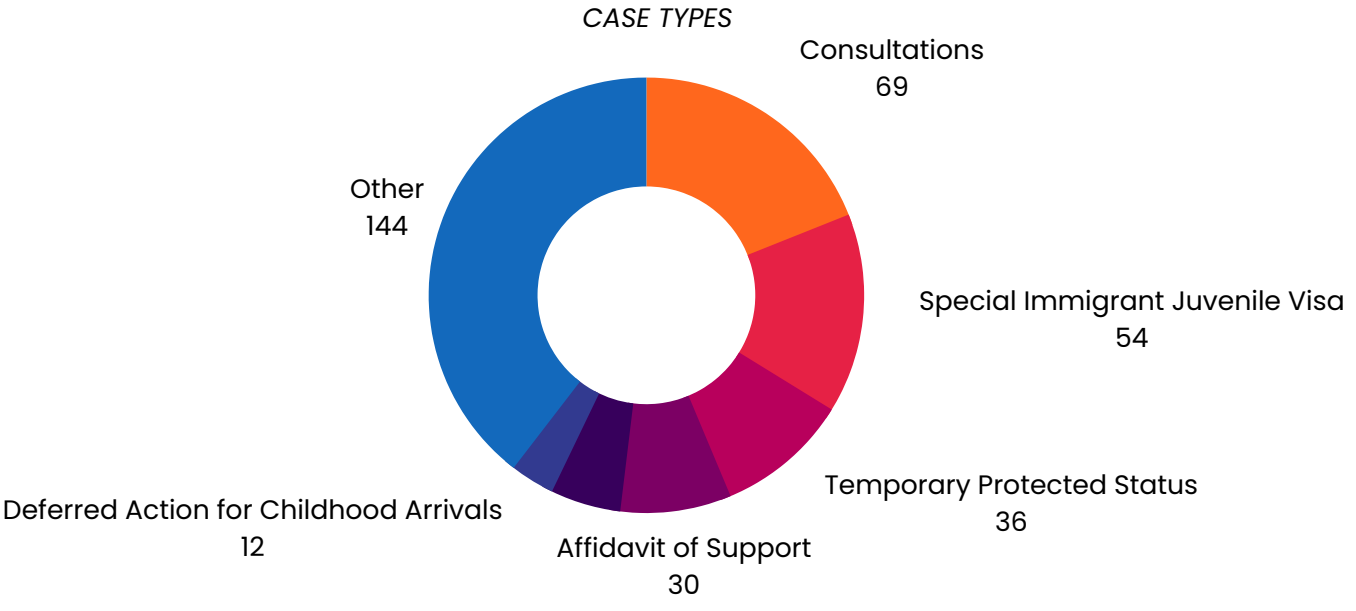
The Engaging Communities to Address Tobacco/Vaping Prevention and Cessation initiative focused on raising tobacco and vape cessation awareness among youth in the Latino community. Outreach included dissemination of Spanish language fliers, emails to Spanish and English-speaking clients, anti-vaping social media posts, and an artwork campaign that featured Howard County students. Parents of middle schoolers were targeted through social media platforms like the Facebook group; *Howard County Latino*. Efforts resulted in the dissemination of 607 emails, accompanied by the artwork campaign, and 2,000 people educated about vaping via social media. Additionally, 15 Luminus clients were referred to the Maryland Tobacco Quitline.

IMMIGRANT & LEGAL SERVICES

The legal team provided services to more than 364 clients. This included consultations for Temporary Protected Status, Affidavits of Support, Special Immigrant Juvenile Visas, asylum, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, Employment Authorization Documents, naturalization, family-based petitions, removal proceedings, and other legal matters.

364
CASES

CASE TYPES

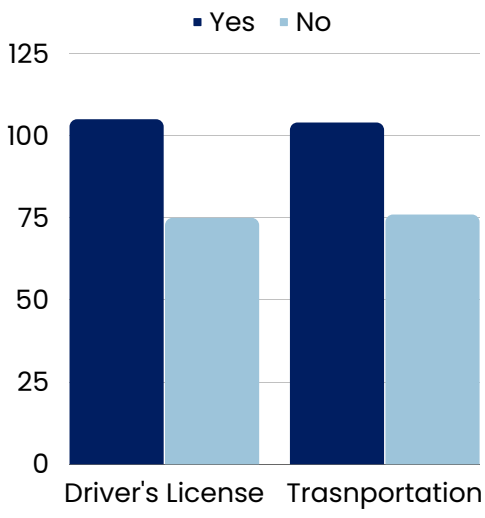


New American Staffing

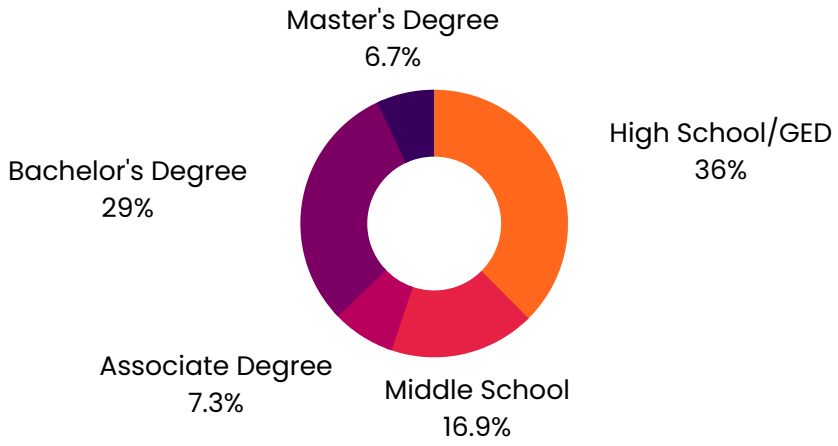
180
CANDIDATES

New American Staffing, Luminus' newest programs, helps individuals with job placement and retention by assisting them in developing resumes, filling out job applications, and preparing for interviews. The Luminus team also helps individuals create 180-day plans to develop power skills and career ladders. They maintain constant contact with employers in the D.C, Maryland, and Virginia area on behalf of clients applying for positions.

TRANSPORTATION



EDUCATION LEVEL



LANGUAGE PROSE

429

INTERPRETING SESSIONS

195

DOCUMENTS TRANSLATED

39

ORGANIZATIONS SERVED

Language Prose offers language services to individuals and organizations in the Central Maryland area. We provide three main services: spoken interpretation, written translation, and on-demand interpretation. Our skilled and certified bank of interpreters and translators, fluent in over 35 languages, are also immigrants located in the Howard County area. These interpreters are trained in the areas of medical, legal, and community interpretation. They meet directly with customers, as well as organizations within and outside of Howard County, with the goal of facilitating precise and reliable communication for health, social, and employment services. Written translation service offers document translations by experienced native language speakers. Documents commonly received for translation include legal immigration documents, school transcripts, marketing collateral, medical records, surveys, and more.

VOLUNTEERS

142
VOLUNTEERS

4000+
HOURS

Volunteers serve a crucial role in supporting Luminus' mission to provide essential services to New Americans. The individual backgrounds of our trusted volunteers are as diverse as the various roles they play to further our mission. Luminus volunteers range from high school students to those in their seventies, working to deliver citizenship tutoring, providing legal representation to asylees, and much more! Volunteers were also instrumental in assisting with the operations of new initiatives this year, including Race4TheWorld and Warm for Winter.

INTERNS

Jacob Sultan, a Columbia resident and rising senior at Atholton High School, started at Luminus as a volunteer in 2020. After two years, he became a summer intern working alongside staff on various projects including New American Staffing and Language Prose. Sultan attributes his years of service at Luminus to his understanding of the value of community involvement amidst the international refugee crisis. When reflecting on his time here, Jacob explains that he has learned first-hand the importance of making support and resources accessible for everyone in order to create a better and more inclusive community. Jacob plans to build upon his experience at Luminus, mentioning that he is considering double majoring in Finance and International Development in college.

OUR INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Luminus offers interested high school and college students the chance to intern alongside staff on various projects. Upon joining, interns collaborate with an intern coordinator to identify a role best suited to their interests, skills, and career goals. This year, 15 amazing interns from University of Maryland, Duke University, and Howard County high schools joined the Luminus team and worked in the areas of research, casework, event planning, digital media, and administrative support.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

AFGHAN SUMMIT

The Luminus Network for New Americans and the United Nations Association of the National Capital Area hosted the virtual Afghan Summit on February 6, 2022, to engage a community of volunteers. Participants, with nearly 300 in attendance, were introduced to the Afghan Alliance model, cultural competence, and the various volunteer needs. Notable guest speakers included Sarah Craven (Director of UN Population Fund and Member of UNA-NCA Advisory Council) and Freshta Taeb (Senior Refugee Interventionist and Afghan American Foundation Board Member). Taeb, the daughter of an Afghan refugee who sought political asylum, led a presentation explaining the cultural norms of Afghanistan as well as the emotional and mental obstacles refugees face while adjusting to their new homeland. Participants had the opportunity to discuss different service opportunities in smaller groups and listen to the experiences of others involvement in resettling newcomers.

RACE4THE WORLD

$28,490
RAISED

181
REGISTRATIONS

10+
PARTNERS

The Luminus Race4TheWorld event was held on July 4 at the Merriweather Post Pavillion. With the race symbolically falling on Independence Day, the event celebrated the integral role of immigrants and refugees in creating the culturally diverse American fabric. With the help of our 16 volunteers and staff, as well as the generous support from partners and sponsors, Luminus was able to raise $28,490.

ENGLISH CONVERSATION

13

CONVERSATION PAIRS

70

TESTED FOR ESOL CLASSES

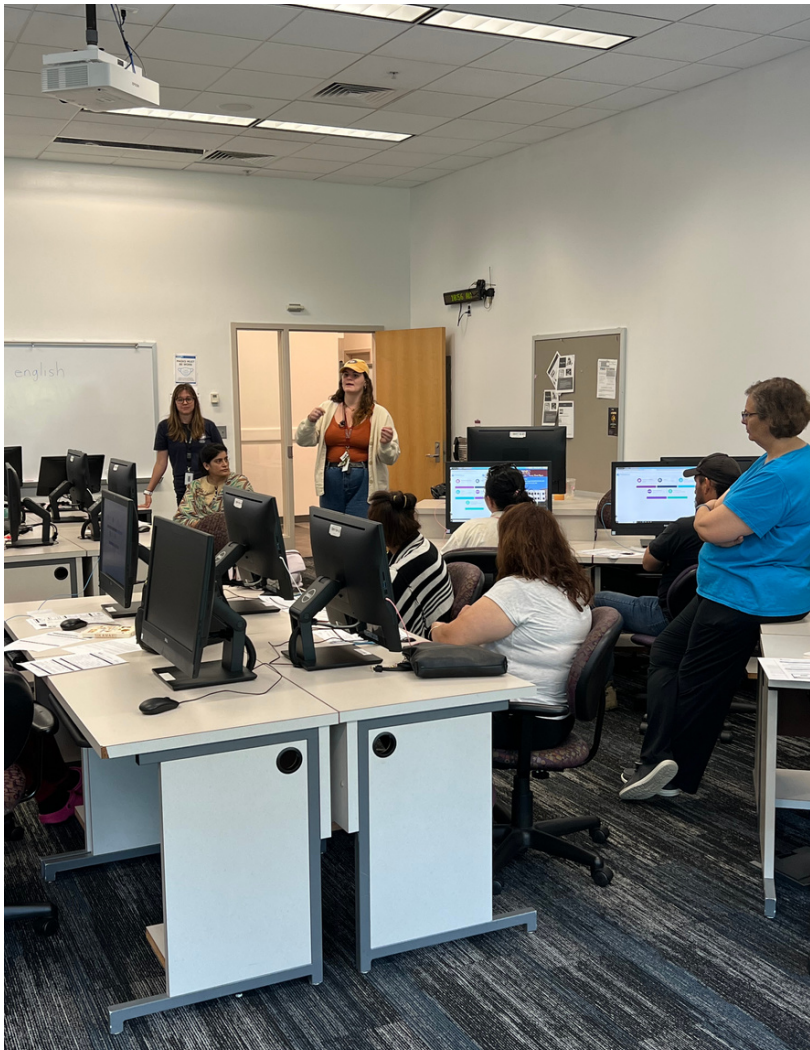
In summer 2022, Luminus launched its English Conversation Partner Program for local Afghan residents seeking help in English acquisition. The program spanned a total of eight weeks and 13 pairs, mainly Afghan and a few Latino participants, registered.

Volunteers were trained in cultural competence to assist them when discussing certain subjects with their immigrant partners, such as past experiences, religion, or politics. Many of the participants had only a rudimentary understanding of English, so volunteers were also instructed to be patient and understanding throughout the process. In order to adequately address the different needs of participants, the program offered a basic, intermediate and advanced English proficiency curriculum.

Luminus hosted an Ice Cream Social to formally introduce the volunteers and participants to each other. Pairs completed an ice-breaker worksheet to familiarize themselves with each other and discussed arrangements for the upcoming weeks. After launching the program, partners were asked to meet on a weekly basis but were able to choose flexible dates, locations and activities. Some pairs chose to convene at the park while others visited the library.

The program, which concluded in August, served as an enriching opportunity for both volunteers and participants; volunteers engaged in impactful conversations with families of different backgrounds and participants received direct and meaningful support.

In collaboration with the English Learning Center at Howard Community College and the Howard County Library System, Luminus is now offering free English classes and more than 70 people have have received testing and other English services.


english

WARM FOR WINTER

163

INDIVIDUALS

200+

COATS

1000 LBS

FOOD

In collaboration with the First Presbyterian Church of Howard County, Luminus hosted its 2nd Annual Warm for Winter Event.

More than 29 families and 163 individuals attended the event to pick up food, blankets, winter coats, backpacks, toys, and books for children.

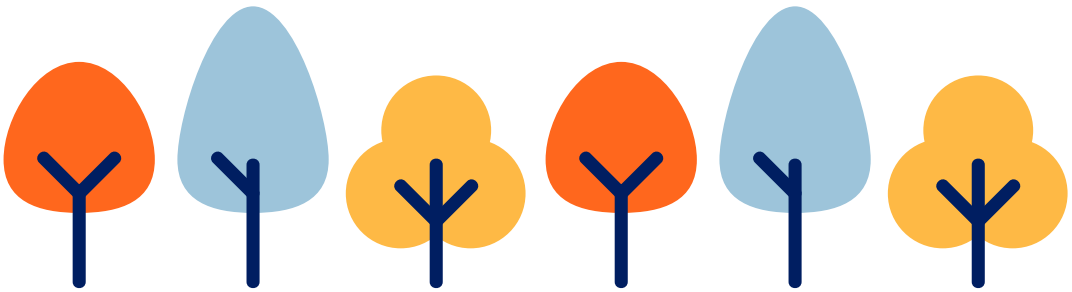
Many of the items were donations collected from the community by the First Presbyterian Church of Howard County. In addition, UNIQLO donated new coats and Project Linus of Howard County donated handmade blankets of all colors and sizes to help ensure families stay warm this winter.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints donated more than 1,000 pounds of perishable food, including peanut butter, waffle mix, canned fruit and vegetables, and pasta boxes, that volunteers packed into bags for participating families.

Hair Love
U-HAUL

adidas
CALVIN KLEIN JEANS

HARVEST GATHERING



Luminus hosted its annual Harvest Gathering with the help of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Nearly 200 people participated in the event including clients, volunteers, staff, and board members. The participants represented at least 14 different countries including Afghanistan, Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Kenya, Togo, Ukraine, and Venezuela.

The event included games, food, and raffles for families. Children spent the afternoon playing cornhole, Jenga, and soccer. An arts and crafts table was set-up for painting pumpkins and crafting gratitude wreaths with handprints and colored tissue paper.

A huge thanks to Wegmans of Columbia for donating $500 worth of food for the event including salads, hummus platters, chips, brownies, and cookies. Thank you to Jimmy John's in Centre Park for donating two platters of sandwiches. For dessert, families were able to enjoy homemade pies, thanks to members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Every family received a goody bag with mini pies, fudge, apples, honey sticks and other fall treats and pumpkins for baking donated by Larriland Farms.

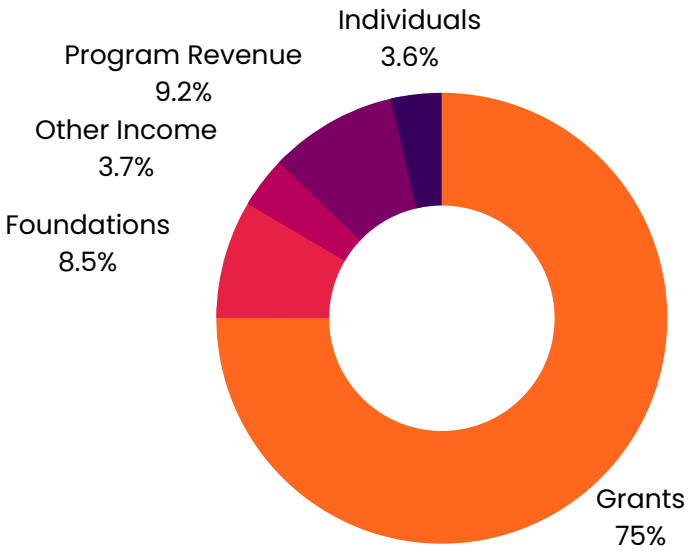
St. Peter's Episcopal Church donated a Thanksgiving basket full of holiday staples that was raffled off. A special thank you to First Presbyterian Church of Howard County who made it possible for each family to receive a $100 gift card for grocery shopping for Thanksgiving.

Of course, none of this could have been possible without the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for collaborating with Luminus and hosting the event at the church. Their members decorated the space beautifully for the Fall themed event. Finally, a big shout out to all the Luminus donors and volunteer for making this event possible.

FINANCIAL REPORT (FY 22)

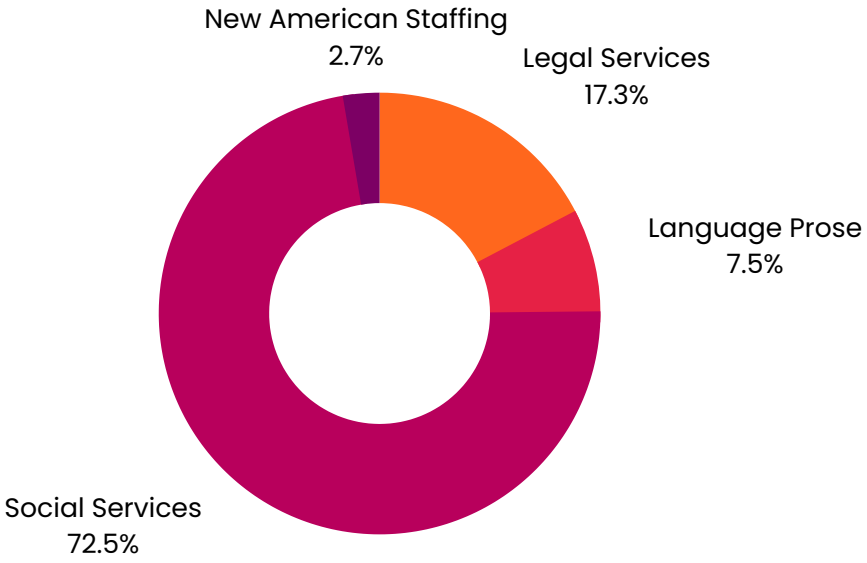
$2,988,570.48

REVENUE



$2,977,875.54

EXPENSES



Supporters

$200,000+
Community Development Block Grant
Community Service Partnerships
Treasury Grant

$150,000+
Montgomery County Department of Health & Humanity

$100,000+
Weinberg Foundation

$75,000+
Anne Arundel American Rescue Plan
Howard County American Rescue Plan

$50,000+
Reis Family Foundation

$20,000+
EWE Spirit Foundation
Institute of Museum and Library Services
International Social Services, U.S.A.
Local Children Board
MakingChange, Inc.

$10,000+
Horizon Foundation
Susan & Steven Porter
The Jain Family Foundation
The Sozosei Foundation

$5,000+
AgroLawn, Inc.
Clarksville Commons
Community Foundation of Howard County
Heather & Timothy Dull
Kennedy Krieger Institute
Michael Cataldo
M&T Bank

$1,000+
Apple Ford
Arnold & Kathleen Isaacs
Bet Aviv
Bethel Korean Presbyterian Church
Brannin Clark
Edward & Lucille McCarthy
First Presbyterian Church of Howard County
Georgia Bupp
Michael Ware
Michel Cavallon
Patricia Caplan
Patrick & Amy Curran
Paul Casey
Stephen Bupp
Summit Medical Group
Towson Presbyterian Church
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia
ViiV Healthcare
Women's Giving Circle of Howard County

$500+
Barbara Lawson
Charities Aid Foundation of America
Effie Kapsalis
Historic Oakland
Joanne Pollak
Patricia MC Brown
Robert, Janice, Margot, Sara, and Anne Watson Fund
Scot Millen

Partners

Al-Rahmah School
Annapolis Immigrant Justice Network
Anne Arundel County Government
Anne Arundel County Office of Community Engagement
Anne Arundel County Office of Emergency Management
Anne Arundel Workforce Development
Asylee Women's Enterprise
Beth Am Synagogue
Bolton Street Synagogue
Bonnie Hudak
Bridgeway Community Church
Bright Minds Foundation
Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church
Catholic Community at Relay
Columbia Association
Dar Al-Taqwa Islamic Center
Downtown Columbia Arts & Culture
Downtown Columbia Partnership
English Learning Center at Howard Community College
Episcopal Refugee and Immigrant Center Alliance
Esperanza Center
Exelon
First Presbyterian Church of Howard County
Free Bikes 4 Kidz
HCPSS Multilingual Family Services
Heart for Refugees
Howard County Government
Howard County Library System
Howard County Muslim Council
Howard County Public Schools
Howard County Workforce Development
Immigrant Outreach Service Center
Inner Arbor Trust
Islamic Center of Maryland
Janice Keating
Jenna Whitney
Jewish Federation of Howard County
Larriland Farms
Love Anne Arundel County
Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area
Maryland Afghan Refugee Crisis Committee
Memorial Episcopal Church
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Ellicott City, MD
Presbytery of Baltimore
Project Linus, Howard County
St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church
St. Paul's School for Girls
St. Peter’s Episcopal Church Old Ellicott City
Susan Griisser
Temple Isaiah
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
The Linda Ben Foundation
Timonium Presbyterian Church
UNIQLO
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia
United Nations Association of the National Capital Area
Wegmans of Columbia

HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. **DONATE**
   beluminus.org/donate

2. **VOLUNTEER**
   beluminus.org/getinvolved

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