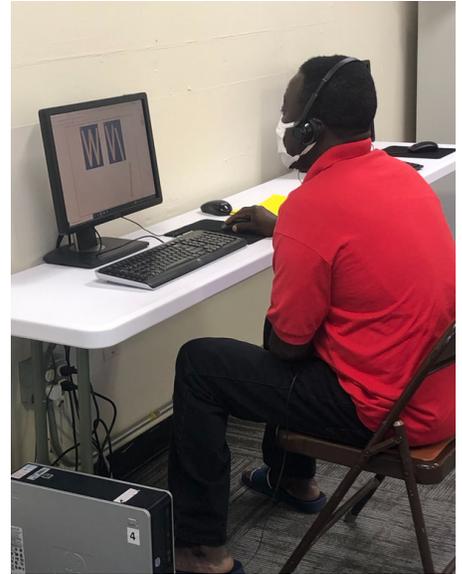


DECEMBER 2021

# BEYOND90

BRIDGING THE GAP TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY



## Welcome!

As this year comes to a close, we are in awe of what we have been able to accomplish. As a community we have faced many challenges, but we humbly embrace all who come to our doors. It has always been our heart to never turn anyone away who is in need whether we have the financial means to help them or not. We strive to be the hands and feet of Christ, because we know He has the answers. We are committed to being a welcoming place to all who walk through our doors, offering peace and hope as we encourage each one on their path toward self-sufficiency.

Since our most humble beginnings serving refugee families from our apartment, we have grown and have cultivated relationships and programs to respond to the ever growing needs in our community. You, our donors and volunteers, have witnessed the growing needs as well and have chosen to walk alongside us. For this we are so very grateful for each one of you. Together we are making a difference!



Barton and Lori Chelf  
Founders

2021  
Highlights

587  
FAMILIES

32  
COUNTRIES

1938  
SERVICE  
VISITS



# New Program

## Refugee Mental Health

PROJECT FOR HEALING

374 VISITS

18 COUNTRIES SERVED

328

THERAPY HOURS

In February of this year, Project For Healing, Inc. merged with Beyond90. As two separate entities working in tandem to provide wrap-around care for refugees seeking wellness counseling, it was only natural for us to merge when the founder of Project For Healing (the only refugee mental health provider in NE FL) announced her retirement. We were passionate that this necessary service to the community continue as about **1 out of 3 asylum seekers and refugees experience high rates of depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorders.** This occurs not just from the serious adversity they experienced which caused them to flee, it is also compounded by the additional stressors they experience living in a new country, adapting to a new culture, learning to speak a new language, finding a job and becoming financially secure.



## Introducing Amra Mesic

Clinical Supervisor, LMHC

Amra was born and raised in Yugoslavia, now known as Bosnia and Herzegovina. On her second birthday, war broke out. She and her mother were taken as refugees in Macedonia while her dad was fighting at the frontline. Unfortunately, 9 months later they had to return back home while the war was still active. After the war officially ended in 1995, she and her family struggled financially as it took years for the country to rebuild. At the age of 7, her parents divorced and she and her mother moved in with her grandmother. In 2002, Amra's mother remarried an American soldier and they moved to the US. Upon arrival, Amra was enrolled in middle school. It was a difficult transition, but over time she was able to adjust to her new life in America. Amra graduated from UNF with a Bachelor's in Psychology and then from Webster University with a Master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. Amra is currently completing her PhD in Advanced Studies of Human Behavior at Capella University. During her career as a Licensed Mental Health Counselor, Amra has provided clinical and supportive counseling to individuals, groups and families. She was also a contributor in the Ignite the Future-Victories in Mental Health (5/2020) and Panel on Points of Light pilot project (7/2021).

Amra joins two other clinicians on our team who are working to help our newcomers heal.

# Healing from Trauma

*NAME HAS BEEN CHANGED TO PROTECT OUR FRIEND.*

Missy came to the US in 2017. She fled because the military was forcing her to join and she didn't want to be part of the military. She hid from them as long as she could and then escaped through Sudan border, through Egypt, Sinai and eventually made it to Israel. She suffered physical and emotional trauma from relationships while in Israel where she became pregnant. She escaped to a women's shelter and was accepted into the refugee program for resettlement in the US. As a client of Project For Healing, Missy has worked through the toughest parts of her trauma and continues ongoing therapy. Beyond90 support services offered her education classes like Driver Readiness. She passed her permit and driving test and Beyond90 was able to gift her a donated car so she and her child would no longer have to ride the bus everywhere. The reduction of the transportation barrier has opened up a world of opportunities especially in employment. She is fluent in English now and her only barrier to higher level employment was transportation.



## Stories of Overcoming!

*NAMES HAVE BEEN CHANGED TO PROTECT OUR FRIENDS.*

### LISA FROM CONGO

She packed her bags, grabbed her children and fled to our office. A mother of two in a domestic violence home decided it was time to protect herself and her children. When she arrived, our support services immediately called a local domestic violence shelter to secure a safe place to stay. She was given the directions to meet up with their contact. At her request, we notified her apartment office of the situation so they could work to have her husband removed. Several weeks later after it was safe for her to return, we helped her secure a job that would enable her to work during the same hours that her children were in school. She opened her own bank account and arranged direct deposit of her pay. Lisa is an overcomer and now thriving both financially and emotionally in her role as a single mother. Her smiles make our day!



### KATHLEEN FROM SUDAN

This year was a trying one for this senior woman from Sudan. Tests showed she had a large tumor in her abdomen that was diagnosed as cancer. Kathleen was on a fixed income with no transportation of her own. Even though she had been in the US for many years, she was still not equipped to manage the many medical appointments that accompany cancer treatments. Beyond90 quickly became her medical support. We provided transportation to all her appointments, helped manage prescription refills, was the liaison between the medical staff and Kathleen, and an advocate for her desires through the process. After months and months of treatment, we are ecstatic to say she is now CANCER FREE! What a privilege to be part of her journey.

# 2nd Annual Refugee Christmas



Words cannot express the joy that these families expressed during our 2nd Annual Refugee Christmas Party. One family sent a message - "It was an unforgettable moment." There were families from six countries laughing, having family pictures taken and truly enjoying time together. The community interaction exemplified the true spirit of this season - spending time with friends and family. We at Beyond90 along with the refugee community extend our warmest and most heartfelt thank you for each sponsor, donor and volunteer who made this day truly amazing.

107  
Families

6  
Countries

297  
Children

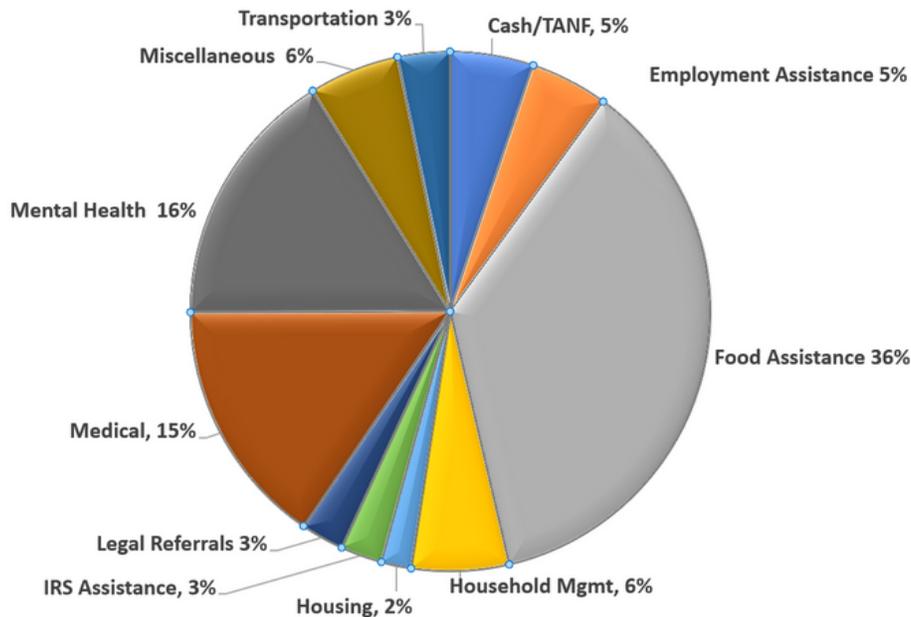


## Partners in Outreach

A few times a year Beyond90 partners with area organizations, churches and individual volunteers to get out in the community and meet the families where they live. This year we partnered with **New Life Christian Fellowship, Presbyterian Social Ministries, Church on the Rock, UNF Social Work Club, Episcopal Children's Services** and **A Safe Future Foundation** to provide two clothing giveaways in the refugee community. Families left knowing they were loved and cared for. We are truly blessed to serve with the most loving and selfless people! To those who came together for the community, WE THANK YOU!!!



# Support Services



## REFUGEE SERVICE CENTER

Refugee families from all over Jacksonville are able to come to the service center seeking help in numerous areas, such as public assistance, referrals to community partners, re-employment, household management and more.

## SELF-SUFFICIENCY CLASSES

In response to requests from the refugee community, Beyond90 offers classes in Computer Literacy, Driver Readiness, Sewing and ESL, Civics and Citizenship.



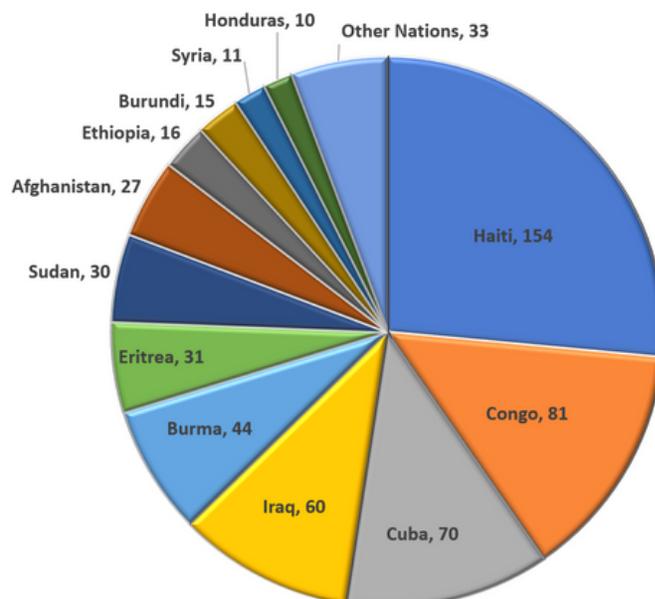
Classes

## CRISIS MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Due to the stress a person in crisis experiences, Beyond90 oversees their case plan to gain access to necessary resources, provide advocacy, transportation, financial support and more. Our dedicated team is committed to the client's success.

## HOUSING

Housing is one of the major barriers to avoiding falling into poverty. Beyond90 has two properties that provide housing to refugee families as part of our program of self-sufficiency.



Countries Served

# A Year In Review

To say that we are "WOWed" by all that has occurred this year would not even begin to express our thanks and gratitude for everyone that has played a part in our mission to serve the refugee community. It has truly been an amazing year of growth.

Thank you to all who have come along side us to serve the community. Your encouragement and support help make all this possible. We are grateful for each one of you!

- 587 Families Served
- 32 Countries
- 1938 Visits for Service
- Added 2 full-time employees
- Added 1 part-time employee
- Expanded our office hours
- Opened a new office location
- Added Mental Health Program
- Received 1st Major Grant Award

## The Difference YOU Can Make

### DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO IS INTERESTED IN HELPING REFUGEES?

If the answer is "yes" or if you know someone who has a heart for the vulnerable population groups in our community, please share Beyond90 with them. The most credible form of advertising comes straight from the people we know and trust. In fact, 83% of those asked say they trust the recommendations of friends and family. It would be an honor to have your recommendation. They can connect with us on any of the social media platforms below or visit our website - [Beyond90.org](http://Beyond90.org).

As you contemplate your year end giving, please consider our work for the vulnerable in our community.

### CONNECT WITH US AT:

Facebook - [facebook.com/Beyond90.org](https://facebook.com/Beyond90.org)  
Instagram - [Instagram.com/Beyond90JAX](https://Instagram.com/Beyond90JAX)  
LinkedIn - [Linkedincom/in/Beyond90](https://Linkedincom/in/Beyond90)

*Thank You!*