



P.O. Box 92117 • Rochester • NY • 14692 / 585-721-3211

2022 Annual Report



Joe and Kam reunited at Rochester Airport

Keeping Our Promise Inc. provides comprehensive resettlement assistance to wartime allies who served U.S. interests in conflict and war zones.

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Mission

To provide comprehensive resettlement assistance to endangered wartime allies who served U.S. interests in conflict and war zones.



What We Do

Keeping Our Promise Inc. offers a comprehensive resettlement support program for Afghan and Iraqis in the greater Rochester, NY region who served the United States' interests.

KOP Program Criteria: Who We Assist

- Afghans or Iraqis who were interpreters or support personnel for the U.S. military or U.S. Embassy for 1 year or more.
- Afghans who work/worked on a full-time basis as contractors, Locally Engaged Staff (LES), or interpreters/translators for the U.S. Government, US Forces- Afghanistan , International Security Assistance Force, or Resolute Support.
- Afghans who worked for a U.S. government-funded program or project in Afghanistan supported through a U.S. government grant or cooperative agreement.
- Afghans who are/were employed in Afghanistan by a U.S.-based media organization or non-governmental organization, who are referred to the U.S. government by an American senior employee of these organizations or referred to the U.S. government by the U.S. Embassy.

Over the last 8 years we have been able to assist over 850 Pashtuns, Uzbeks, Tajiks, Hazara, Turkmen and Nuristanis from Afghanistan, Sunni and Shia Iraqis, as well as Kurdish allies who now call Rochester, NY home.

Keeping Our Promise Inc. provides comprehensive resettlement assistance to wartime allies who served U.S. interests in conflict and war zones.

A Message From Our Director



*Ellen Smith
Executive Director*

Dear friends and supporters,

With your generous support in 2022 you helped 59 Afghan war-time ally families totaling 205 individuals resettle in the greater Rochester, NY area after escaping from the Taliban and ISIL.

Because of community support through **A Community Thrives** challenge grant from the Gannett Foundation, we were able to assist nine additional families – more than we planned or budgeted for 2022, and you happily welcomed them into our community.

Your support helped with rent, security and food and a modest vehicle for our allies who escaped from Afghanistan, and legally came to Rochester. You made sure they had a community and a place to call home.

To give you a perspective of the enormity of the continuing evacuation and relocation of Afghans who helped the United States: In August 2021 when Kabul fell, **Keeping Our Promise** had the names of 2,330 individuals with Rochester ties seeking to be evacuated. In 2022, you welcomed 205 who were left behind and most were on that list. Our community did not forget those we left in the August 2021 troop withdrawal from Afghanistan.

It is estimated that up to 296,000 Afghans are left behind who may qualify for a U.S. visa¹. There are 74,000 primary visa applicants registered with the U.S. government, and we assume an average of four people per family. Our work is not done from this 20 year war. Our assistance is a strict 1-to-1 ratio. For every wartime ally family we can accept in Rochester another Afghan family can be brought out of Afghanistan to safety. As of February 2023, our current list has 28 families totaling 136 individuals who wish to call Rochester home. Included on this list is a family who we have worked with for 4 years to obtain legal visas, and the survivors of the Aug. 29, 2021 Kabul drone attack that killed an aid worker and may of his family members.

Your Support Is Saving Lives

It is hard to place into words my gratitude for our volunteers, financial donors, SIVs and community partners who have a shared commitment to make this all work. You are all doing tremendous good. Thank you for joining together in dedication to this mission and keeping our promise to our wartime allies. Thank you for giving a future and life to these families who served our country.



Executive Director, Keeping Our Promise Inc.

¹<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/08/25/world/asia/afghanistan-evacuations-estimates.html>

Our Staff



Chandee Searcy - Community and Volunteer Engagement

Chandee began volunteering for Keeping Our Promise in 2019 and transitioned to a part-time position with KOP focusing on Community & Volunteer Engagement. She is KOP's liaison with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, frequently participates in greeting late night arrivals at the airport. She helps maintain KOP's social media platform, and works on the fundraising committee.



Abdul Rahim Rahim – Operations Assistant

Abdul Rahim was born in Balkh, Afghanistan, and graduated from Magtymguly Turkmen State University, Turkmenistan - Ashgabat in 2004 with a Bachelor of Arts in Philology/ Teaching. Rahim's work experience is extensive, including 18 years as a Diplomat at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan. Rahim speaks seven languages: Dari (Persian), Turkish, Turkmen, Uzbek, Urdu, Russian, and English. With the assistance of KOP, Rahim, his wife, and three children were resettled to Rochester in April 2022. Rahim assists with arrival preparations, provides critical translation support, and is an invaluable resource to both Afghans and staff in upholding a richly beautiful culture while acclimating to a new country. KOP is honored to have Rahim by our side to continue this life-saving work.



Kristen Makineci – Operations Assistant

Kristen was born and raised in the Greater Rochester area, but spent 20 years as an expatriate in Turkey. During her time overseas, she was involved in a mix of leadership, fundraising, donation collection and interpreting roles for various charitable and state organizations. She served as a board member of a sizable non-profit, and spearheaded committees for large-scale fundraisers. Kristen is fluent in Turkish. Kristen is a bibliophile who also enjoys the arts, the outdoors, upcycling/home design, crossword puzzles, and spending quality time with her husband and two daughters. Kristen assists with arrival preparations, provides support to Caring Circle volunteers, and more.

2022 Program Highlights



59 Afghan families totaling 203 individuals were resettled in the greater Rochester, NY area with assistance from Keeping Our Promise in 2022. This was 16 fewer individuals than 2021 during the fall of Kabul. Many of our wartime ally families had escaped to other countries including India, Turkey, Pakistan, Albania and Portugal. KOP continues to connect and help families get out of Afghanistan and to the safety of our community.



46 Emergency Flights

Our partner **Miles4Migrants** secured emergency flights for 46 men, women and children to come to Rochester. Each ticket required up to 45,000 donated “miles.” Over 2 million miles were donated to help our Afghan allies!



Keeping Our Promise Inc. provides comprehensive resettlement assistance to wartime allies who served U.S. interests in conflict and war zones.

2022 Program Highlights



Critical Meetings Every 2 Weeks

We are a member of the **AfghanEvac Coalition**, and meet every two weeks to share with appropriate government partners the data we've gathered pertaining to people on the ground in Afghanistan in need of assistance. **Judy Weiner** is our SIV advocacy expert keeping up to date with the daily changes in evacuation protocol.



240 Food Baskets Delivered

Coordinated by **Cindy Malone** (*far left*), **Asbury Methodist Church** provides 20 food baskets each month for our most vulnerable families who have no benefits when they first arrive.

406 Sets of Linens and Pillows

Spear-headed by Barbara Mueller and Jane Jezsu, the **First Presbyterian Church of Honeoye Falls, NY** provides every family member with two sets of sheets and blankets for each person. Each family gets bath towels, hand towels and wash cloths, bath mat and dish towels. Each adult gets two pillows each, and they were helped by **Rabina Aqa Jan** who collected pillows for her volunteer project at Our Lady of Mercy School for Young Women.



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2022 Program Highlights



45 Apartments Furnished

Our volunteers with help from SIVs fully furnished 45 apartments for each family for free thanks to donations from the local community. **Avocado Mattresses** helped some of our families through the company's mattress donation program.

AVOCADO

Rent Assistance For 74 Families: \$190,714.

With grants from the **Konar Foundation**, **WelcomeUS**, **Neighbors for Refugees**, and the **Honeoye Falls Rotary Club**, along with our community's generous donations, KOP helped 74 Afghan families with rent assistance in 2022. Of those families, 15 families had arrived in 2021 in the Afghanistan evacuation. Many families experienced paperwork delays such as Social Security numbers, which prevented them from getting jobs right away. KOP cost for rent assistance averaged \$2,482 per family. We also maintain a furnished rental apartment for when families arrive and have no where to stay while we find apartments or houses for them.



2022 Program Highlights



Phones and Service For Every Family: \$6,184

Thanks to a generous grant from the **Irondequoit Rotary Club**, and donors we are able to provide a phone and initial phone service for every wartime ally family.



Laptops for Every Family: \$1,750

We make sure that every family has a way to connect to employment opportunities and school through email and zoom with donated and refurbished laptop and Chromebook computers coordinated by Alex Tubman.

Keeping Our Promise Inc. provides comprehensive resettlement assistance to wartime allies who served U.S. interests in conflict and war zones.

2022 Program Highlights



First Food and Shopping: \$38,935

Grocery gift cards are given to families when they first arrive so they can purchase their favorite foods. They receive a hot meal upon arrival, and a refrigerator full of food. They also get apartment essentials, which may also include carpets if they are in a house with bare floors.

Apartment Essentials and SIV Expenses: \$42,902



Driving Lessons for 51 Individuals: \$14,495

Thanks to the **First Unitarian Church of Rochester** and its Greater Good grant, along with the Fred & Floy Willmot Foundation, KOP launched a driver's education program. Our partners includes Al Granger and the Canandaigua Driving School that provides discounted driving lessons. Our Greater Good grant focuses on women who have never driven in their home countries. KOP provides the NYS Driver's Manual to our families in Dari and Pashto, and have shared the manual with other organizations in New York State. We give free car seats to each family with help from Catherine Burke.



KOP How to Pass NYS Road Test

KOP Keeping Our Promise Inc.
4 subscribers

Subscribe

2

Share

Download

Keeping Our Promise Inc. provides comprehensive resettlement assistance to wartime allies who served U.S. interests in conflict and war zones.

2022 Program Highlights

Wheels For Work: \$266,773

In its seventh year, our Wheels-for-Work car grant program requires each family to log 100 hours of community service, have their NYS driver's license and have employment or a job offer to qualify for a vehicle. With help from the **Summers Foundation**, we were able to assist 67 families in 2022 with their Wheels For Work!



Several studies show that families with cars are twice as likely to find a job and four times as likely to stay employed. Unreliable transportation is one of the primary reasons why people lose their jobs or employers will not hire them.



Keeping Our Promise Inc. provides comprehensive resettlement assistance to wartime allies who served U.S. interests in conflict and war zones.

2022 Program Highlights

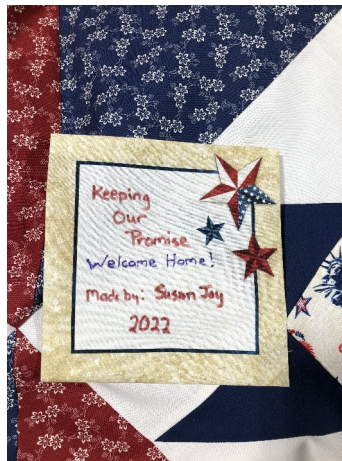


Diapers, Cleaning and Hygiene Supplies For Families

Our Afghan allies are entitled to 180 days of SNAP and DSS benefits, but those benefits do not permit a family to purchase diapers, cleaning or personal hygiene supplies like soap, shampoo, or laundry detergent, or pads for women. The **Junior League of Rochester** and the **Church of Jesus christ of Latter day Saints** offers KOP diapers for monthly distribution for our newest Afghan families when they arrive. **Dulcy Lecour** has been gathering cleaning and personal hygiene supplies since 2017 and distributing to our families for six years!

School Supplies and Back Packs: 91

In her third year of helping, **Marilyn Roche** gathered supplies from the community to give each child school supplies, and most recieved back packs. New school supplies of pens/pencils, notebooks, markers, highlighters, flash cards, pencil sharpeners, rulers, scissors, glue sticks, scotch tape can always be dropped off with KOP to resupply Marilyn's efforts.



Honor Quilts

Susan Jay is in her fifth year giving our SIV families "**Honor Quilts**" that she makes by hand. Susan started this KOP tradition in 2018!

Keeping Our Promise Inc. provides comprehensive resettlement assistance to wartime allies who served U.S. interests in conflict and war zones.

2022 Program Highlights

17,034 Volunteer Hours Logged!

We would like to thank **Julie Cataldo** for her years of tracking volunteer hours for KOP. The commitment of our volunteers in Keeping Our Promise Inc. is what makes our resettlement program so successful.



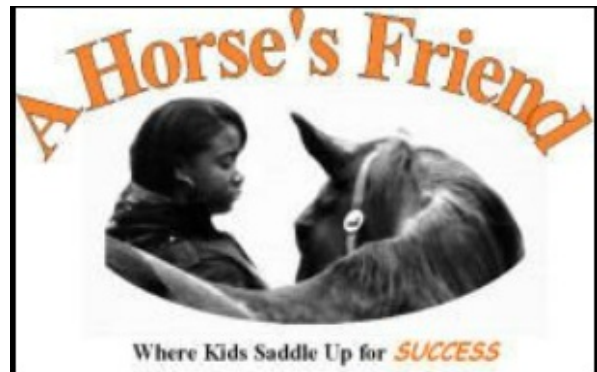
Toys for Every Family



Pirate Toy Fund provides toys for our newly-arrived Afghan children. **The Kade Project** offers hundreds of toys for our parents to choose from during the holiday season.

Horseback for Children

A Horse's Friend offers low-cost riding lessons and trail rides for our SIV children. There is nothing more empowering than a child finding they can partner with a 1,000-pound horse! This program is grant dependent.



The Third Presbyterian Church of Rochester offers gift cards through its annual **East Avenue Grocery Run** so our SIV families may choose culturally-appropriate, and familiar foods when shopping.



R-Community Bikes offers size/age appropriate bikes for all of our families.

Keeping Our Promise Inc. provides comprehensive resettlement assistance to wartime allies who served U.S. interests in conflict and war zones.

2022 Program Highlights



Rochester Refugee Resettlement Services offers affordable houses to our SIV families in the Maplewood neighborhood of Rochester. KOP and RRRS also partnered to make recommendations to the **City of Rochester Housing Task Force** on changes that were needed to improve housing stock for our families.



Asbury First United Methodist Church offers 20 food baskets every month, free winter coats, and dress clothes for employment interviews and work.



Rochester Museum and Science Center offers free museum passes to our SIV families.



Saint's Place offers our families clothing when they first arrive to the Rochester region.



Sew Green of Rochester offers sewing machines to our KOP families.



The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints, through its Bishop's Storehouse, offers food products, hygiene supplies and cleaning supplies.



Family and Community Services

Catholic Charities accepts our SIV families as "walk-in" clients, and files all of the necessary paperwork for DHS, SNAP and Medicaid Benefits.

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2022 Faith Partners



Thank you Temple B'rith Kodesh for
inviting KOP women to be panelists for
your Women's Interfaith Event!

*Thank-you to our faith partners in
helping to support our Afghan families*

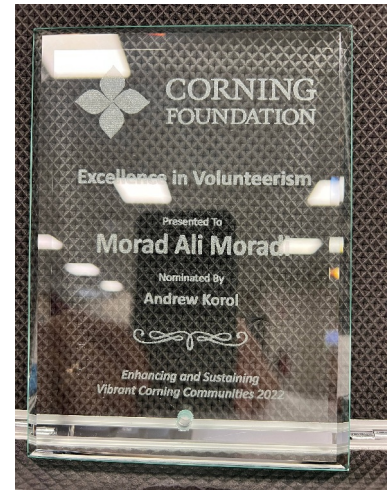
Christ Community Church
Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
Union Congregational United Church of Christ
Spiritus Christie Church
St. Catherine's Church
Church of the Transfiguration
Trinity Episcopal Church
Asbury First United Methodist Church
Gates Presbyterian Church
First Unitarian Church
First Presbyterian Church of Honeoye Falls
Community Christian Church of Chili
ROC Ubuntu
Greece Baptist Church

Mountain Rise United Church of Christ
Greece United Methodist Church
First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day
Saints, Rochester NY
Rochester Christian Reformed Church
Mosaic Covenant Church
East Palmyra Presbyterian Church
St. John's Episcopal Church
Downtown United Presbyterian Church
Park Presbyterian Church Presbyterian
Women
Irondequoit Presbyterian Church

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wartime allies who served U.S. interests in conflict and war zones.

SIVs Giving Back to the Community

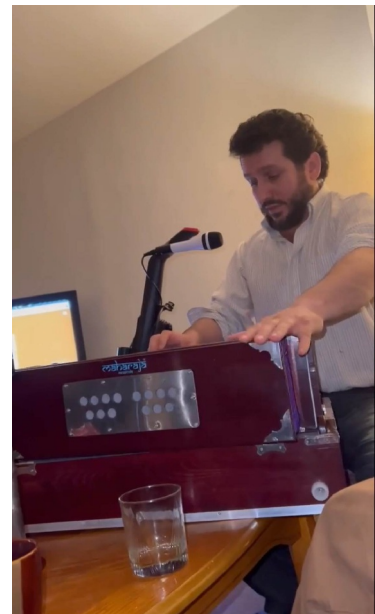
Ali Moradi and his family served the U.S. and Ali is now giving back by being a volunteer. He has helped move donations, set up apartments, and has helped SIV families by co-signing for apartments. In 2022 the Corning Foundation recognized Ali for his work with KOP.



Abdullah Dindost has served countless hours as an interpreter and helping with community engagement. He has organized SIVs to assist with food and hygiene supplies pickups at the LDS Bishop's Storehouse, and helped families with apartment leases and understanding their obligations as tenants.



Mirwais Nazari can be found at community speaking events, or playing his country's music for the community on his harmonica. He is also the founder of our local volley ball team, the Afghan Eagles.



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SIVs Giving Back to the Community



Zainab Hussani was the Country Manager for Skateistan. Since coming to Rochester, she has been helping with set up of our guest apartment for newly arrived families who do not have housing upon arrival.



Merwais Ayoubi, Hamidullah Khaliqi and Abdul Qadeer Khalil help set up an apartment for a new family.



Parwiz Mohebbi and his son Komal built garden benches to sell to help benefit KOP.



Dawood Nazari and Kahlil Muradi collecting donations.

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Some of the 59 Families You Helped in 2022



Mojetaba was an attorney working on women and children's rights issues. His wife Sumaia was a dentist in Kabul. They were able to escape to Turkey after the fall of Kabul where they remained for 7 months until they received their visas from the US Embassy in Ankra. Mojetaba translated the NYS driver's manual into Dari to help our families who may have some language barriers to getting their license.



Samim worked for the U.S. on several government projects, and made a harrowing escape from Kabul with his wife, Yalda and four children. They were eventually brought to a US military base in New Mexico where they stayed for five months. Samim now works as a finance officer for Rochester General Hospital.



Parviz worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and oversaw the construction of "forward bases" in Afghanistan. After working for the U.S. for 12 years, he escaped with his family and arrived in Rochester in June. He is now working on a rehabilitation project at the old "Refinery" project on Exchange St. In Rochester.



Zar worked for the US, following in the footsteps of his father. He was to get his visa from the US Embassy when the Taliban took over Kabul, and the family passports were destroyed. The US government was able to get them out of Afghanistan and the family finally arrived to Rochester in October.

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The Habibi Family Reunited - An Afghan SIV Timeline



MAY 10, 2021: The Habibi family journey begins with an email from Walid Habibi, the son of an army colonel, to KOP asking for help.

Colonel Abdul Majid Habibi's paperwork shows he filed for a US visa in 2007. He was granted his visa 14 years later on Feb. 18, 2021 with a 48 hour expiration date (see photo above). His family's visas were not yet processed. He could stay in Afghanistan where he was targeted by the Taliban, or leave immediately for the U.S. He flew to Dulles on the first plane out. His son, Walid, who had been an interpreter and also worked on women's rights in Afghanistan, was given the same "Hobson's choice."

JUNE 11, 2021: Miles4Migrants flies father and son to Rochester, and KOP moves them to their apartment furnished by the Rochester community.

JUNE - JULY 2021: The Habibi's and other local SIVs go on the news and beg the U.S. government to grant humanitarian parole to their families as the Afghan provinces of Kunduz and Herat fall to the Taliban.

Local News

Local Afghans who aided U.S. troops plead for their families to be evacuated

WXXI News | By Noelle E. C. Evans
Published June 14, 2021 at 5:30 AM EDT



JULY - AUGUST 2021: KOP Board Member Deb Abell helps the Habibi family with the paper trail necessary to get the family out of Afghanistan.

AUGUST 16, 2021: Airspace at Kabul Airport, known as HKIA, is closed indefinitely.

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The Habibi Family Reunited - An Afghan SIV Timeline

AUGUST 18, 2021: The Habibi family is sent a “security access pass” by the U.S. State Dept. allowing them to enter into Hamid Karzai International Airport (HKIA). However, the crowds are too overwhelming for the family to get to the gate. The Taliban is beating and killing people trying to get in. The family shares a horrific video with KOP of one of the Taliban beatings they witnessed, as well as the aftermath of the suicide bomber.



AUGUST 26, 2021: A resettlement colleague from Boston is able to get the Habibi family on a bus to a designated gate at HKIA. We submit photographs of everyone with gate passes so they could be identified by US soldiers. A KOP Board member works on getting others connected on messenger and to a central gathering place so we could send a group picture of the “**Rochester Contingency**” to our members of Congress and the State Dept., with the hope of getting them inside Abby Gate. Walid sends KOP director Ellen Smith the following message:

AUGUST 26, 2021, 9:14 AM (EST): Hi Ellen my family is in the bus number six just near to entrance door of airport, they were going inside ... they just closed the door, they are very close, can you find somebody out over there to escort them or let them go inside, they are very close ... can [REDACTED] help them ... they are in the place where the buses are ...

Minutes after the above text was sent, a suicide bomber kills 169 Afghan civilians, and 13 US service members at the Kabul airport.

SEPTEMBER 12-16, 2021: With help from a KOP friend in Boston, and people we will never know, the Habibi women and children, along with three other women with Rochester SIV ties, make a harrowing trip over the border and into Pakistan, where they are housed in a safe location.



OCTOBER 2, 2021: The women and children are flown from Pakistan to Albania where the families stay in a hotel paid for by an unknown person until their US visas can be processed. There are no answers as to when visas will be granted, and the women and children remain in legal limbo. There is more paperwork and documentation needed for the visas.

The Habibi Family Reunited - An Afghan SIV Timeline



MARCH 18, 2022: Mrs. Torpaiky Habibi is granted her visa and flown from Albania to Rochester by **Miles4Migrants**. KOP volunteers and John Pellito from Congressman Joseph Morelle's office, who helped the family with their visa case, join the airport welcome.

The reunion is bittersweet. Walid's wife Frohar and children remain in Albania waiting for their documents from the government..

MARCH 22, 2022: The Habibi family receives their KOP **Wheels for Work** car grant after they logged 100 hours of community service.

APRIL 13, 2022:

After 450 days apart, Frohar and her children are finally granted visas, and the entire Habibi family is reunited in Rochester, NY.



Keeping Our Promise Inc. provides comprehensive resettlement assistance to wartime allies who served U.S. interests in conflict and war zones.

Our Board Members

Board Chair: Danielle Moskowitz, Esq.
Vice Chair: Noreen Selinger

Treasurer: Leah Granger
Secretary: Jill Baszczyński, LMSW

Dr. Deborah Abell
B. Andrew Dutcher, Esq.
Jawaid Samedey

Thomas Rusling
Andraé Evans
Benjamin Levy

Bookkeeper: Lou Spiro



Thanks to the Harley Lower School and Betsy Wilcox for organizing a drive of personal supplies for SIVs, books and a car seat.



So grateful for all of the good in the world, and the students of Honeoye Falls-Lima Highschool, the HFL Interact Club, and the Honeoye Falls, Mendon and Lima Rotary Clubs for their support of Keeping Our Promise.



Thank you to staff and students of St. John Fisher College St. John Fisher College - Wegmans School of Pharmacy for sharing your Service Day with us.

Total families assisted with resettlement: 59 families
Carryover caseload from 2021: 60 families

KOP Program Expense Highlights

SIV Car Grants	\$266,773
SIV Expenses	\$10,210
Apt essentials	\$32,692
Apt Rehab	\$822
Food/Groceries	\$38,935
SIV Apartment Insurance	\$1,114
SIV Rent	\$190,714
SIV Phones	\$6,711
SIV Utilities	\$503
Driving Lessons	\$14,495
Horseback Riding Lessons	\$1,400
Kids Camp	\$6,398
Storage	\$3,600
Parking & tolls	\$106
Background checks for volunteers	\$1,962
Staff Expenses	\$148,078
KOP Insurance (liability & vehicle)	\$8,514

Keeping Our Promise Inc. provides comprehensive resettlement assistance to wartime allies who served U.S. interests in conflict and war zones.

In Honor Of Irwin Solomon, Chairman Emeritus



With profound gratitude for his service to Keeping Our Promise, we announced that Irwin Solomon, our board chair, stepped down from his position at the end of September. Irwin was one of our first volunteers in 2015, and KOP's growth and success are due in large part to his efforts. During his time with KOP, Irwin had a role in saving the lives of 717 wartime allies!

Irwin's ability to recognize potential volunteers' talents and skills in hopes that they could support KOP's mission is truly a gift. His willingness to bring everyone to the table has impacted volunteers and community partners alike. Giving folks a sense of purpose and belonging in such a great cause is just what humanity needs, especially through the last few years of the pandemic.

Irwin's legacy at KOP extends beyond organizational efforts and directly into the lives of so many wartime allies. He has formed lasting relationships with many of our SIV families.

The community connections that Irwin worked to facilitate and strengthen will continue on beyond his time at KOP. We will certainly miss his wisdom, tenacity, and individualized care and concern.

Thank you, Irwin for saving so many lives, and impacting so many in the Rochester community. We are all indebted to your service to Keeping Our Promise.



Keeping Our Promise Inc. provides comprehensive resettlement assistance to wartime allies who served U.S. interests in conflict and war zones.

Team Behind the Scenes



*Barb Mueller (right)
Linens Coordinator*



*Susan Hetherington & Trish
Harren, Kitchen Coordinators*



*Anne Thorne &
Jean VanEtten
Home Inventory*



*Catherine Burke
Baby Gear Coordinator*



*Kim Schmidt
Toy Coordinator*



*Henrietta Foster
Sewing Machines*



*Helen Wiley, Diaper
Coordinator*



*Ruth Fogarty, Diaper
Coordinator*



*Judith Bose, Literacy
Coordinator*

Keeping Our Promise Inc. provides comprehensive resettlement assistance to wartime allies who served U.S. interests in conflict and war zones.

Team Behind the Scenes



*Nancy Westendorf,
School Liaison*



*Jill Stanger, Book
Coordinator*



Terry Jahnke
Rides Coordinator



*Janet Goldman,
Literacy Coordinator*



*Alex Tubman, Computer
Coordinator*



*Marilyn Roche, School
Supply Coordinator*



*Lou Spiro,
KOP Bookkeeper*



Road to Resilience Gala Coordinators:

*Chandee Searcy • Ellen Solomon • Jean Van Etten •
Paula Harris • Sarah White • Leah Granger • Noreen
Selinger • Eileen Yatteau • Kim Joyce • Marjorie Searl*

Keeping Our Promise Inc. provides comprehensive resettlement assistance to wartime allies who served U.S. interests in conflict and war zones.

We would like to thank the following 690 donors for your support in 2022 of our wartime allies resettlement program.

Note: If you do not see your name on the list, it is because you indicated on your donation that you wished to remain anonymous



Sallah Abbasey
Ayan Abdi
Deborah and Kim Abell
Adele Abrams
Lollie Abramson
Yoka Adar-Stam
Elizabeth and Jason Alderman
Mojetaba Alemi
Deborah Alimentato
Sarah Allen
Karlyn Alvarado
Amazon Smile
America On-Line Giving Fund
Salvatore Amico
Sandra Anne
Debbie Apter
Lori Aratari
Asbury First United Methodist Church
Katherine and Keith Ash
Tammie Ashley
Joseph and Patricia Avery
Patricia Axsmith Tavolette
Amy Ayer
B L
Patricia Bacon
Rebecca Bahr
Jose Baires

Ginny Baker
Kenneth Ballard
Christina Bang and Samuel Gifford
John Bank
Linda and Jim Baroody
Pam Barry
Shawn Barnett
Jill Baszczyński
Harold and Gayle Bauer
Mary Beauchamp
David Beck
Jamie Beck
Aaron Becker
David and Joan Beinetti
Benevity Community Impact Fund
Jane Bennett
Anne and Mike Biron .
Wendy Bishop
Stephen Blackwell
Daniel Blanchard
Nancy Bloom and Alan Cohen
Jane Boomer
Judith Bose
Carol Boshart
Brian Boucheron
Ariana Boussard-Reifel
Judith Bowles

Sheldon Boyce
Sharon Boyd
Jim Brady
Alice Bray
Susan Breisch
Debi Brenner
Eric Brewer
Bright Funds
Suzanne Brown
Roberta Buckle
Jeff Burns
Mary Ellen Burris
Chris Burton
Walter Callahan
Kathy Calnan
Donna Campbell
Lisa Cannon
Gary and Judy Cattleberry
Commonwealth Cares Fund Inc
Kenneth and Melissa Carlson
Angelo and Marie Casciani
Sandy Case
Jeremiah Casey
Robert and Barbara Castle
Kevin Chaba
Christopher Chauvin
Chi-Matic
Gerald Cheplowitz

Keeping Our Promise Inc. provides comprehensive resettlement assistance to wartime allies who served U.S. interests in conflict and war zones.



Jillian Cherry
Kara Chesal
Peter Chiariello
Christ Community Church
Christa Construction
Church of the Transfiguration
Irene Churukian
Tony and Susan Cinquino
Edward and Gina Clair
Rachel Clar
Tina Clark
Sue Clifford-Alvut
Cloonan Family Giving Fund
Patrick Cobb
Matthew Cochran
Shelly and Frank Cogliandro
Wendy Cohen
John Colacino
Lynn Cole
Peter Collery
Peter Collinge and Carol Thiel
Jill Collins
Joan Collins
Richard Colosi
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Keeping Our Promise Inc. provides comprehensive resettlement assistance to wartime allies who served U.S. interests in conflict and war zones.

What the future holds for SIV resettlement

As we were finishing our annual report, a powerful hearing was being held on Capitol Hill March 8, 2023, about the war in Afghanistan, and the August 2021 evacuation of Kabul. It was heartbreaking, gut-wrenching testimony of which will be debated in our history.

At this time we must move forward to help Afghans here pick up their shattered lives. We must prevent this from happening again. We must get those out of Afghanistan who helped us. Politicians must listen.

Each witness called for a permanent Special Immigrant Visa program as part of our national security policy. Each year the SIV program is debated in Congress. It goes through committees where it's approved, it's withdrawn, it's partially funded - it has never been fully funded. This is no way to treat those who risked their lives working with us, and fighting the likes of the Taliban.

Last year at this time, President Biden ordered a review of the SIV program that will include looking into legislation to expand the SIV program for Iraqis and Syrians. The Iraqi program officially closed in 2014, leaving an estimated 100,000 Iraqis stranded who served the United States. We left Kurdish allies who served with U.S. forces fighting ISIL.

Last year the President ordered a review of legislation that would create a SIV program for individuals, regardless of nationality, who faithfully assisted the U.S. in conflict areas for at least 1 year. The proposal would include those who made exceptional contributions in a shorter period, and have experienced or are experiencing an ongoing serious threat as a result of their service.

Currently, the Dept. Of Homeland Security reports that of the 77,000 Afghans resettled in the U.S. from the evacuation, fewer than 5,000 have been able to complete the paperwork to secure their status to remain in the U.S.² As an example in Rochester, there simply are not enough attorneys to help families with the myriad of complicated paperwork to adjust their status to "Temporary Protected Status," which if done incorrectly could affect their asylum or special immigrant application. Congress needs to pass the **Afghan Adjustment Act**, allowing our friends to stay in the U.S.

From Congress, there is silence. It's not to say our wartime allies don't have support - there is plenty. But there are also members who have left our families hanging off the proverbial cliff and a very small minority willing to cut off the lifeline for those Afghans evacuated to the U.S., each of whom was vetted at a U.S. military base before leaving for their new homes.

We would like to thank our local Congressman Joseph Morelle, along with John Pellito from his office, for their tireless work on behalf of our allies. We look forward to working with Senators Kristen Gillibrand and Charles Schumer on ways in which we can best help those who served with, and for the United States of America. We thank Monroe County Executive Adam Bello, Monroe County Director of Veterans Services Nick Stefanovic, and Rochester Mayor Malik Evans, for their support of our wartime allies and for helping them have a place to call "home."

We Can Do This. You Can Help.



²www.cbsnews.com/news/afghan-adjustment-act-evacuees-parole-legal-status-deportation-protections/



Keeping Our Promise will host our annual fundraiser gala, Road to Resilience at the Memorial Art Gallery, 500 University Ave, Rochester, NY 14607, on Wednesday, April 26, 2022, from 6-9pm. If you, your business, employer, or your organization would like to be a sponsor for our event, we have multiple levels to choose from. All levels of sponsorship are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Please consult your tax advisor for more details. If you prefer to pay by check, please print the information below and mail it to the return address indicated on the form. Ticket purchases can be made on our website at: www.KeepingOurPromise.org. Click on the Road to Resilience banner to get your tickets!

Sponsorship Levels

All levels of sponsorship are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Please consult your tax advisor for more details

Visionary, \$10,000+

Support a family with first month's rent, security deposit, a modest car, welcome groceries, and household supplies.

Public Relations- Featured in all event public relations announcements to the press and media

Exhibit- Featured on prominently displayed sign acknowledging sponsorship level at the event

Podium Acknowledgment- Receive verbal recognition from one of the speakers at the event

Printed Programs & Signage- Featured on all on-site event printed materials, signage and table cards

Publicity- Featured in all event print and electronic publicity (emails, invitations, social media, etc.)

Tickets- Receive 10 complimentary tickets to the event

Humanitarian, \$5,000

Provide first month's rent and security deposit, and contribute to a modest car to a resettling family.

Podium Acknowledgment- Receive verbal recognition from one of the speakers at the event

Exhibit- Featured on prominently displayed sign acknowledging sponsorship level at the event

Publicity- Featured in all event print and electronic publicity (emails, invitations, social media, etc.)

Printed Programs & Signage- Featured on all on-site event printed materials, signage and table cards

Tickets- Receive 8 complimentary tickets to the event

Ambassador, \$2,500

Contribute to the cost of a modest car, ensuring that an individual or family has greater job security.

Publicity- Featured in all event print and electronic publicity (emails, invitations, social media, etc.)

Printed Programs- Featured on the event program

Tickets- Receive 6 complimentary tickets to the event

Exhibit- Featured on prominently displayed sign acknowledging sponsorship level at the event

Advocate, \$1,000

Supplement the first month's rent for safe housing in the Greater Rochester area.

Exhibit- Featured on prominently displayed sign acknowledging sponsorship level at the event

Tickets- Receive 4 complimentary tickets to the event

Printed Programs- Featured on the event program

Supporter, \$500

Provide a welcome basket of basic household necessities and groceries.

Printed Programs- Featured on the event program

Tickets- Receive 2 complimentary ticket to the event

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For questions, please contact
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