

# Fact Sheet

## WHAT WE STAND FOR



**MISSION:** Tacoma Community House creates opportunities for immigrants, refugees 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

## 2018 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### Number of Services Issued by Program

**ADVOCACY** 280

**READ2ME** 363

**EMPLOYMENT** 407

**EDUCATION** 617

**IMMIGRATION & CITIZENSHIP** 1,789

Immigration services accounted for **51.7%** of all individuals served in 2018!

Approximately  
**3,500**

services provided to more than 3,200 immigrants, refugees, and other community members

**127**

TCH clients earned their U.S. citizenship

**13,958**

number of hours **392** active volunteers worked to support our programs

## CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS



**85%** of TCH clients are immigrants or refugees, and **86%** are low-income.



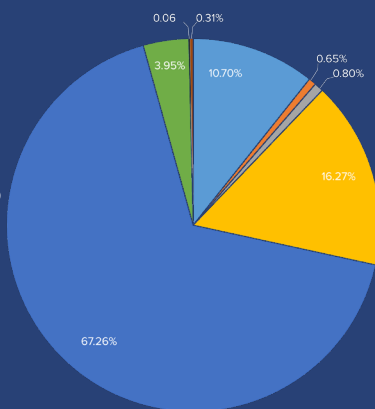
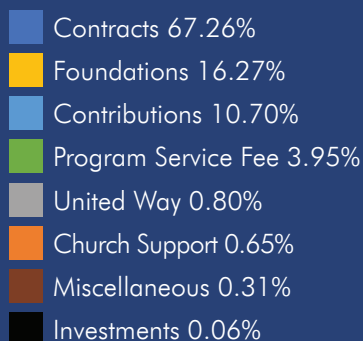
TCH clients come from **110 countries** and speak many languages.



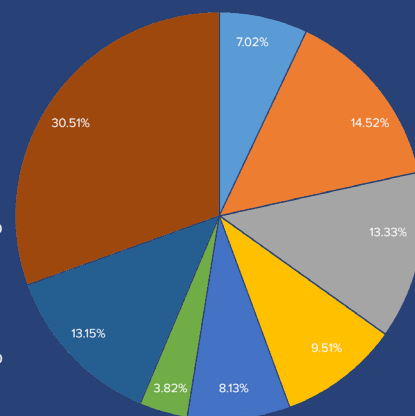
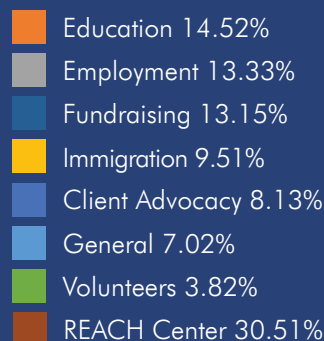
The **top five countries** we served in 2018 were Mexico, USA, Vietnam, Ukraine, and Moldova.

# FINANCIALS | 2018 BUDGET ACTUALS: \$8,534,573

## Public Support and Revenue



## Program Expenses



TCH General Operating Revenue: \$3,027,307  
 REACH General Operating Revenue: \$1,840,420  
**Combined Total Operating Revenue: \$4,867,727**  
**TCH Capital Campaign Contributions: \$3,666,846**

**Total 2018 Revenue: \$8,534,573**

*\*2018 TCH Financials are unaudited*

## CLIENT STORY | MEET WADHAH & NAJLA AL-SHARGABI

In 2013, Wadhah 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 Wadhah 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, Wadhah 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 Wadhah. 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 Wadhah 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 Wadhah 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."

Wadhah will always hold Yemen



▲ Wadhah (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, Wadhah 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."