



Three Strings students from Myanmar are members of the Missouri Academy of Music, receiving full scholarships to participate in a high-level youth orchestra. Here they are with one of their mentors, Sam.



Olena is the talented Ukrainian baker behind Rye Berry Patch Bakery. Stop by City Cuisine where her signature buns are featured on the menu, or place a pre-order during one of her pop-ups.



Starting fresh in a new country isn't easy, but language can open doors. English classes help refugees navigate daily life with confidence from job interviews to doctor's visits, school meetings to making new friends.

WAYS TO GIVE

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CONTACT US

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MISSIONAL IMPACT



**Serving & Empowering Refugees
through Relational Care,
Education, & Development**

FINDING COMMUNITY

V.V. was born in the Democratic Republic of Congo and grew up in Tanzania after his family relocated there in 1997.

In 2009, he came to the United States as a refugee with his parents and six siblings. Arriving in the United States was both exciting and overwhelming. It was his first time on a plane, and everything felt new.

V.V. and his family eventually settled in Jacksonville, Florida, where language barriers and unfamiliar systems made daily life challenging. Simple things, like adjusting the thermostat, were confusing until a neighbor helped them turn on the air conditioning.

In 2010, the family moved to Columbia, Missouri, where they experienced a dramatically different welcome. The community offered generosity, support, and kindness that left a lasting impact on V.V. Inspired by that experience, he committed himself to helping others in need. That commitment became reality when he began working at City of Refuge.

Today, V.V. coordinates rides and teaches new drivers the rules of the road here in the U.S. through the use of our driving simulator and real practice behind the wheel. V.V. focuses on building confidence through safe driving skills and preparation before students meet with the examiner to get obtain their driver's licenses.

For many of the refugees we serve, transportation isn't just about getting from point A to point B. It's freedom, confidence, and belonging in their new community.

V.V.'s story is just a glimpse into how lives are being rebuilt here in Mid-Missouri.



V.V. in front of the wall of proud, newly licensed drivers.

YOUR SUPPORT'S IMPACT

by the numbers

2000 PEOPLE SERVED & EMPOWERED

through trusted relationships that restore safety, build stability, and help families thrive.

290+ WEEKLY VOLUNTEERS



43 ADULT ENGLISH STUDENTS

in partnership with Goodwill Excel Center



20 DIGITAL LITERACY

students taking classes in our computer lab



13 COOKING CLASS

students gaining food service skills



35

weekly hours to thrift with purpose at



CITY BOUTIQUE

Directly supporting programs benefitting refugees



24 STRINGS STUDENTS

receiving free weekly lessons, mentorship, and instruments



3 HEALTH CLINICS

on site annually



77 actively involved in YOUTH PROGRAMS

1000+ FOOD ASSISTANCE

on site, in partnership with The Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri



42 CITY PRESCHOOL

students from local & refugee backgrounds



111 BUDDY PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

building trusting relationships for long-term impact



461 FAMILIES SERVED

45 COUNTRIES of origin



20 GLOBAL ARTISANS

selling handmade goods at City Boutique & The Shops at Sharp End



4 GARDEN PLOTS at our Shalom property in partnership with CCUA

20 CITIZENSHIP CLASS

students preparing for naturalization



17 DRIVER'S LICENSES earned so far through our Driving Program

24 LANGUAGES SPOKEN

