

As 2019 comes to a close and we continue to give thanks and celebrate our many blessings with friends and family, we remember millions of people around the world who have nowhere to call home.

Since 2011 AWE has provided a lifeline to asylum seekers, offering emergency and long-term housing, English and job readiness, parenting classes and cultural orientation in addition to material support such as food, clothing and essential baby supplies. This year we were thankful for and celebrated positive decisions in immigration court, receipt of long awaited work permits, new jobs, new babies, and advances in English and computer skills. Participants have attended 15,000 hours of program and 75 individuals, including more than 20 children, had a safe place to sleep and a place to call home. Intensive support was provided to mothers and children through parenting workshops and respite for single mothers. More than 3,500 hot meals and 30,000 pounds of mostly fresh produce have been distributed from the pantry to date. Behind these numbers are individual stories. Thanks to your contribution we:

*Secured an 8 year old girl's release from immigration detention to reunite with her asylum seeking mother.

*Secured legal services for a mother, her baby conceived in the most violent of circumstances. Baby and mother have been embraced by our community and begun to heal and rebuild their lives through regular participation in our day program.

*Secured medical care for and nursed malnourished toddlers and their parents back to health after a months' long journey from war-torn Congo.

An AWE graduate recently shared this with us: "I have been thinking of AWE so decided to get in touch to say hello. I think it's also because it's my two-year asylum grant anniversary...and I have been reflecting over the past few years and how life has been an amazing journey. It made me grateful for being a part of AWE family and all the wonderful experiences that helped me get acclimated to life in the US and continue to achieve my goals."

It is painful to bear witness to the suffering our brothers and sisters have endured. We are humbled by their fortitude and resilience. We hold tightly to the many successes and joyful moments – the product of relationships built over many months. Our community welcomes and embraces newcomers every day. We are proud to be a safe place where the door is always open.

Now, more than ever, your support is critical. 2019 brought devastating changes to refugee resettlement, nearly shuttering the entire program that has for years had bi-partisan support and provided a new home and life to millions. The Migrant "Protection" Protocol was enacted in January, 2019 and has forced thousands of asylum seekers from all over the world to wait in Mexico, in makeshift camps, to have their asylum cases heard months later, if at all. Asylum seekers currently wait six months or more for work authorization and proposed changes would further delay eligibility for some and make others completely ineligible to work until a decision is made on their asylum case – often years after their arrival. We cannot continue our work without your support.

Please consider a year-end, tax deductible donation, IRA or stock donation, so we may continue this journey with asylum seekers.

In solidarity,

Tiffany Nelms, Executive Director

Online donations can be made at: www.asyleewomen.org/donate

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