

world relief 
WISCONSIN



2025

FLOURISHING TOGETHER

This annual report reflects a year shaped by resilience, partnership and a shared commitment to responding boldly to the challenges facing our world's most vulnerable. In partnership with churches, community organizations and generous supporters like you, we continued to walk alongside refugees as they rebuilt their lives here in Wisconsin. Together, we are helping foster communities where families can flourish and where welcoming becomes a shared way of life.

In early 2025, our work entered a new season. As refugee arrivals slowed and funding landscapes shifted, our focus moved from initial welcome to long-term belonging. With steadfast support, we upheld our commitments to newly arrived families while expanding efforts to support integration. Refugees secured employment, formed meaningful friendships with volunteers and contributed their skills, cultures and entrepreneurial spirits to the life of our communities. The stories throughout this report reflect that mutual exchange- neighbors becoming friends and communities growing stronger together.

Partnership remained at the heart of our impact. Collaborations with healthcare providers, foundations, churches and civic leaders expanded access to essential services and extended our reach into new communities. Rooted in a faith that calls us to love our neighbors, this work would not be possible without you. Thank you for standing with refugees- not only in moments of arrival, but in the longer journey toward belonging.



With sincere appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gail Cornelius".

Gail Cornelius
Regional Director of World Relief Wisconsin

MILESTONES

Our work continues

January 2025

We resettled our final reception and placement arrivals and experienced a significant loss in funding.

February-March

Because of the incredible response from our community we were able to serve our commitment to newly arrived refugees.

June

We celebrated World Refugee Day at the History Museum at the Castle in Appleton and with a community potluck hosted at a partner church in Eau Claire.

July-August

We partnered with Mayo Clinic and the Pablo Foundation to provide essential healthcare to refugee families through a mobile health clinic.

August

We hosted 10 Wisconsin pastors on an immersion trip at the U.S. and Mexico border.

September

Our work expanded to include Green Bay and Sheboygan in our geographical footprint.



FROM NEIGHBORS TO ADVOCATES

For Carol and Carter Noble, it's all about one thing — being the hands and feet of Jesus, no matter where life takes them.

Originally from Appleton, Wisconsin, the Nobles have a heart for living on mission. In the early 1980's Carter had the opportunity to travel to Ecuador, where he served as a doctor on a short-term mission trip. When he returned, he brought a passion for the nations back with him.

Little did the Nobles know, an opportunity to serve the nations would eventually show up right at their door. Fast forward to August 2021. On the other side of the world, a family was experiencing deep turmoil. The Taliban was advancing throughout Afghanistan — and that meant Habibullah's life was in danger.

As a husband and a father of eight, it was hard for Habibullah to imagine ever leaving his world in Afghanistan behind. But as the

Taliban took over, he came to a heartbreaking realization. For the sake of his and his family's safety, he had to evacuate. Habibullah was forced to leave Afghanistan with only two of his children, separating the family.

Thankfully, God made sure Habibullah and his family did not walk alone. When they arrived in Wisconsin, World Relief staff were waiting at the airport, ready to welcome them with open arms. The family was also immediately connected with a Good Neighbor Team (GNT): a group of individuals committed for six months to walk alongside Habibullah and his children as they settled into their new life.

Carol and Carter Noble were among them, ready to serve. "When we heard that Habibullah and his family were coming ... [we thought], 'this is the way we could be hands and feet and really live out our faith,'" Carol said.



Within only a few weeks time, the Nobles had helped move the family in, taken Habibullah to job interviews, made doctor appointments, helped the children enroll in school, made grocery store runs, and so much more.

“Thankfully, God made sure Habibullah and his family did not walk alone.”

The journey didn’t end there, however. “Initially I thought it was going to be a six month thing,” Carol said. But as time went on, Carol and Carter realized that this friendship was going to last far longer than any of them had anticipated. When the Nobles and others on the team realized that Habibullah’s children were facing challenges getting to school, they coordinated their schedules to drive the children themselves — and they kept it up for two years. When mail arrived or doctor’s appointments needed to be made, they showed up, time and time again.

Now, four years later, the friendship between Habibullah’s family and the Nobles continues to flourish. Carol recalls how as time went on, her heart for this family only grew. “I really love them,” she shared. “They’re like my family.”

But perhaps what has surprised the Nobles most of all is their journey from neighbors to advocates. When Carol first joined the GNT, she agreed to help the family with the legal processes of resettlement. It soon became clear, however, that the family needed someone to amplify their voice. Habibullah’s wife, Aziza, and their other

children remain in Afghanistan, and unless people speak up alongside them and on their behalf, family will remain separated. “I feel really sad that his wife and children have not been able to join them,” Carol said. “And so that keeps me going, whether writing letters or calling or working with the lawyer.”

Thankfully, Habibullah’s family, alongside the Nobles, has seen a glimmer of hope — earlier last year, Habibullah’s son arrived in the U.S., joining the rest of the family. Still, the work is not yet over. They continue to make phone calls, write letters and tell their story in hopes of one day seeing a beautiful reunion. “I hope that ... one day we’ll welcome Aziza and the children,” Carol said. “So yes, we’re in it for the long haul.”

At World Relief, we see stories like Habibullah’s and the Nobles’ every day. Since the fall of Kabul, church and community members like you have partnered with us across the U.S. to stand with Afghan families in need, advocating for legislation that would provide safety and stability for our Afghan allies.



FOR THE COMMUNITY: SIYAR'S DREAM IN ACTION

Rooted in trust and a desire to serve

Three years ago, Siyar Abdullah, 45, arrived in Appleton with a vision to serve his new community. Today, he owns and operates a grocery store that has become a trusted hub for people from many backgrounds. Customers come not only from the Fox Valley but also across the state, representing communities from his home country of Afghanistan, as well as Pakistan, Somalia and various Arab countries.

Siyar's store, Halal International market, specializes in fresh halal food and meat, meeting an important need for many families. Every product in the store follows halal standards, something Abdullah takes personally. He travels directly to the farm himself to ensure the meat is prepared according to halal practices.



For Siyar, the store is built on trust. His customers know that when they shop there, the food meets the standards important to their faith and culture. Because of that commitment, the store has become more than a market. It is a welcoming place where diverse communities can find the foods they need and feel at home.

2025 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



1,176 refugees and
other immigrants
served

25

women gained new
skills through our
perinatal group

50

pastors and Christian
leaders in WI signed our
advocacy letter to
presidential campaigns

11.5%

increase in
clients served
by Immigration
Legal Services

19

good neighbor
teams mobilized

1,269

volunteer hours logged

115

new job
placements



CLAUDINE BUILDS A NEW FUTURE WITH A TRUSTED EMPLOYER

When Claudine Mutoni, 25, arrives for her shift each morning at an industrial laundry facility in Appleton, Wisconsin, she brings the same strength and resilience that carried her through years of uncertainty in a Rwandan refugee camp.

Today, that same perseverance fuels her work at Vestis, a 75-year-old company with more than 340 service locations nationwide. At its Appleton site, Claudine is part of a growing team of refugees who are not just finding jobs but also building new lives.

For Claudine, this job is more than a paycheck. It's stability. It's dignity. It's the reason she's been able to pay rent, put food on the table and even purchase a car of her own.

From navigating resettlement to securing long-term employment, World Relief Wisconsin has walked alongside Claudine every step of the way — a reflection of our broader commitment to ensuring refugees have the support and opportunity they need to truly flourish.

With support from World Relief Wisconsin employment specialist Chrisanna Barricklow, this is Claudine's second job since arriving in the U.S.

"The first time I met Chrisanna she came to my house and welcomed me," Claudine said. "She asked about my education and helped me get a job working at a hotel. Later, I asked if she could help me find a different job." That conversation led her to Vestis. In July, she celebrated her one-year anniversary with the company.

*"The first time I met
Chrisanna she came
to my house and
welcomed me."
-Claudine*

At Vestis, 19 of the 63 employees — nearly 30% of the Appleton workforce — had been referred through World Relief Wisconsin's employment services. Like Claudine, they've experienced displacement, loss and uncertainty and are rebuilding their lives one shift at a time.

"Vestis is a great option for refugee parents who need steady daytime work and no weekends," Barricklow. "They've even welcomed interpreters on-site to help with orientation and getting acclimated to the job. That level of flexibility and care makes a huge difference."

For Ed Faccio, Vestis plant manager, the partnership began with a simple question. "I think I just reached out one day because, like a lot of employers, we were struggling to find staff. I asked, 'What does World Relief do —and how does this work?' From there, it just evolved into a great partnership," he said.

Those who work closely with Faccio see a deep compassion for the people World Relief serves.

"He has a heart for our program participants and the struggles they have faced," Barricklow said. "He gets it. He really wants to see them succeed."

That heart shows up not just in words, but in action — welcoming new employees like Claudine, creating space for interpreters and working with World Relief staff to find the right fit for the right roles.

Claudine's story is still unfolding. But with steady work at Vestis, she's doing more than making ends meet, she's laying the foundation for her future.

Her goals are ambitious and full of promise: to go back to school, pursue a business career and one day open a restaurant that serves traditional African dishes. She dreams not only of stability, but of ownership, leadership and sharing her culture with others.

This job is a beginning. A place where hope clocks in alongside hard work. Thanks to a workplace that chose to walk alongside her, Claudine is not just surviving, she's working toward something lasting.

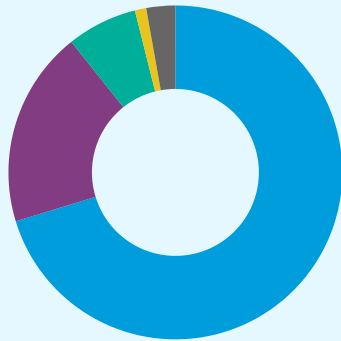


2025 FINANCIALS

This year we saw significant changes in our funding streams. We're so thankful to many in our communities who have partnered with us to make this work possible.

FY24 INCOME

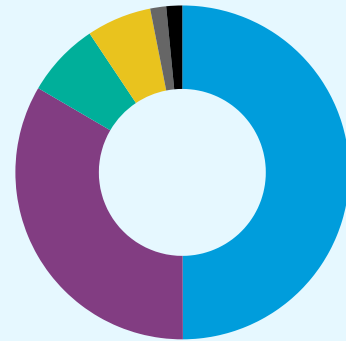
\$5.8M



- 70.2% Federal Grants
- 19.0% State Grants
- 6.8% Locally Raised Funds
- 1.1% Client Fees
- 2.8% Home Office Support

FY24 EXPENSES

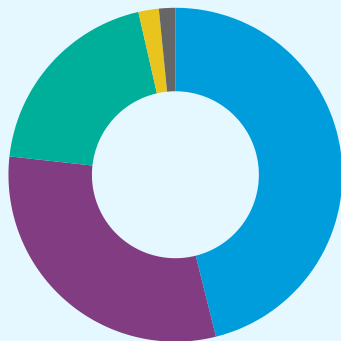
\$5.8M



- 49% Personnel
- 33% Client Expenses
- 7% Enterprise Support
- 6% Contracted Services
- 2% Mileage
- 2% Rent + Utilities

FY25 INCOME

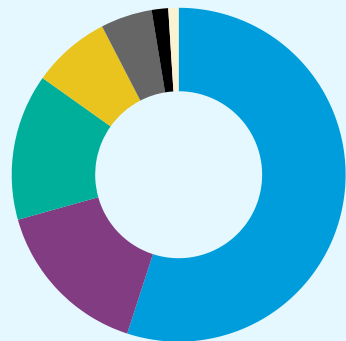
\$4.7M



- 46.6% Federal Grants
- 31.0% State Grants
- 19.9% Locally Raised Funds
- 2.0% Client Fees
- 1.6% Home Office Support

FY25 EXPENSES

\$4.2M



- 55% Personnel
- 16% Enterprise Support
- 14% Client Expenses
- 8% Contracted Services
- 5% Office Management
- 2% Rent
- 1% Mileage and Travel

PARTNERSHIPS

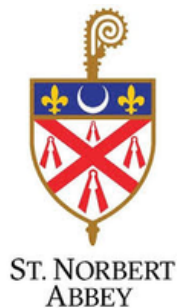
Thank you to the many partners who make this work possible.



**35 Local
Churches**



**360
Individuals**





GOD'S CALL CHANGED EVERYTHING

Mark's World Relief Story

In 1985, Mark Hull boarded a plane for the Philippines with just a one-year contract to teach English in a refugee camp. He expected it to be a meaningful experience. He did not expect it would change the trajectory of his life.

At the time, Mark was teaching and coaching in Wisconsin with a clear path ahead in sports and academics.

But years earlier, a pastor had said something that kept resurfacing: the burden of proof lies on you to show that God is not calling you to a mission field. It tugged at him, stirring a growing conviction to serve overseas.

When World Relief contacted him, he said yes. Years later, he would describe that season as a "Kairos moment" — a decisive turning point that changed everything.

Mark first served in a refugee camp three hours outside Manila as a teacher for children ages 5 to 12. Six months later, he moved into administration.

When funding shifted from the United Nations to the U.S. State Department, he unexpectedly found himself serving as the officer in charge and working closely with embassy officials.

*"Before I went, I didn't
know how to zoom out.
I didn't know how to see
the world beyond my
own experience."*

-Mark

Reflecting on that time, he said, “I didn’t know what I didn’t know,” adding that the experience was humbling, stretching and exciting.

Over time, Mark witnessed political unrest, shifting contracts and thousands of refugees preparing for resettlement — seeing both brokenness and resilience up close.

“Before I went, I didn’t know how to zoom out,” Mark says. “I didn’t know how to see the world beyond my own experience. World Relief helped me see the beauty, complexity and brokenness of the world.” The work was demanding. Days were filled with teaching in intense heat, preparing materials from scratch and working alongside refugee churches. Still, Mark saw the importance of joy and play, especially for children who had experienced displacement.

‘Play is hardwired into the human being,’ he said.

A Global Vision That Never Left

Mark also met his wife, Marcel, in the Philippines. Their shared experience shaped not only their relationship but their understanding of the world.

When the camps closed and the couple returned to the United States in 1987, they assumed they would eventually go back overseas. Instead, they settled in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

Mark joined Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), a path that stretched into decades. Still, the global orientation never left.

Over time, their home became a crossroads of nations. International students and refugees filled their dinner table.

Hundreds passed through — some briefly, others for years. Hospitality became not a project, but a way of life.

“I’m now the displaced person in my own home,” he joked, having lost his workspace to make room for others.

Through FCA and the founding of an international training institute, Mark has continued traveling, now to more than 70 different countries.

Though decades have passed, World Relief has never been far from his heart. He stayed connected with staff and friends from his time in the Philippines. And when his local church recently engaged with World Relief’s work in refugee resettlement, the decision felt deeply personal.

“Hearing the name World Relief again wasn’t just a memory,” he said. “It’s woven into the fabric of who we are.”

Returning-This Time as a Volunteer

Now, Mark has come full circle. After once serving overseas under contract, he remains involved with World Relief, most recently as a volunteer through his local church.

That Kairos moment in 1985 set him on a lifelong journey of curiosity, risk-taking and hospitality — a global vision that still shapes how he lives, gives and serves today.

“It created curiosity,” he said. “And the willingness to take risks. It’s okay to look foolish. That’s the worst it will be.”

For Mark, World Relief was not simply a season of work. It marked the beginning of a transformed life — one that continues to open doors, welcome strangers and invest in the flourishing of others.

EAU CLAIRE MOBILE VACCINE CLINIC

Built on Community Collaboration

A first-ever Mayo Clinic mobile vaccine initiative boosted the health of 68 Chippewa Valley newcomers in a collaborative partnership with the Eau Claire City-County Health Department and funded through the Pablo Foundation.

The mobile clinics eliminated the need for multiple trips to appointments at medical facilities—a significant barrier for many newcomers without cars or flexible work schedules—and expanded access in a region where provider availability is limited. In total, the clinics saved 23 families 184 hours of time typically spent on immunizations, consultations and paperwork to complete the medical form required for a Green Card application.

The clinics also reduced out-of-pocket costs by offering vaccines and civil surgeon reviews at no cost, saving families hundreds of dollars in fees typically required for green card medical processing.

“For many of the families we serve, this kind of access to care isn’t just about physical health—it’s about stability, dignity and the opportunity to fully belong,” said Gail Cornelius, World Relief Wisconsin’s regional director.

A MODEL FOR THE FUTURE

The pilot clinics reflected World Relief Wisconsin’s holistic approach to community support—meeting practical needs today while helping shape more equitable systems for tomorrow.

“We believe in walking with families not just in crisis, but into stability and flourishing. This pilot mobile clinic initiative was a significant step in that journey—and we’re hopeful it can serve as a model for broader healthcare access and deeper community impact in the future,” Cornelius said.



OUR WORK IS EXPANDING!

In 2025 we expanded our work to Green Bay and Sheboygan.

Fox Valley Office:

510 E Wisconsin Ave
Appleton, WI 54911

545 Monroe St
Oshkosh, WI 54901

Chippewa Valley Office:

221 W Madison St
Eau Claire, WI 54703





THANK YOU

We are flourishing together

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