

2019
Annual Report

CRIC



Community For Everyone

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OUR MISSION

Cache Refugee and Immigrant Connection'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.

2019

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Jess Lucero, President

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Halima Ali, Trustee

Teri Painter, Trustee

Eduardo Ortiz, Trustee

Amanda Barrandey, Trustee

Flora Shrode, Trustee

Chad Pemberton, Legal Counsel

STAFF

Mackenzie Bowcutt, Executive Director

Veronica Smith, Volunteer Coordinator



THANK YOU

There are a number of individuals, organizations, and foundations that make it possible for CRIC to continue our mission and provide needed services in Cache Valley.

A special thanks to:

Gary E. Stevenson Foundation, for being a major contributor of CRIC

United Way of Cache Valley, funding for programming

Julie Taquin, previous Program & Partnership Coordinator

Melissa Brimhall, previous Volunteer Coordinator

Steve & Amy Coppieters, for providing the land for CRIC's community garden

Crista Sorenson, Community Garden Coordinator

USU Extension, for supporting CRIC's community garden

Angeles Monsivais, for hosting Spanish drivers license classes

Chad Pemberton, for providing legal advice and immigration support

Halima Ali, for dedicating so much time to personally assisting clients

Mary Connin, for assisting with immigration applications and office duties

Geoff Smith and STEDI, for sharing their front office with CRIC

USU Provost office, for assisting with the funding for CRIC's VISTA

RSO of SLC, for providing AmeriCorps VISTA assistance

Department of Workforce Services, for collaborating with CRIC to best serve clients

Bear River Association of Governance, for assisting so many with housing

English Language Center, for successfully equipping refugees and immigrants with English language skills

Deseret Industries, for participating in CRIC's donation voucher program

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, for bishop storehouse program assistance

CAPSA, for providing such a valuable resource to Cache Valley

Athletics United, for working closely with CRIC and offering an incredible program for refugee youth

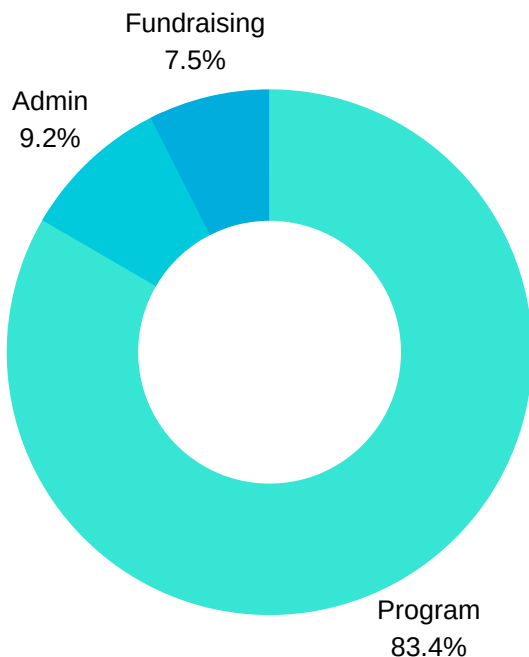
All CRIC volunteers, CRIC's services would not be possible without the dedication of volunteers. In 2019, volunteers gave a total of **1,358** hours of service!

CRIC FUNDING

The majority of funding CRIC receives is provided through private donations. Without our welcoming and supportive community, CRIC's capacity and impact would diminish.

In 2019, CRIC increased its capacity to apply for grant and foundation funding. One successful application was awarded by The United Way of Cache Valley for increasing program capacity. CRIC plans to expand its knowledge and amount of funding applications in 2020, in order to grow in ways necessary to better serve clients.

OPERATING BUDGET

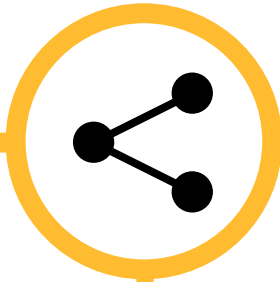


CRIC's operating budget in 2019 was close to \$50,000. The largest expense in the budget includes programming and program management. Each of our programs are carefully created and managed by dedicated staff who hope to provide the best service for our refugee and immigrant friends.

PROGRAMS AT CRIC



**DRIVERS
LICENSE**



**WALK-IN
HOURS**



**NEIGHBOR
PROGRAM**



**CITIZENSHIP
STUDY**



**COMMUNITY
GARDEN**

DRIVER'S LICENSE

CRIC offers an English driver's license class twice a week and a Spanish class once a week. In 2019, 38 students attended the English class and 30 of them successfully gained their driver's license. 2019 was the first year CRIC began using a take-home manual that each client received. This enabled clients to take their booklet home to study and take notes.



Gaining a Utah driver's license is one step that can simplify every day tasks such as commuting to work, accessing essential resources, or participating in community activities.

CITIZENSHIP

Once a week clients meet with volunteers to study the 4 major parts of the naturalization test, which includes English reading, writing, speaking, and US History and Civics. In 2019, 32 students attended citizenship class and 28 successfully passed!

The benefits of gaining US citizenship include:

- 1) Eligibility to vote**
- 2) Derivative citizenship for children under 18**
- 3) Travel with US passport**
- 4) Peace of mind**



COMMUNITY GARDEN

CRIC's community garden is a space where over 28 refugee families are able to grow their own produce. The families are even able to grow native crops from their home countries. 2019 was the first year clients had the opportunity to sell extra produce at the farmers market.



NEIGHBOR PROGRAM



The Neighbor Program is an opportunity for volunteer families to connect with refugee and immigrant community members and their families. We hope meaningful friendships, and successful integration will be fostered through these connections. A trial phase of this program was launched in 2018, and we have been dedicated to revising specifics so that it will be as beneficial as possible for the official launch in 2020.

WALK-IN HOURS

Walk-in Hours is CRIC's largest program. Staff and volunteers assist clients with navigating different US systems. Many of these tasks include filling out immigration applications, applying for employment, housing and public assistance, helping with language barriers on phone calls, and much more.

In 2019, CRIC had a total of 960 client visits during Walk-In Hours. The most common task was regarding USCIS (United States Citizenship and Immigration Services).



CRIC is the only service provider that offers free assistance with USCIS applications in Cache Valley. This saves our clients time and money, otherwise, they would need to travel to Salt Lake City.

In the second half of 2019, we were able to complete:

- 26 citizenship applications**
- 22 green card applications**
- 13 green card renewals**
- 8 refugee travel documents**
- 8 work authorizations**



COMMUNITY EVENTS

ROLLING ROCKS FOR REFUGEES

CRIC hosted the 2nd annual Rolling Rocks for Refugees bowling tournament. This year we added in a home-brew tasting competition and offered unique CRIC shot glasses for purchase. This event was a huge success and we are always looking forward to it. A huge thank you is given to Logan Lanes, team sponsors, bowlers, lane sponsors and Lucky Slice Pizza.



WORLD REFUGEE DAY

CRIC held the first World Refugee Day celebration in Cache Valley. Normally clients travel to Salt Lake for the celebration, but we wanted to give our friends an option closer to home. The event was filled with music, food, games, and friendship. Over 60 people were in attendance and made the event a wonderful evening. A special thanks to Logan Parks & Rec. for providing a space for the event.



HARVEST DINNER

Our first annual harvest dinner was an amazing event. Crumb Brothers graciously let us host the dinner in their space and Chef Barney served a wonderful 4 course meal for our guests. Our guest speakers included Majid, Josephine, and Lay Win. They provided their personal stories and how CRIC has helped each of them in some aspect of their life. This event was a night to remember and we look forward to establishing a new tradition. A special thanks given to Crumb Brothers and Corey Christiansen & trio for providing music for the event.



BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE

CRIC's back to school supply drive is one that is full of excitement, smiles, and laughter. In 2019, with the support of our community, we were able to provide school supplies for over 130 refugee and immigrant students. This is such an important event to our community and provides a meaningful way to make connections.



COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

CRIC partnered with Utah Humanities for the first time to present a Community Conversation. We invited community members to join us in a discussion centered around the topic of "home". It was a night of sharing personal stories, and gaining an understanding of what home means to so many. Community Conversations are an event CRIC believes to be an important aspect of building a 'Community for Everyone' and plan on continuing them in the future.



POTLUCKS

One event that CRIC has continued to host every few months is our client-centered potlucks. These events are focused on inviting refugee and immigrant community members to our office to celebrate their cultures and build friendships. Our Thanksgiving themed potluck is a way to share an American tradition with clients and give them a space to gather.



A MESSAGE FROM CRIC

We would like to thank our community for all of the generous support we received throughout 2019. Our services would not be possible without it. The Cache Valley community has graciously welcomed refugees and immigrants and we hope you will continue to do so in 2020. At CRIC, we are excited to expand our services, programs, and events in the coming year in order to foster new friendships and build a 'Community for Everyone'.

-CRIC Board & Staff

