

Organization for Refugee and Immigrant Success

2020



OUR MISSION IS TO AID IN THE
RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEE AND
IMMIGRANT GROUPS IN NEW
HAMPSHIRE BY PROVIDING
ASSISTANCE, TRAINING, RESOURCES,
AND OPPORTUNITIES THAT
PROMOTE SELF-SUFFICIENCY



ANNUAL REPORT

STAFF



Mukhtar Idhow
Executive Director

In 2020, our staff and board represented seven countries and were fluent in thirteen languages.



Carolyn
Musyimi-Kamau



Valere
Mangituka



Asraa
Abdulwahab



Blandine
Masakarhe



Fanny
Bahati



Mukhtar
Osman



Matthew
Thorne



Charlene
Higgins



Anthony
Munene



Jameson
Small



Minata
Toure



Laurel
Witri



Allison
Cunningham



Sarah
Wiggins

Thank you to our 2020 seasonal staff:

Molly Peterson
Chouaib Hannouch
Abdi Dahir
Patricia Islaw

Hassan Shegow
Sibomana Riverian
Ali Maalim

The Somali Bantu Community Association (SBCA) formed in 2005 by a group of Somali Bantu refugees living in New England. The group was funded by the US Office of Refugee Resettlement and assisted refugees to integrate into American culture.

In 2011, SBCA reformed in New Hampshire as the Organization for Refugee and Immigrant Success (ORIS), a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation. The original mission expanded, and the staff and board diversified. In fact, the majority of our board and staff

are new Americans themselves, bringing critical cultural experience and language skills to the communities served. Our board members, staff, volunteers, and partners have considerable experience assisting refugees and immigrants to succeed.

BOARD

ORIS is the largest and longest continually operating ethnic community-based organization (ECBO) in NH.

CRISPIN MILELE
Board Chair

FAMOH TOURE
Board Member

ABUKAR MASUDI
Vice Chair

VICTORIA ADEWUMI
Board Member

AHMED WELI
Board Secretary

ALI SEKOU
Board Member

DAVID WOUR
Treasurer

HAJI MOHAMED
Board Member

BASRA MOHAMED
Board Member

WILLIAM YOR
Board Member

LINA SHAYO
Board Member



The power of ORIS lies in its cultural understanding, linguistic expertise, and first hand knowledge of the immigrant experience.

In late 2019, ORIS and New American Africans merged. As ORIS continues to grow and

engage new stakeholders, this union is an exciting milestone that increased our reach and amplified our voice for new Americans.

Throughout 2020, our communities faced many COVID-19

related challenges. ORIS staff, farmers and supporters rose together to ensure food access, employment support, and other services continued and grew throughout the year.

FARMER TRAINING & FOOD ACCESS

New American Sustainable Agriculture Program (NASAP)



"I AM GETTING OLD AND THIS PROGRAM KEEPS ME FIT AND I FEEL HEALTHY." -FRESH START FARMER

2020 SUMMARY FRESH START FARMS



Our New American Sustainable Agriculture Program (NASAP) worked with 33 refugee and immigrant farmers during 2020 as they not only set out to grow food for their families and for markets, but to support their whole community as the coronavirus pandemic caused food shortages and interest in local foods grew. Program participants that sold food at farmer's markets, through the Fresh Start Farms CSA, and our food access initiatives nearly doubled their total revenue from 2019 to \$155,257.

- 15.1 acres of land made accessible for immigrant and refugee farmers in southern NH
- 96,719 lbs of food grown
- 45% average grocery budget reduction for farmers growing their own food
- Farmers in the program made an average of \$6,750 in produce sales at farmer's markets across the state and through the CSA, mobile market, and food hub.

MOBILE FOOD MARKET



ORIS's food access efforts also grew in response to the effects of the pandemic and the increase of food insecurity for families, particularly in marginalized communities. The Fresh Start Food Cart, ORIS's mobile food market serves as a link between farmers and communities that otherwise have limited access to fresh, nutritious foods. To promote the program, ORIS also launched our Community Food Ambassador program to spread awareness and support the market.

In our second year, the mobile market

- Doubled sales and transactions, and quadrupled our EBT/SNAP transactions
- Expanded into Concord as a second city served
- Increased our procurement from the new American farmers in our training program by 85%
- Made 177 mobile market site stops at 20 affordable housing communities
- Sold 5,296 lbs of food to 2,147 customers
- Donated 7,800 lbs of fresh produce
- Sold \$4,207 worth of fruits and vegetables to customers with EBT + Granite State Market Match

FRESH START FOOD HUB

In late 2019, ORIS and Neighborworks New Hampshire entered into an agreement to renovate a downtown Manchester business into a Food Hub to support ORIS's farmer training program. The now-constructed 3,261 square foot, two-story (basement and first floor) facility includes: a walk-in cooler; commercial kitchen for wash/prepare/pack; open-format training space and dry storage in basement. The Food Hub has significantly expanded Fresh Start Farms' operations by concentrating the purchase, aggregation, distribution, and sale of fresh produce for the new Americans enrolled in ORIS' farm incubator program.

63% of capital raised for ORIS to fully purchase the building (\$222,500 of \$351,000)

**Thanks to: Jane's Trust, You Have Our Trust, Citizen's Bank,
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, Bangor Savings Bank**

The Food Hub and its equipment allowed Fresh Start Farms to:

- Extend the season by 9 weeks
- Grow the Fresh Start Farms CSA from 75 to 218 customers
- Add home delivery for customers as the pandemic forced more people to stay home
- Engage with local food producers throughout New Hampshire to add products like eggs, cheese, and meats to home delivery orders
- Give farmers more time on-farm, rather than packing and delivering CSA boxes individually
- Add six new jobs when the pandemic caused severe unemployment



CASE MANAGEMENT

IN 2020, ORIS SERVED 284 NEW AMERICAN FAMILIES THROUGH ITS CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES. CASE MANAGERS ARE OUT IN THE COMMUNITY WITH CLIENTS AT DOCTORS APPOINTMENTS, TRAININGS, WORKSHOPS, JOB INTERVIEWS, HOME VISITS, AND COMMUNITY MEETINGS.

ORIS's bridging case management is the foundation for all of its work. Our organization was established by refugees' desire to support one another in finding employment and housing, accessing healthcare and other services, and navigating government systems and other institutions. ORIS uses a wrap-around case management approach, delivering all services an individual or household needs, or referring them to other programs as needed. As the COVID-19 virus and the pandemic's effects disproportionately impacted new American communities, ORIS focused on the needs and gaps that grew within the communities we serve. Specifically, the case management team centered delivery of these culturally and linguistically-appropriate services for their refugee and immigrant clients:

Healthy Families - utilizing education-based violence prevention and direct client services to improve wellness within family relationships. With family members under the stress of job loss, at-home learning for children, and "working from home" environments, household violence increased during the pandemic. ORIS's team of case managers worked with families, leveraging the cultural backgrounds to build stronger, healthy relationships.

Employment Services - connecting new American job seekers - particularly those who lost employment in restaurant, hotel, and other services industries during the pandemic closures - to employers offering safe, secure employment with living wages. ORIS Case Managers work to support individual's job searches, as well as plan for career growth, and "up-skilling".

COVID Relief Programs - ORIS's case management team kept closely up to date with relief efforts by the federal and state government to ensure that the new American clients it serves accessed the programs they qualified for. The team worked with clients to prevent evictions, secure stimulus payments, access expanded SNAP benefits, and other programs. Many of these programs required English literacy and/or institutional knowledge that would have otherwise prevented access.

YOUTH PROGRAM

ORIS SUPPORTS YEAR-ROUND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT OF NEW AMERICAN YOUTH & BRIDGING CASE MANAGEMENT FOR THEIR FAMILIES IN MANCHESTER AND CONCORD.

As the coronavirus pandemic closed school buildings ORIS rapidly pivoted its youth programming in 2020 to respond to the new needs faced by refugee and immigrant school children in virtual learning environments. Many new American parents are employed in “essential” roles and continued working away from their homes while children were asked to learn at home without parental support. Additionally, many families in ORIS’s programs did not have their own computers, while schools were slow to provide this resource. ORIS also engaged college students and community members as volunteer tutors to provide additional academic support for youth.

In response to these challenges, ORIS worked to procure a bank of Chromebooks to loan out to families whose children would otherwise miss their schoolwork. And, the Youth team doubled down on its case management services for families and community outreach. ORIS leveraged youth to educate their communities about the pandemic, to identify families in need of emergency supports, and connecting youth with the learning supports needed in a remote environment.

- 80 youth and their families received tutoring, case management and other supportive services
- 10 youth actively engaged in community outreach around public health information
- 49 families received emergency support through youth volunteers
- 25 Chromebooks loaned to students and families for remote work
- 12 St. Anselm College volunteer tutors



2020 FINANCIAL REPORT

Thank you to our \$10,000+ Funders in 2020

Bank of America
 US Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program
 Community Food Projects
 NH Democracy Fund
 Citizen's Bank
 City of Manchester Community Improvement Program
 Clowes Fund
 Concord Public Library Foundation
 Eastern Bank Foundation
 Endowment for Health
 Lawson Valentine Foundation
 You Have Our Trust
 Hannaford
 Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare Foundation
 Mary Gale Foundation
 NH Children's Health Foundation
 NH Charitable Foundation
 USDHHS Office of Refugee Resettlement
 Refugee Agricultural Partnership Program
 USDOJ Office of Violence Against Women Culturally Specific Services Program
 USDA Northeast SARE
 USDA Agriculture Marketing Service Local Food Promotion Program

Income	FY 2019	FY 2020
Contributions	\$ 14,641	\$ 43,064
Foundation Grants	\$ 317,366	\$ 866,742*
Government Grants	\$ 433,005	\$ 244,850
Program Income	\$ 4,4691	\$ 244,677
Other	\$ 13	\$ 108,656**
Total Revenue and Support	\$ 809,715	\$ 1,507,989
Expenses	FY 2019	FY 2020
Program	\$ 762,123	\$ 1,279,394
Operating	\$ 43,549	\$ 28,804
Fundraising	\$ 0	\$ 0
Total Expenses	\$ 805,671	\$ 1,308,198
Net Assets	FY 2019	FY 2020
Beginning of Year	\$ 171,865	\$ 175,909
End of Year	\$ 175,909	\$ 375,700
Change in Net Assets	\$ 4,044	\$ 199,791

*Includes \$105,000 in capital donations to support the purchase of the Fresh Start Farms Food Hub

** Includes PPP & EIDL income from pandemic response programs.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS &
 SUPPORT OUR WORK, VISIT US AT:

www.refugeesuccess.org
 and
www.freshstartfarmsnh.com

"I WANT TO OWN MY OWN FARM SOME DAY. I LIKE TO FARM BECAUSE I MAKE GOOD MONEY AND IT HELPS MY FAMILY. IT HELPS ME TO EAT FRESH FOOD, AND SAVE MONEY WHEN BUYING FOOD. I LIKE TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE EAT HEALTHY TOO. MY KIDS LIKE TO SEE HOW THEIR MOM FARMS, AND IT IS FUN FOR MY KIDS ON THE FARM."

-FRESH START FARMER, 2020



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