



ANNUAL REPORT

Re:new Project 2023



BLESSING PLACE

Mission Vision Values

Re:new Project is a faith-based, non profit that creates a safe space for refugee women to thrive. We achieve this by offering free sewing and ESL classes in a safe and welcoming environment to women who sought refuge in the U.S., specifically in the Chicagoland area.

MISSION



Guided by our faith in Jesus Christ, Re:new creates a space for refugee women to thrive

VISION

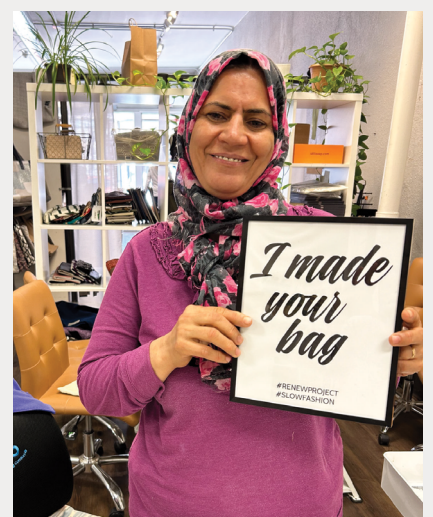


Our vision is to be a society that values and engages with our refugee neighbors and helps them to thrive in our community

VALUES



- Sharing Christ's love
- Teaching the English Language
- Equipping Artisans with dignified work
- Creating a loving and safe environment



Dear Supporters,

2023 was a truly blessed year for Re:new Project! Just like last year, we experienced much transition, but many of these changes were steps forward for Artisans into self-sufficiency. We saw the fruits of training and care given by Re:new turn into new jobs and opportunities for some of our Artisans.

The Lord also saw fit to provide a way for us to stay in our current space for up to another 5 years, definitely an answered prayer. We are so grateful to God for His provision, and the gentle reminders that Re:new is His ministry, and He will take care of his beloved.

We saw the introduction of our Artisan Coach, a new position created solely to focus on helping students and Artisans realize their dreams, and guide them in taking their next steps. Our Artisan Coach provides case management support, as well as advises on different issues the students and Artisans may have about healthcare, school, and finances.

We also saw you, our supporters, rally again and again to come alongside us. Whether it was a daughter in need of mental health care, or a medical bill that had gone to collections, you answered the call and provided financial aid to some of our Artisans. Not to mention our fantastic monthly donors, faithfully giving for us to provide programming for all refugee women free of charge.

We ask for your continued support in 2024 to fund new and exciting programming! These include adding an evening sewing class and English conversation meeting, as well as additional hours for the Artisan Coach to support the students and Artisans better.

Re:new is a Blessing Place for the students, the Artisans, volunteers, and staff. It is a singularly unique place where all who enter are blessed, and have the opportunity to bless others. I hope you will join us in 2024 in new and familiar ways to continue creating this Blessing Place with us.

With Gratitude,



Lora Kim Kwan
Executive Director



Programs

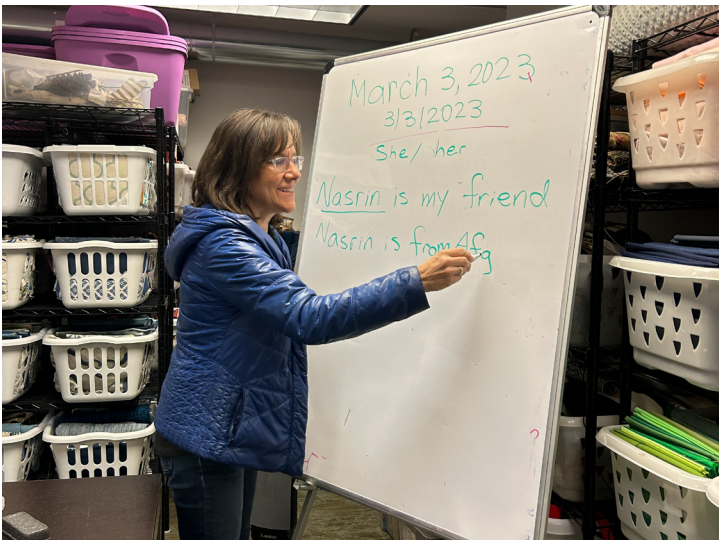


Our programs remained vibrant and engaging! Volunteers are committed to making these classes enjoyable and informative, and provide safe learning environments for students and Artisans! We welcomed 14 new students in Sewing and English classes in 2023. Please continue to keep all the students, Artisans and volunteers in your prayers.



Students Sewing & ESL

The Friday Sewing class continued to be a welcoming space for all women, led by Sewing Instructor, Holly. There were 6 committed sewing teachers who taught with care and patience.



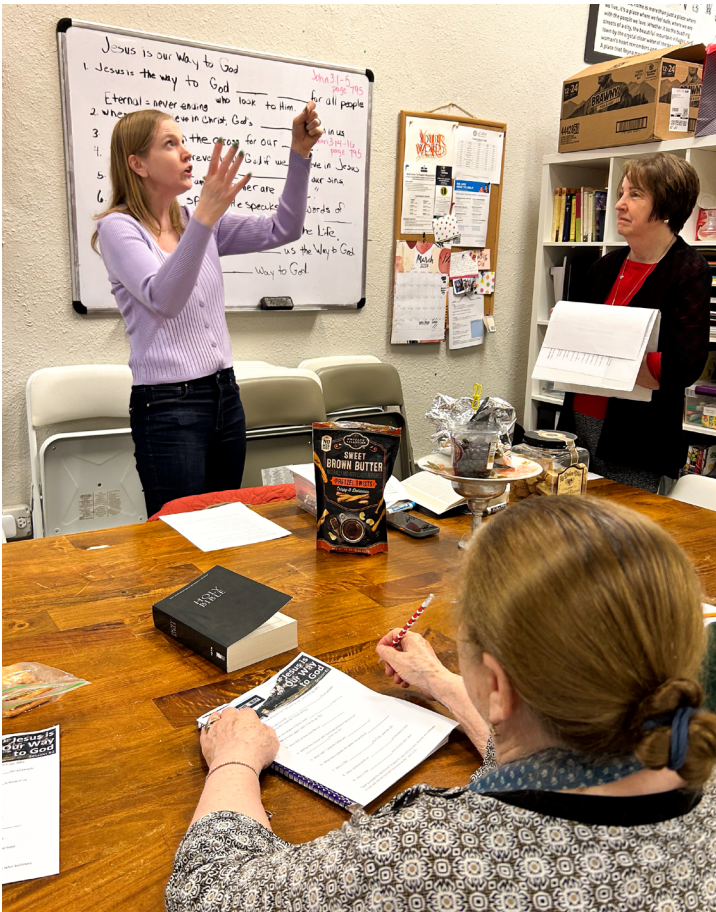
ESL on Fridays remained a source of support for our students improving their English. Led by English Teacher, Melinda, students not only learned and practiced English, they found friendships and community. There were 4 committed English teachers in 2023.

Artisans

Continuing ESL

As added support for our Artisans, they attend a mandatory continuing English class on Wednesdays. These classes are thoughtful, sometimes boisterous, but always fun!

Wednesday classes usually had 4 committed teachers, and a few visiting teachers in 2023.



Bible Study - Sharing Jesus

The mother daughter duo, Andrea and Daria, from Glen Ellyn Bible Church continues to minister to our Artisans faithfully each week. Some wonderful and insightful discussions have taken place between the Christian and non-Christian Artisans. The Bible Study has 100% attendance. Please pray for softened and opened hearts to the gospel.

Impact/ Statistics



Where are they from?

Students

- Sudan
- Ukraine
- Afghanistan
- Congo
- Burma

Artisans

- Iraq
- Eritrea
- Georgia
- Afghanistan
- Uzbekistan
- Burma

Languages spoken

13

- Sudanese Arabic
- Ukrainian
- Dari, Farsi
- French
- 2 Burmese dialects

- Arabic
- Russian
- Dari, Farsi
- Turkish
- Uzbek
- 2 Burmese dialects

In 2023

14

New Students

9

Artisans Employed

5066

Artisan Hours

Volunteer Impact

13
Weekly
Volunteers

=

1,248
Volunteer
Hours

=

\$18,000
Saved in
Personnel Costs

Products

1,603 - Number of products sold in 2023



Community Engagement

World Refugee Day

First, we held an amazing evening called “Carry Her Story” on June 19. Everyone who attended enjoyed delicious food and heard beautiful stories at Moveable Feast in Wheaton. Forty women gathered together to stand united in support of Re:new and the refugee women who come to us. Our Artisan, Karin, shared some of her story of resilience and God’s unending grace and protection in her life. It was truly a memorable night to honor the stories of all refugee journeys, and the strong women who have overcome so much to ensure a brighter future for their children and families.

Second, in collaboration with Chicago Fair Trade, RefuShe, and Tulia’s Artisan Gallery, we co-hosted a celebration in Chicago on June 20th. It was a phenomenal celebration with great food, music and celebrated the resilience, courage, and tenacity of Re:new students and Artisans, as well as all refugees and other displaced peoples. It was a dazzling display of unity across different organizations that come alongside refugees and displaced people to help them take steps towards fullness and flourishing.

International Day of the Girl

For International Day of the Girl 2023, we asked you to “Raise Her Up” by supporting Re:new Project students and Artisans and their families, but especially their daughters. The students and Artisans at Re:new dream about the futures their children and families can have here in the U.S. At Re:new, we not only want to empower the women to rebuild their lives, but also help them ensure a positive impact will occur in their family. On International Day of the Girl, we recommitted to “Raise Her Up” so that her family and children could also be raised up.



Re:new Community



"God made us for community. There is blessing when we share our lives with each other, and Re:new is a place that models this. Artisans bravely try out new English words, trust is built, ethnic food is passed around over lunch, and voices read Scripture in unison during bible study. These actions are all done in community and I am blessed to be a part of this sisterhood."

- **Sandra**, *ESL Volunteer and Board Member*



"Re:new is my Blessing Place because I love that it's a place where women of many different cultures and religious backgrounds can come together and uplift each other. There is a strong emphasis on community, which you can see as the Artisans support each other and interact with each other."

- **Mare**, *Intern*



"Renew is my blessing place because of the laughter and stories that are shared around the table during lunch breaks and classes. It's a space of encouragement and love for all who enter in."

- **Sarah**, *Artisan coach*



"Re:new is so good, I am very happy."

- **Zakiah**, *student from Afghanistan*

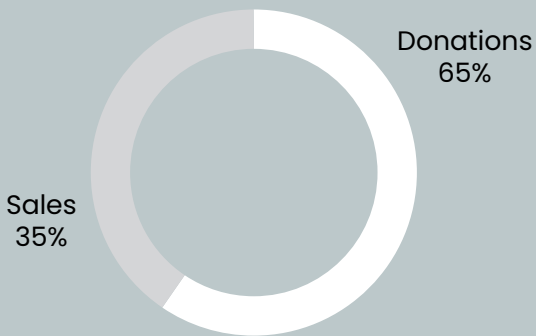


"Re:new taught me so many things, most of all I feel accepted and loved. I am sad to leave, but this place will always be a great place in my memory."

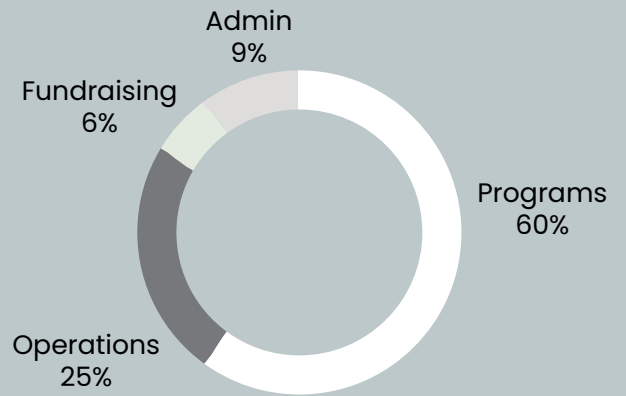
- **Za**, *Artisan from Burma*

Financial Review

Revenue



Expenses



Donor Impact

28
Recurring Donors

143
Unique Donors

Sales Figures

\$98k

Store

\$3k

Online

\$13.6k

Wholesale

\$15.5k

Markets

Artisan Updates



Isabella

Isabella moved and opened a restaurant with her sister.



Karin

Karin became a citizen and moved on to larger role in women's ministry at her church.



Dim

Dim moved onto a full time job.

”
Re:new is for me,
my blessing place.

-Karin



Za

Za mentored a new Artisan and moved on to a full time job.



Nigora

Nigora gained full time employment as a seamstress.

Contact Us

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Give here!

