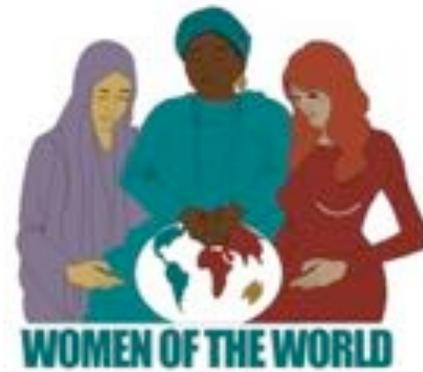


Overcoming the Exploitation of Refugee Women



Executive Director
Samira Harnish



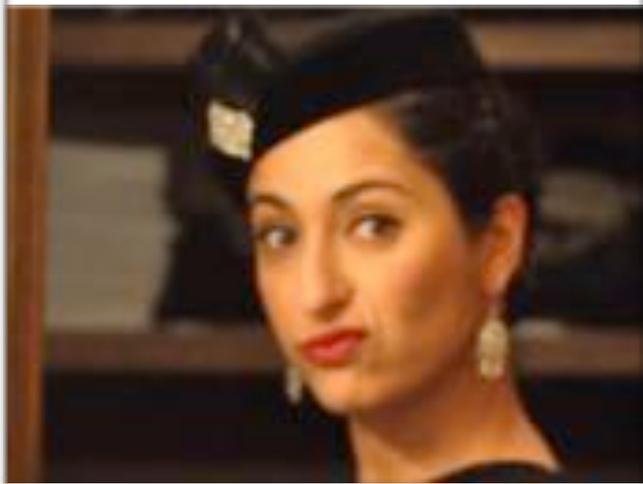
My beautiful daughter Hadiel is in Senegal for her 4th years as a Peace Corp volunteer



My beautiful grandkids and my wonderful husband, an engineering manager



My sweetheart Naba is a math teacher



My beautiful daughter is a professor in college



My handsome son, he is a paramedic



War



Camp

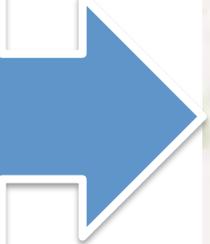
Refugees and their path?



According to the United Nations:
 A refugee is a person who is outside his or her country of residence because they have suffered (or fear) persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or because they are a member of a persecuted 'social group' or because they are fleeing a war.

Now they are in Utah -- Their permanent residence.

- New language,
- poverty,
- new laws,
- and new culture



Exploitation of Refugee Women

- War
 - More likely to be used in tactics of war (rape & torture)
- Refugee camps
 - Sexual violence
 - Rations sold by men for profit
- In Utah
 - Slumlords take advantage of new housing situation
 - Children are quickly *unparentable* due to language skills differences
 - Immigration issues
 - Poverty coupled with exploitive employers that pay below standard wage or require extra hours. Failure to promote.





Overcoming Exploitation: Programs

- Integration in community
- Service ethic
- Improved economic development both locally and globally

Welcome Them

- Friendship
- “We are here for them”
- Hygiene & Housing needs
- Transportation Training

Self-Reliance

- Certifications
- Job hunt, resume, interviewing, expectations
- Admissions, FAFSA, community college → university transition

Advocacy

Cultural Understanding

- Legal rights & responsibilities
- Understand initial advocacy needs

Intro to employment or education

Intro to Practical English

- Parents in school
- Medical appointments
- “I want to speak now”



Welcome

- Supply them with the basics & teach them how to use them.
- Provide consultation. Listen. Advise.
- “Our new neighbors.”



Developing Cultural Understanding



Workshops include:

- Public Transportation
- Parenting
- Domestic Violence
- Housing Rights
- Hygiene
- Nutrition
- Quilting
- Medicine
- ... and many more!





Practical English

- **Exploitation** reduced
- **Mothers** regain their ability to parent & help educators
- **Navigate** through Salt Lake City
- **Legal** understanding including driving regulations
- **Citizenship**
- **Medical** privacy



Practical English Program

- One-on-one or small group increases communication practice
- Topics determined by learners
- Conversation focuses on practicing in daily life situations.
- Grammar discussion arises from identifying and correcting errors in the conversation topic.

Typical ESL Programs



- Classroom size limits amount of communication practice.
- Topics for learning based on a textbook.
- Conversation time focuses on generic situations.
- Grammar is taught as a separate subject



Empowerment through employment and education

Build the essential skill like resume writing, job search, interviewing, and job expectations.

Help women start their own business including daycare & restaurants

Apply for scholarships & financial aid

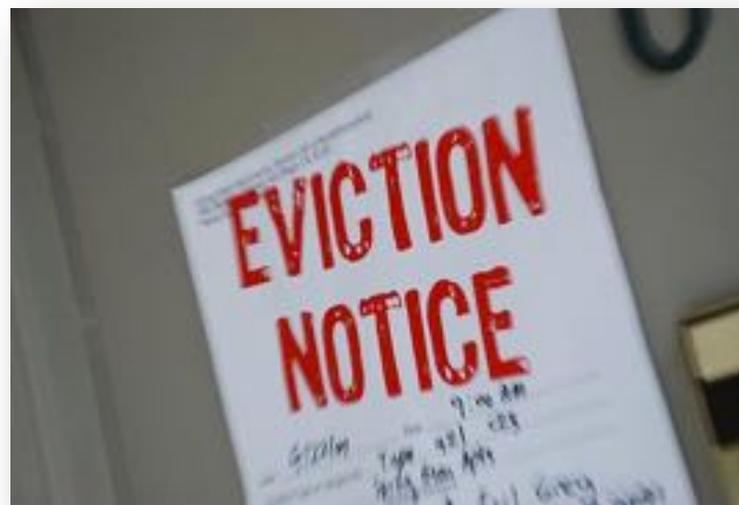
7 Masters degrees, 2 High School teachers, and many working thru their first degree!





Customized Advocacy

- Teach our ladies about their rights & to speak up when they are wronged
 - **Passed over for promotion** at a local department store
 - **“Slum lord”** negligence of mold throughout an apartment
 - Misunderstanding at school led to an **expulsion**.
 - **Eviction** in wintertime due to miscommunication
 - **Legal aid** in auto accident medical claim





Customized Advocacy

- Advocate with all levels of government.
 - Replacement immigration documents at no charge
 - Overlooked by the bureaucracy of foodstamps, Medicaid, and other weekly needs.
- “Don’t take no for an answer.”
 - Coordinated services to enable stay-at-home care for disabled family members
 - Helped three women to avoid honor killings and move on with their lives.



Self-Reliance

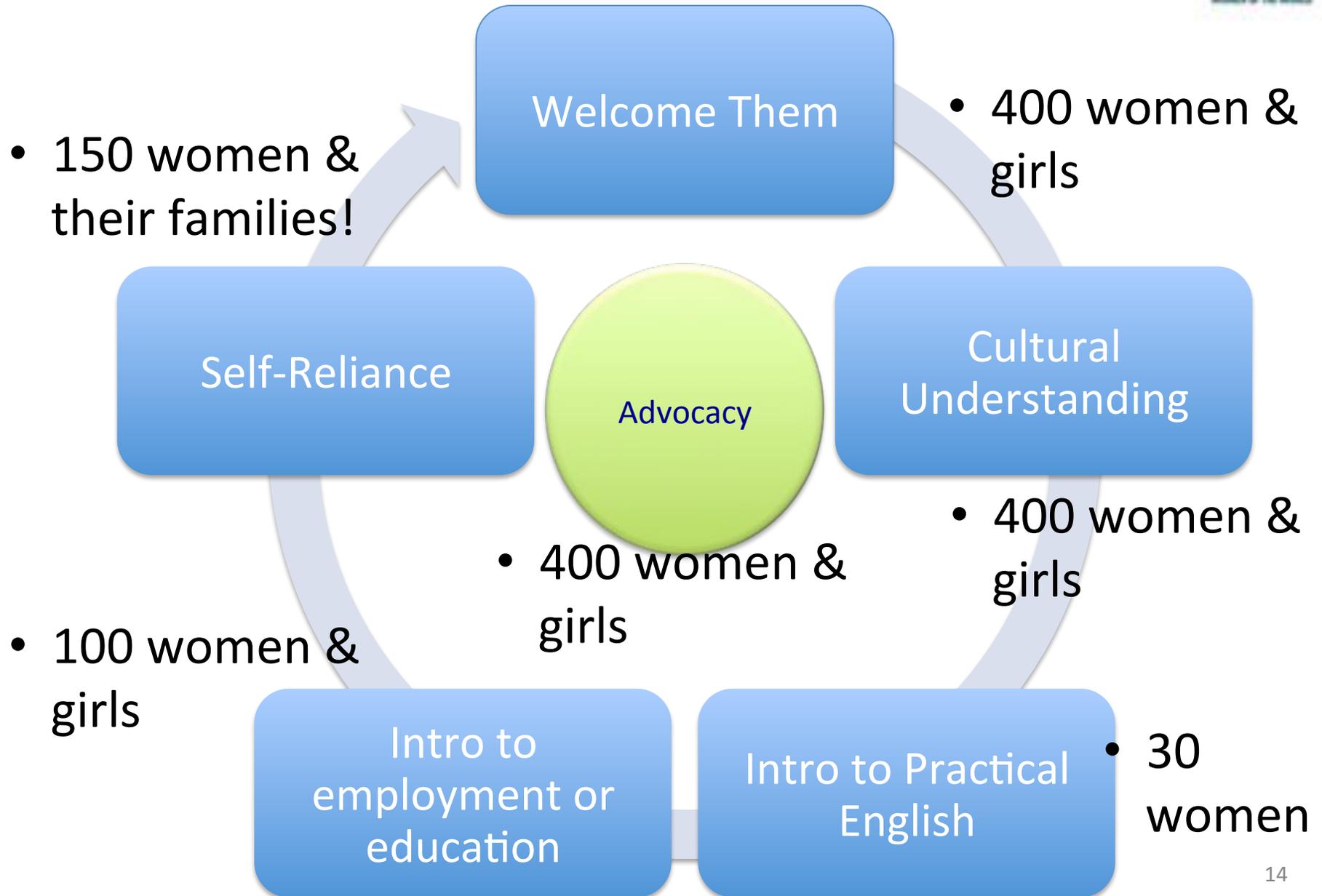


- Celebrating our new neighbors success stories & recognizing the women that have reached their goal

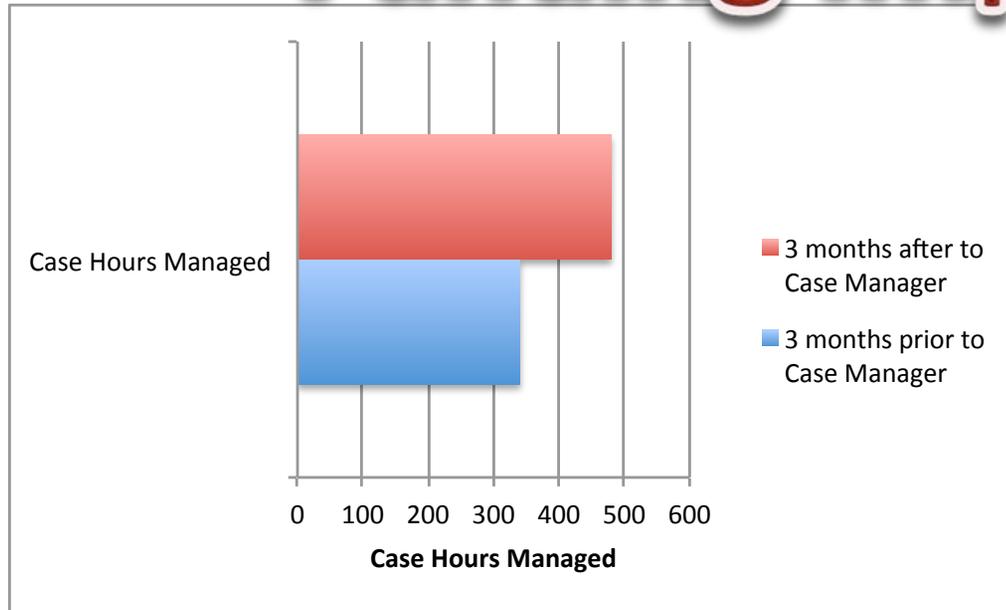




Our Impact

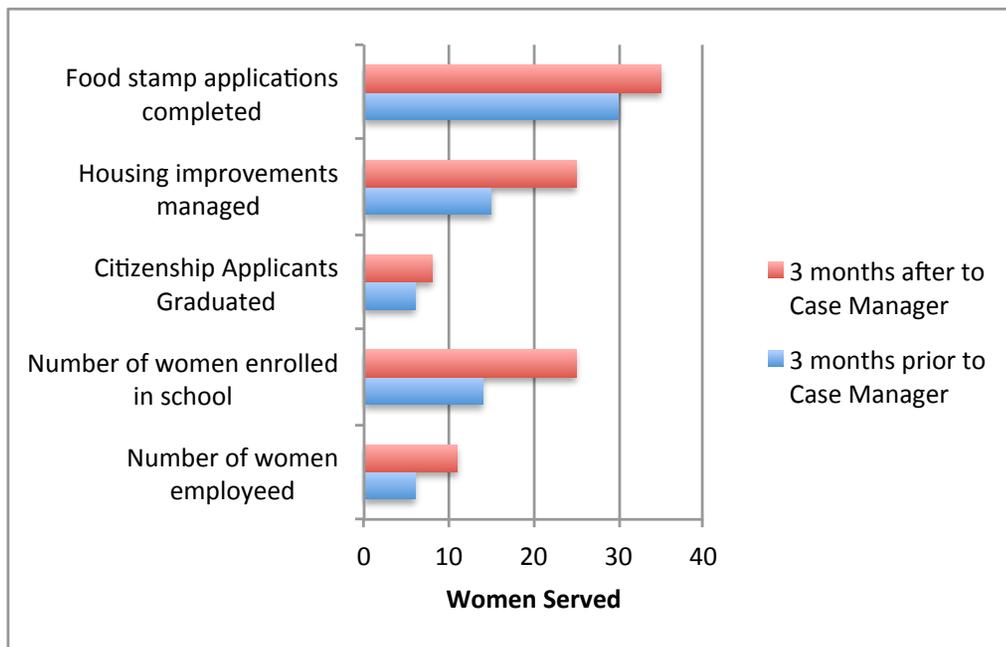


Funding Impact



Case hours managed was increased by nearly 50% to 440 hours over the past three months.

This has positively impacted the lives of women refugees both young and old.



A more detailed breakdown shows that more help was given in building the educational and housing self-reliance with Case Management support.

Vision: Refugee women feel safe and at home & drive their own development



- **Self-reliant workers & entrepreneurs**
- Local & global stability thru women's development
- Returning the favor thru mentoring and service
- Value contributed to community & posterity.

Enrich



Empower

- **Practical English** place in the family & the community.
- "Give them a voice"
- Social networks
- Women take their

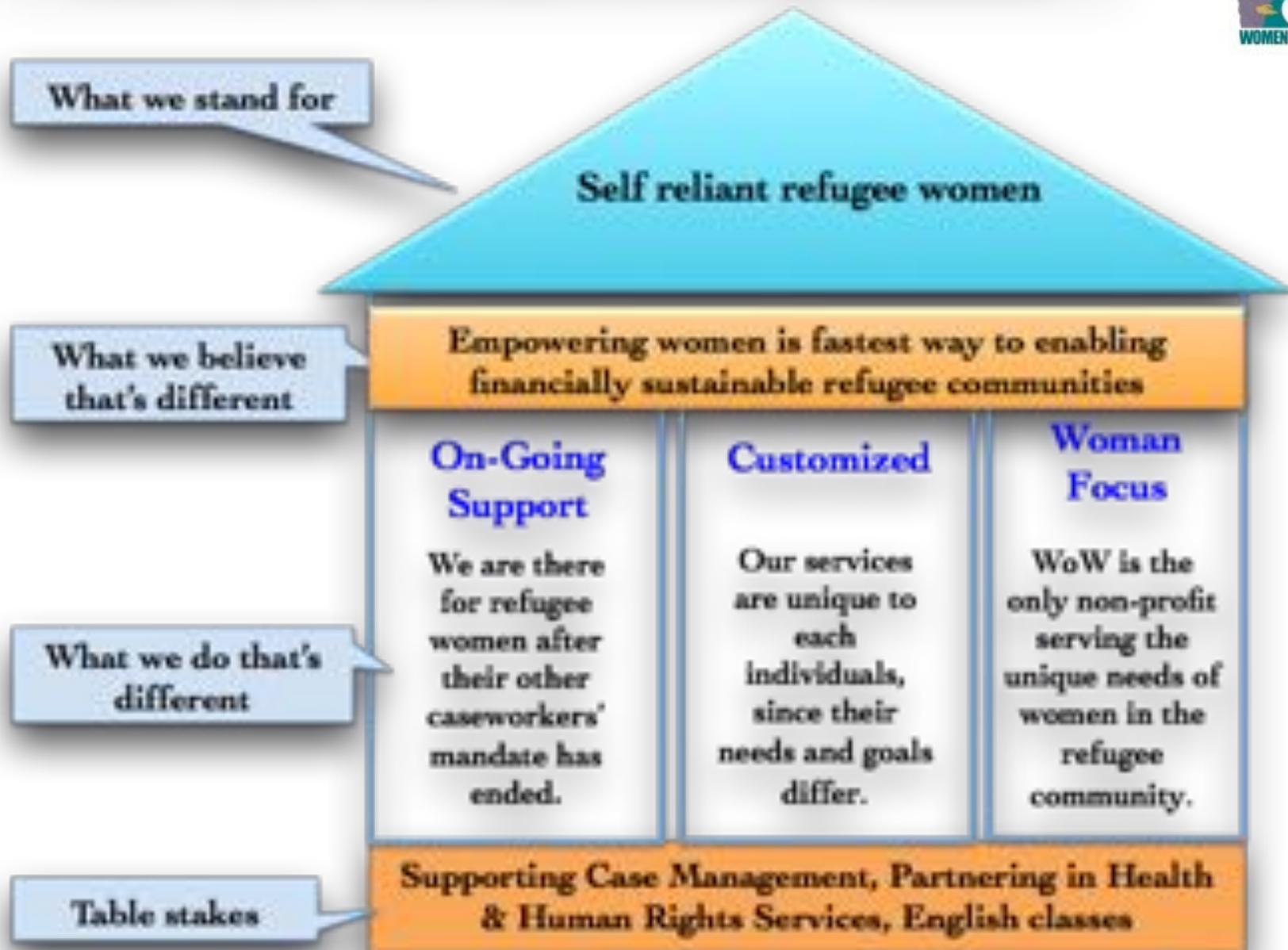


Advocate

- **Customized thru listening**
- Fight unfair housing
- Overcome immigration issues
- Legal & Cultural training
- Partner to treat PTSD

Mission: Help refugee women to achieve self-reliance, a voice in the community, and empowering economic success

Women Of the World Built On a Strong Foundation





WoW needs your help

- Programs have been recognized but are progressing slowly due to
 - Low funding
 - No office
- Need more people on staff
- Need an office where women can network
- **Will you invest in Women of the World?**
 - Assistance and ideas?
 - Time?
 - Money?

Thank you very much



Women Of the World Fashion Show 3/5/2015





Vision

- Refugee women feel safe and at home & drive their own development
- Social Networks empower refugee women by providing support, understanding and an alternate “Safety Net”

Mission

- Help refugee women to achieve self-reliance, a voice in the community, and empowering economic success

Wildly Important Goal

- Through the hiring of staff and the leasing of an office, classroom, & community space, WoW aims to serve 15 refugee women/day.