

Fact Sheet

WHAT WE STAND FOR



MISSION: Tacoma Community House creates opportunities for immigrants and other community members in the Puget Sound region through comprehensive services focused on self-sufficiency, inclusion, and advocacy.

VISION: We are a pathway to change leading to generations of self-sufficient people and a region welcoming of immigrants and refugees.

FOUR CORE PROGRAMS



EDUCATION

English classes, GED preparation classes, Read2Me children's literacy program, and tutoring services



EMPLOYMENT

Array of services to help low-income adults locate jobs, obtain the proper training, become hired, and stay hired



IMMIGRATION

Citizenship classes and one-on-one assistance for those who need help navigating the complex immigration system



ADVOCACY

Life-saving, comprehensive services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and other crimes

2017 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Number of Services Issued by Program



Immigration services accounted for **48%** of all individuals served in 2017!

3,832

services provided to 3,566 immigrants, refugees, and other community members

107

TCH clients earned their U.S. citizenship

15,965

number of hours **377** active volunteers worked to support our programs

CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS



74% of TCH clients are immigrants or refugees, and **85%** are low-income.



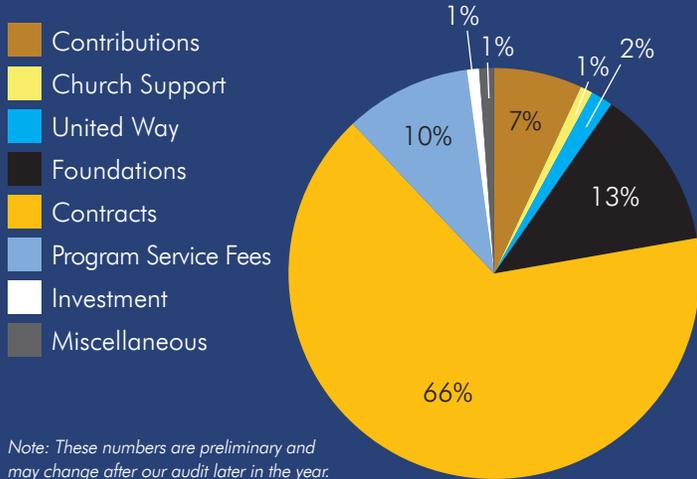
TCH clients come from **105 countries** and speak many languages.



The **top five countries** we served in 2017 were Mexico, USA, Vietnam, Ukraine, and Moldova.

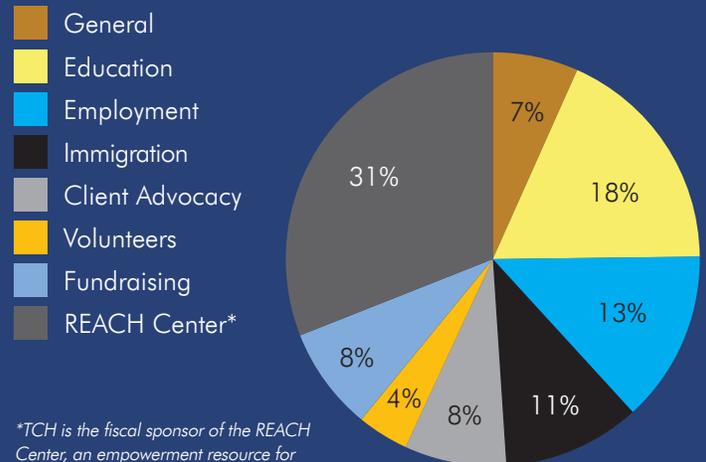
FINANCIALS | 2017 BUDGET ACTUALS: \$4,249,827

Public Support and Revenue



Note: These numbers are preliminary and may change after our audit later in the year. Operating budget excludes TCH's \$13.6M Capital Campaign.

Program Expenses



*TCH is the fiscal sponsor of the REACH Center, an empowerment resource for 16-24 year olds located at Milgard's Work Opportunity Center.

CLIENT STORY | MEET WADAH & NAJLA AL-SHARGABI

In 2013, Wadah and Najla Al-Shargabi narrowly escaped death when militants bombed their house and family printing business in southern Yemen. Homeless, jobless, and with two young sons, they relied on family members to survive amidst a backdrop of violent civil war. "You can't imagine how bad it was," 32-year-old Wadah says.

Najla, then pregnant, decided to make the 8,200-mile journey to the United States to give birth to her third child in safety. Najla is a naturalized U.S. citizen, but her husband and sons were not. Agonizingly, she knew she had to leave them behind.

Najla landed in Washington State and turned to Tacoma Community House to see if anyone could help reunite her family. She connected with Mari Stiffler, an Immigration Specialist with over a decade of experience, to be her advocate.

It took three long years, but through Najla and Mari's tireless work, Wadah and his sons were eligible for immigrant visas (as the spouse and children of a U.S. citizen) and could become Legal Permanent Residents.

Getting to the U.S. Embassy in Djibouti to fill out the necessary

paperwork was another challenge in and of itself.

Najla returned to Yemen to make the trip with Wadah. The couple had two sons and two daughters by this time, all between the ages of 1 and 10. To get to Djibouti, the family had to make a harrowing 12-hour van ride through politically-divided North and South Yemen, then cram into a small, rickety livestock boat for 22 hours. This is where the couple's youngest, Taleen, took her first steps.

When Wadah reached the States, he had a hard time adjusting to the culture and was nervous about speaking English with strangers. "I thought we [Yemenis and Americans] were so different," he says.

Washington's Department of Social and Human Services referred Wadah to TCH, where he began taking English Language Acquisition classes and working with an Employment Case Manager. In the time it took to gain practical fluency and land a job with Auto Warehousing Co., his anxiety lessened. He loved his teachers, case workers, and classmates. "I'm very sad," he says of leaving TCH, "They are my family... all of them."

Wadah will always hold Yemen



▲ Wadah (middle) stands with members of the TCH staff who helped him along his journey.

in his heart, but now looks forward to applying for U.S. citizenship — a process which he can begin in a year from now. "Everything is green [here]," he says, grinning. "Everybody smiles everywhere. It's like when you go to Paradise."

Once a citizen, Wadah hopes to petition for his parents to join him so they don't have to miss another precious moment of their grandchildren's lives. He also wants to start his own business, relaunching the printing press company his family had for generations in Yemen.

"I can do a lot here," he says. "I know I can do it. Once you catch the opportunity, everything is possible."