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www.more-empowerment.org

Providing refugees and immigrants with the education and support they seek to become fully engaged members of our community.

December 12, 2021

Dear Friend of MORE:

It's been another extraordinary year. For you. For our participants. For the world. At MORE, Fiscal Year 2021 began in July of 2020 with a tentative return to MORE's office with strict safety protocols in place and limited service capacity. It ended with vaccines that would allow us to adjust back to some in-person programs. This fall has been a challenge again, but all of us continue to adjust and push forward.

It hasn't been easy. It feels like two steps forward, one step back. But we've adapted. And we're stable. We've been incredibly fortunate to access multiple COVID-relief funding sources over the past year and a half or so. In addition to that though has been the incredible support that has continued to be provided by you to MORE and the people we serve. **We couldn't do it without you.**

Included with this letter is MORE's Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2021. It contains specific financial information for the organization as well as more detailed service statistics. **The report lists all the amazing individuals and organizations that supported MORE throughout that year.** We are proud to share this information to help you have a clear understanding of MORE and the impact of your contribution. I'd like to take this opportunity to share with you some updates to go along with our Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2021 as well as some of what we're excited about for 2022!

First, we are very proud to have ended FY 2021 having a positive net income. Our first round of PPP funding was forgiven and we were eligible for and received a second PPP loan. The second round shows on this balance sheet as a liability. We fully expect for the second loan to also be forgiven. **Additionally, we received \$15,000 in funding from Ramsey County for Small Business COVID Relief.** This funding was very helpful in ensuring MORE did not have to lay off any positions or even cut hours.

Probably the biggest game-changer in FY 2021 was thanks to an amazing donation from Ruth and AJ Huss during the fall of 2020. Because of their generosity, we were able to add a part-time position focused on managing MORE's Education Program. **This has been IMMENSELY helpful in making certain that MORE's Education Program has a dedicated professional at the helm, supporting the teachers and learners during this tumultuous time.** That professional is Laura Kim-Lowe. Laura was teaching MORE's Intermediate Level class when the donation was given. She was offered the role and has been balancing her time between teaching and managing. With Laura leading the program, not only did the program stabilize, modify and shift over the past year, MULTIPLE TIMES, but we are extremely excited about the GROWTH of this program. Beginning in January, we tentatively have an Onsite Workplace English Class scheduled to engage! We hope to also begin class again onsite at Academia Cesar Chavez as soon as the schedule and teaching staff is established.

Additionally, **we returned to a shopping model for MORE's Free Food Distribution this fall.** We were a bit anxious at first. But, offering choice to our participants in any way we can is so important. We put our safety protocols in place and we've been distributing weekly. We have an amazing crew of drivers that pick-up the food at Whole Foods and deliver it to MORE every Friday. We are so grateful to them. We wouldn't be able to do it without their help. Plus, other staff have stepped up and are coming in to

MORE on their non-working days to support the distribution. **MORE serves free bags of groceries to 15-25 families every single week with that distribution.** It's at the foundation of our service to the community. And with the help of these very special folks, as well as our participants who follow the safety protocols with absolutely no complaints, we continue to serve.

While most of our class offerings are still taking place online, we also began in-person English classes in October. Each class meets at least once a week at MORE – alternating so there's only one class at a time actually in the building. That in-person time is incredibly important. It gives the teachers time to support the students' capacity that allows them to better access online classes. It can be impossible to help our students with their computer while online with them. When we began meeting in-person again, we had a former Beginning Level student return. She hadn't been able to learn English for over a year. She didn't have enough digital literacy skills to participate in online class. This is the amazing part though. During in-person class, her teacher helped her to get on her computer, into MORE's class on Teams and navigate during the class. **She now attends class every day, in-person and ONLINE!**

Resilience. We have been able to overcome difficult challenges only because of the resilience of our participants, staff, volunteers, and supporters. New technology. New board members. New processes for reengaging with our supporters and participants. I am so PROUD of the place MORE is in today. It wasn't that long ago we were planning to close our doors. And now, the foundation that once denied us funding all together three years ago because of the instability has not only reestablished our funding but is giving 30% more than last year and condensed our funding application process because they consider MORE to be "consistent and stable". All through a pandemic!

What are we looking forward to in 2022? Engaging even more Onsite Workplace Literacy Classes. Continuing to balance online and in-person English classes. Rebuilding MORE's Social Service Program – especially the case management and Social Work Internship Program. Continuing Board Member recruitment. **Implementing a new strategic plan that will assess major systems within the organization and formally incorporate an equity lens and a racial justice framework at all levels of the organization.**

There's much work to be done to serve New Americans well. As we embark on this season of giving, a financial gift will help to ensure that MORE continues to be a safe place to land for over 400 neighbors every year, today and into the future. With your help, MORE can continue to be the "model of how to respect, love, and support people from all over the world who are trying to build new lives in the United States." **Please join us in this critical work and donate to MORE today.**

A one-time gift or joining our Give MORE Often campaign with a recurring gift – any amount helps and is greatly appreciated. **Your tax-deductible gift will be used to support refugees and immigrants in our community.** Wishing you peace and happiness in 2022.

Sincerely,



Cathy Rucci
Executive Director

P.S. To make a one-time or recurring donation via credit card, visit <https://www.more-empowerment.org/support>.

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ANNUAL
REPORT


resilience:
the process of
adapting well in the
face of adversity,
trauma, or significant
sources of stress.

American Psychological Association

MORE

Providing refugees and immigrants with the
education and support they seek to become fully
engaged members of our community.

MORE



BY THE NUMBERS FY 2021

\$41

The cost to
provide 1 hour
of service



One Hour:

- * Learning English
- * Shopping for Groceries
- * Shopping for Clothing
- * Shopping for Household Items
- * Completing Paperwork

2,337

Social
Services
Visits

Social Services Expenses:
\$75,695

405 Participants - an average of 5.8
visits each - up from 4.4 visits last year



5,070

Hours
Learning
English

Education Program Expenses:
\$139,909

36 Learners - average of 141 hours each -
up from 120 hours for each learner last year

423 People Served

2,115 Individuals Impacted

7,407 Hours of Service

www.more-empowerment.org



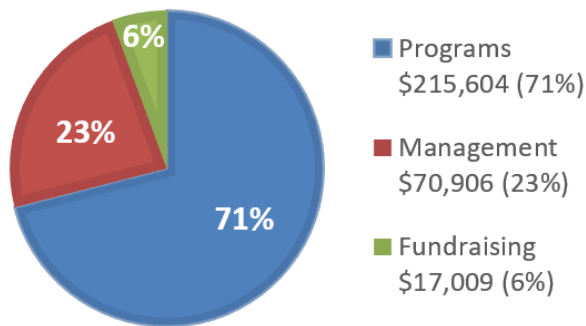
MORE

Annual Report to the Community - FY 2021

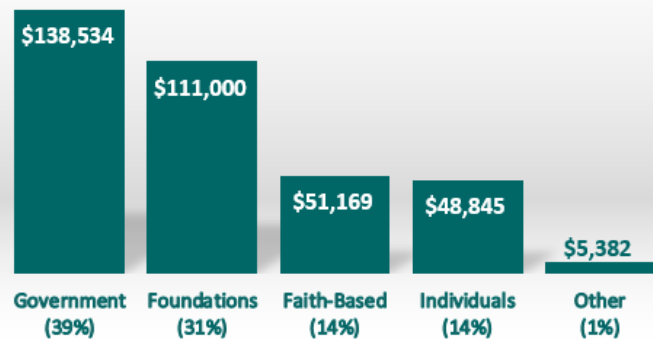
Financial Overview			
	FY 2021	FY 2020	FY 2019
Total Revenue	\$354,930	\$ 298,339	\$ 423,752
Total Expenses	\$303,519	\$ 323,911	\$ 351,956
Revenue less Expenses	\$51,411	\$ (25,572)	\$ 71,796
Total Assets	\$433,929	\$ 369,689	\$ 351,998
Total Liabilities	\$65,672	\$ 52,843	\$ 9,580
Net Assets	\$368,257	\$ 316,846	\$ 342,418



EXPENSE BY FUNCTION



Revenue by Source



Sister Kathleen Spencer Volunteer of the Year - Beth Robelia

Beth Robelia has been supporting MORE for many years. She first connected to us through her mom, Ruth in the early days. Beth has helped distribute gifts during December for many years but her primary support of MORE is with donations to our Basic Needs Program. She organizes clothing and household items drives for MORE including one in her Como Area neighborhood recently in which over 40 people responded to her call to support New Americans! Every summer she brings tomatoes. Each fall she brings apples. She quietly arrives and doesn't ask for our help - she knows where the garage key is located! Sometimes we don't know she's been in the building until after she's already gone. One of those times happened in early 2017.



Refugees and immigrants were being targeted with travel bans and policy changes. It was a dark time. One January day, Staff walked into the kitchen and found a big bag of oranges on the counter with this note: ***"Hello, People of MORE, I think you are an asset to our community. Diversity makes us stronger. You are great role models for perseverance and resilience. Thank you for being here. - Beth"***. It was our privilege and honor to present Beth Robelia with the 2020 Sister Kathleen Spencer Volunteer of the Year Award. Congratulations, Beth! Thank you!

MORE's Board of Directors

Aleshia Peña, Chair
Courtney Kozel, Vice Chair
Sandy Donovan, Treasurer
Chris Newberry, Secretary
Kathryn Berger, SSND

Fiyaz Karim
Foua-Choua Khang
Adaire Lassonde, SSND
Dan Orozco
Terra Shockman

Financial Supporters (FY 2021)

Individuals:

Patty & Mick Amundson-Geisel
Anonymous
Jody Baber
Bev & John Bachman
Bob Barni
Lois Barr
Kate Barrett
Geoff Bartsh
John Bauer
Alison Behnke
Steve Boland
Karen Boone
Eydie & John Boor
Rene'e Buchanan
Shelagh Byrne
Therese Cain
& Sharon Doherty
Mary Cartier
Dagmar Christensen
Nancy & Roy Christianson
Sue Clausen
Deborah Cornell
Jody Cornett
Jeanne & David Cornish
Kathy Cullen
Monica & Charles Davis
Ann Degreee
Virginia Dehen
Barbara Diekmann
Kelly Dolphin
Linda Dolphin
Sandy Donovan
Karen & Dave Dudley
Trescia & Dan Dunn
Patsy Egan
Sister Sue Eichler
Elizabeth & Ryan Elder
Renata Farrell
Amy Filo
Jeff Finzen
Gayle Foster Lewis
Mary Furman
Brian Gale
Hillary Gale
Laurie Gale
Sieglinde Gassman
Grace Gauer
Barbara Gilbertson

Sister Carol Ann Gosse
Lesley Guyton
Michelle Hageman
Mark & Kelly Haider
Mary & John Haider
Lois Hamilton
Jill & Dr. Francois Hamze
Nancy Hansen
Cindy Hawkinson
Alyssa Hedenstrom
Paul Hedlund
Dave Heller
Tamla Hoe
Margaret Hogan
Ruth & AJ Huss
Grace Hyser
Veronica Ivans
Kelley Jewett
Sisters Rita & Paulissa Jirik
Rachel Jost
Sue Kainz
Fiyyaz Karim
Kristin Kewitsch
Foua-Choua Khang
Corrine Kindschy
John Kmetz
Susan Kostka
Mary Kotten
Ellen Kramer Brown
Robert Kuehn
Sister Adaire Lassonde
Carolyn Lebrun
Deborah Lewis
McKenzie Libbesmeier
Sisters Audrey Lindenfelser
& Jill Laszewski
Anne Lovell
Jane Lynch
Mike MacDonald
Shelley MacDonald
Carol & Bruce Margolis
Megan & Mike Mason
Jeanne & Jeffrey McLean
Justin Miedema
Chris Miller
Elizabeth Miller
Marylou Mohn
Corinna Moncada
Nancy Montpetit
Cathleen Moynihan
Mary Munnikhuysen
Ken & Barbara Neihart
CT Newberry
Chris & Ashley Newberry
Jill Nielsen

Joanne Nielsen
Donna Nordin
Susan Oddsen
Aaron & Sarah Olson
Donna Oman
Dan Orozco
Katie and Steve Otto
Sherri Overstreet
Moo Ra Paw
Aleshia Peña
Brian Pettee
Bonnie Prokosch
Marilyn Quigley
Chuck Regal
Bonnie Resnick
Laurel & Dan Ries
Ruth & Joseph Robelia
Lucy Rogers & Larry Grant
Margaret Roozen
Dorothy Rose
Cathy & Nick Rucci
Sister Marguerite Samz
Dara Schur
Howard Schur
Laura Secord
Rhonda Shockman
Terra Shockman
& Blake Larson
Charles Simcox
Ellie Skelton
Samantha Solberg
Sister Stephanie Spandl
Sister Kathleen Spencer
Mary Catherine Steenberge
Victoria Stewart
Kurt Svidal
Nancy & Joseph Sweeney
Mu Hah Taw & Lwei Eh
Mary & John Thoenke
Ann & James Thompson
Lew Trumper
Ioc van
Ashleigh Varley
Ramata Verbaten
Alice Vignalo
Cady & Abby Voigt
Dennis Wagner
Day Wah & Win World
Jeffrey Walter
Ann Warec
Kathy & Steve Weihrauch
Welter Family Trust
Nancy Wenkel
Joanne Woehle
John & Marilyn Wolkerstorfer

John Wollum & Cindy Lien
Dana & John Wood

**Employees or Board Members*

Businesses:

AmazonSmile
Blue Cross Blue Shield of MN
Brave North Technology
JLC Bookkeeping Plus
M Health Fairview
Saint Paul Branch AAUW
Whole Foods Co-Op

Faith-Based Organizations:

Guardian Angels
Catholic Community
Roseville Lutheran Church
Saint Peter's of Mendota
School Sisters of Notre Dame
Unity Church-Unitarian
of St. Paul

Foundations:

3M Foundation
F.R. Bigelow Foundation
Kinney Family Foundation
Medtronic Foundation
Otto Bremer Foundation
State Farm Companies
Foundation

Government:

Ramsey County - COVID19
Small Business Relief
Small Business Administration -
PPP Loan Forgiveness

**And all 2021 Run for
Refugees 5K Supporters!**