



# 2018 Annual Report

## **Mission**

*CRIC's mission is to promote integration, economic self-sufficiency, and positive connections among refugees, immigrants, and the wider community through two-way education, improved access to existing services, and development of new services.*

## **Board Members**

*Nelda Ault-Dyslin, Board President*

*Randy Williams, Trustee*

*Lorien Belton, Treasurer*

*Jess Lucero, Secretary*

*Teresa Painter, Trustee*

*Eduardo Ortiz, Trustee*

*Chad Pemberton, Trustee*

*Halima Ali, Trustee*

## **Staff**

*Melissa Brimhall, Volunteer Coordinator*

*Julie Margueritte Taquin, Programs and Partnerships Director*

*Mackenzie Bowcutt, AmeriCorps VISTA*

## Thank You

**Russell Ray**, for providing the land that houses CRIC's community garden  
**The Family Place /Angeles Monsivais**, for hosting Spanish drivers license classes  
**English Language Center**, for helping refugees study for the citizenship test and acquire English language skills  
**Bear River Association of Government**, for assisting with HEAT donations  
**Larry Smith, USU Provost**, for assisting with the funding for CRIC's VISTA  
**Sally Stocker**, for spearheading CRIC's rebranding  
**Deseret Industries**, for participating in CRIC's donation voucher program  
**Somebody's Attic**, for participating in CRIC's donation voucher program  
**Hemingway Foundation**, for financial support in backing the Neighbor Program  
**Chad Pemberton**, for providing legal advice and immigration support.  
**Michael & Kristi Spence**, for founding and managing Athletics United club for refugee youth  
**Geoff Smith and STEDI**, for offering their front office to CRIC  
**RSO offices**, for providing AmeriCorps VISTA assistance  
**Angela Montague**, for providing cultural sensitivity training for Neighbor Program families  
**Elizabeth Thomas**, for spearheading the creation of our soon to be released new Driver's License Curriculum.  
**Katherine Gurko**, for assisting with the implementation and management of the Neighbor Program  
**All of our community volunteers** who provided over **1245** hours of service during 2018.

## Walk-in Hours

Walk-in hours remains CRIC's most frequented service. In 2018, CRIC had a total of 916 visits to walk-in hours, where volunteers assisted local refugees and immigrants with a variety of casework ranging from immigration applications to job searches. Having had a full year in our downtown Logan office, we can proudly say that walk-in hours have never been busier! Refugees and immigrants can now seek assistance on a first-come-first-serve basis Monday-Thursday from 4-6pm. We have a wonderful team of enthusiastic volunteers who are willing to give their time to helping our new neighbors overcome the everyday obstacles of adjusting to life in their new home. If you know of anyone in need of such assistance, feel free to send them our way!



### **Citizenship Study group**

Gaining citizenship in the United States is a remarkably difficult process. Candidates must demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of US history and civics and must be able to show a high level of comfort with the English language by reading, writing, and answering interview-type questions. CRIC's Citizenship study group is hosted on Wednesday evenings from 6pm-7pm. Refugees and immigrants are paired with a volunteer who will help them prepare for the many sections of their citizenship interview and test. We hope to continue to recruit more students and encourage all of our new neighbors to become citizens of their new country!

### **Drivers License Study Group**

CRIC hosts two drivers license study groups, one in English and the other in Spanish, both of which aim to help immigrants and refugees refine their English skills while preparing to take the Utah drivers license exam. Obtaining a driver's license is indispensable to the mobility of our clients, as it allows them to increase their access to a variety of job opportunities as well as successfully maneuver many of the obstacles of everyday life in Cache Valley. Currently, CRIC is working on publishing a completely refurbished drivers license workbook for students to study from at home. The goal of this new and improved workbook is to provide our local refugees and immigrants with more tools to master the various theories and concepts surrounding safe driving. CRIC looks forward to continuing helping refugees and immigrants find their footing and gaining mobility and independence in their new home!



### **Community Garden**

One of the many services CRIC offers to help empower refugees and immigrants as they adapt to life in Cache Valley is our community garden, a space for refugees and immigrants to grow and harvest their own fresh produce. In 2018, 19 refugee families grew fresh vegetables in their own plots. Their dedication to and ownership of the preparation, planting, and harvesting of their own gardens allowed them to feel more autonomous and empowered, positively contributing to their integration into their new community. The community garden not only bolsters CRIC's goal of providing fresh produce to refugees and immigrants, but also actively provides a platform for refugee and immigrant families to acquire more knowledge surrounding agriculture and farming.



### **Back to School Supply Drive**

In August 2018, CRIC hosted its second annual back to school drive, where thousands of dollars worth of in-kind donations of binders, notebooks, pens, pencils, backpacks and calculators were collected and donated to refugee children ranging from preschool age to students attending University. The support CRIC receives on a consistent basis from the Cache Valley community is absolutely incredible, and we are so appreciative of your continued generosity and support!

### **Thanksgiving Potluck**

CRIC held its first community potluck at our Main Street office in November of 2018. With over 50 attendees throughout the night we can definitely call it a success! Volunteers and clients were able to share traditions as we sat down with plates full of everything from Thanksgiving pie to Injera, an Ethiopian flatbread. We are continuously grateful for our CRIC community, and the friendship and love that we experience every single day and we are grateful for chances to sit down and celebrate each other in the spirit of Thanksgiving!



### **Neighbor Program**

In July of 2018, CRIC officially launched the Neighbor Program, which pairs refugee and immigrant families with a local Cache Valley family. The goal of the program is to create more personal connections between refugees, immigrants, and their new American neighbors. Thus far, we have had a total of six families participate, and we are gearing up to launch our second round of pairings at the beginning of February. Between eight and ten families will be matched every three months. If you are interested in participating in our Neighbor Program, please feel free to contact Julie at [julie@cacherefugees.org](mailto:julie@cacherefugees.org).

