



CATHERINE  
**McAULEY**  
CENTER

*A Place of Welcome*

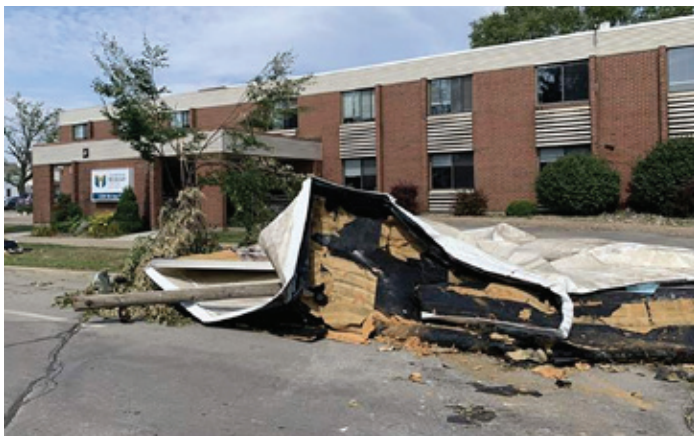
**Annual Report FY23**

July 1, 2022 — June 30, 2023



# A Five Year Retrospective

PAULA LAND, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As we approach our 35th anniversary in 2024, we look back upon the last five years with amazement and a deep sense of fulfillment at what the CMC accomplishments have meant for our community and the people we welcome through our doors each day.

That we outgrew our former space and home of 27 years is a bit of an understatement. Fortunately, our board and staff were forward thinking back in 2015 and had begun the challenging work to envision and prepare for our future home. Launching a Capital Campaign months prior to a pandemic at times felt insurmountable, but as usual, our community stepped up to let us know that the CMC mission is needed and our services have an impact.

We moved into our newly renovated building with great excitement of what was to come, never imagining that 4 weeks later our roof would blow off and damage our beautiful new space. As with most challenges came blessings and we held on to those to lift us from the disappointment that our dreams would be on hold for another several months.

Yet, we never stopped serving our community; providing temporary housing to refugees following the derecho, ensuring that people had access to food, shifting our services to address the health concerns of non-native English speakers during COVID, and shifting to online English instruction kept us focused on what was most important.

## Education Services FY23

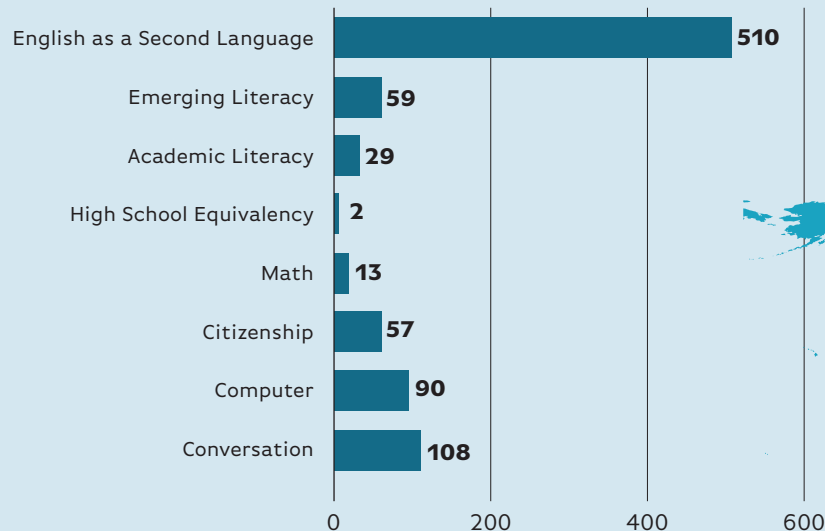
After increasing class offerings and introducing additional group classes and drop-in English classes both online and in-person, Education Services reached 530 active students attending classes in-person or online in English as a Second Language, U.S. citizenship, digital literacy, and basic math — the highest number of students served in CMC’s history!



### 530 students

from 52 countries studied for a total of 12,928 hours

#### STUDY AREAS



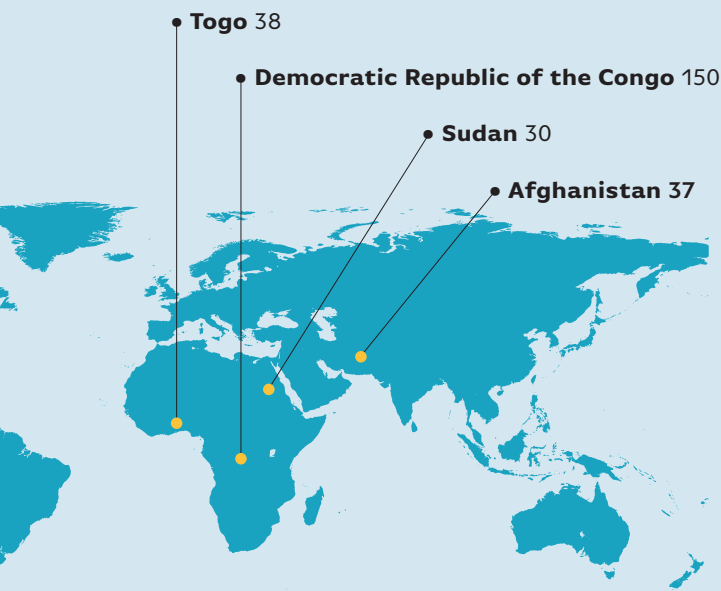
Our new building has opened up opportunities we could only dream about in the past.

- CMC Kids provides dedicated space for children to be cared for while their parents access classes and other services.
- The new Women’s Day Center provides refuge for women who are literally homeless.
- Welcoming seven additional women into our safe and supportive housing environments.
- Eliminating our student waiting list by providing additional group classes, online learning, and more space for tutors and students.
- Welcoming 250 Afghans in three months, finding housing, employment and support services as they began to rebuild their lives in Iowa.

These are just a few examples of how our new Place of Welcome at 1220 5th Avenue SE has allowed us to better meet the needs of more people. As we take a minute to breathe and embrace our blessings, we want to welcome YOU to come visit and help us keep the momentum going into 2024.



### COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



**11**

students attained U.S. Citizenship

**113**

students completed a curriculum level

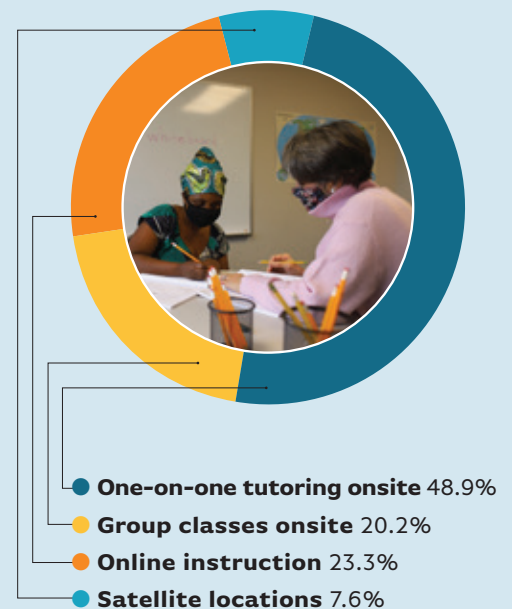
**75%**

of students showed progress

**6.4**

Average grade point growth

### MODE OF INSTRUCTION



# Refugee & Immigrant Services FY23

Following years of record-low refugee admissions to the country, the past two years have brought unprecedented urgency within Refugee & Immigrant Services. Resettlement agencies like CMC had to quickly rebuild capacity for one of the largest and most expedited U.S. resettlements to date. In just a few short months, CMC welcomed more than 400 arrivals in FY22, and 355 arrivals in FY23 — a significant increase compared to 35 arrivals in FY21. Along with resettlement services, refugees and immigrants have access to employment support and individualized case management to connect to resources and services throughout the community.

- **Over 1,010 individuals** accessed one or more of our multiple services throughout CMC, including case management, education, employment, resource navigation, healthcare navigation, business training, and more.
- **7,756** client meetings



## REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

# 355

refugees resettled including **178 adults** and **177 children**

### Country of Origin



# Women's Services FY23

For women healing from trauma and searching for stability, Women's Services provides an emotionally safe and empowering community that allows women to work toward their goals. Women have access to safe housing, supportive services, therapeutic and skill-building groups, and individual case management. Day Center services were added in 2022, offering unhoused women in the community a safe place to go to meet basic needs, build practical skills, form connections, and get support connecting to community resources and securing safe housing.

## TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM

- **34 women** served
- **3,944 days** of housing provided
- Average Length of Stay: **116 days**

## SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM

- **7 women** served
- **1,634 days** of housing provided
- Average Length of Stay: **597 days**

# 63

women served across all programs

# 5,578

nights of safe housing provided



# Supplemental Services FY23

In addition to the core services CMC provides, our Supplemental Services department facilitates in-kind donations, manages our food pantry and community garden, and works with our Service Area programs to enrich the lives of students, clients, and residents.

## COMMUNITY GARDEN

- Added **800 sq. feet** of garden space
- **4,492 sq. feet** of gardening space available
- **12 raised beds** for Women's Services
- **10 residents** participated in gardening groups
- **7 ground plots** for Education students
- **11 student growers** participated
- **1 ground plot** for food pantry and the LIFE program

## TRANSPORTATION

# 38,783

miles driven

Refugee & Immigrant Services programs drove **95% of total miles**



### EMPLOYMENT & CAREERS

- **316 individuals** received employment case management and job training

#### Refugee Child Care Business Development Program

Since its inception in 2019:

- **48 refugees** completed the training to open in-home licensed child care businesses
- **30 licensed child care homes** established
- **128 child care slots** created including first, second and some overnight shifts



### REFUGEE SOCIAL SERVICES

- **313 individuals** received resource navigation and case management
- **90 clients** enrolled in WIC and SNAP benefits
- **61 refugee** and immigrant students grades 6–11 participated in the afterschool and summer LIFE program (Learning Is For Everyone)



### WOMEN'S DAY CENTER

- **27 women** accessed drop-in services
- **15 women** connected to housing
- **3 women** entered into the Transitional Housing Program



### AFTERCARE & ALUMNI SERVICES

- **7 women** received aftercare case management for up to 6 months after graduating Transitional or Supporting Housing



### GROUPS

- **340** group sessions provided
- **152** therapeutic sessions
- **188** Skill-building sessions



### FOOD PANTRY

- **35,238 pounds** of food received from HACAP and distributed
- **1,967 duplicated individuals** accessed the pantry

Around the world

**1.5x**



### CMC KIDS

- **140 children** served
- Up from 76 children in FY22
- **1,051 hours** utilized
- Up from 588.75 hours in FY22

# Volunteer Support FY23

We finally had our first “normal” year since fiscal year 2019! Tutors have returned to pre-pandemic levels and the introduction of new volunteer-supported programs like LIFE, CMC Kids, and Community Sponsorship are helping CMC offer a wider array of services for clients while conserving resources.

**TUTORS**  
**361**  
 tutors provided  
**10,513**  
 hours of instruction

## LIFE VOLUNTEERS

- **33 volunteers** provided **430 hours** of support for the LIFE program (teaching, leading activities, and transportation)

## GARDEN VOLUNTEERS

- **27 volunteers** spent **58 hours** supporting CMC’s Community Garden, creating a welcoming space where clients can grow their own food.

## CMC KIDS VOLUNTEERS

- **17 volunteers** provided **170 hours** of play and supervision for children while their parents studied unencumbered.

## RIS VOLUNTEERS

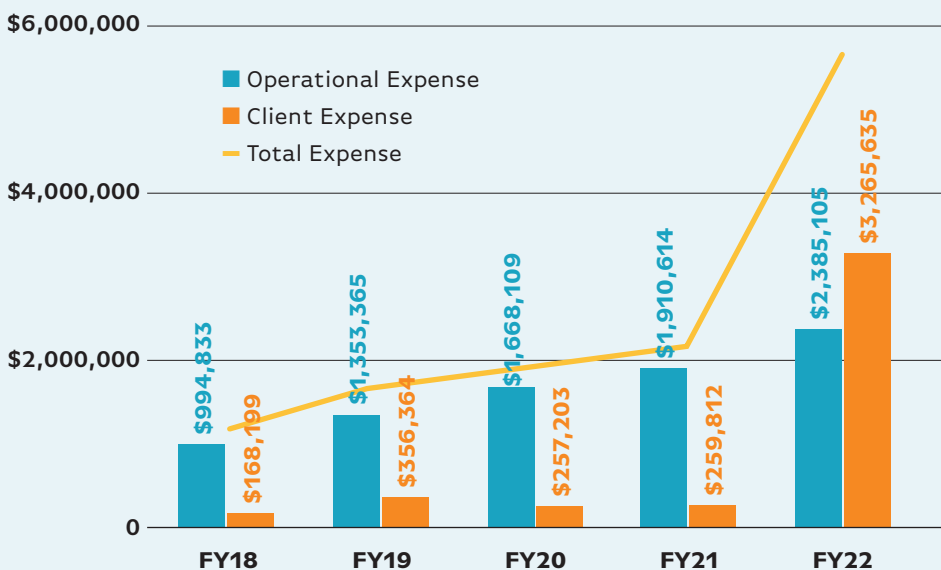
- **97 volunteers** contributed **2,085 hours** towards Refugee & Immigrant Services programming and support, including the LIFE program.



# Financials

CMC has seen between 12% and 36% increase in revenue and expense each of the last five years. Operational costs provide for the CMC programs and services, while also receiving and distributing funds to clients. In alignment with the large increase in resettlement the last couple of years, the pass-through funding has significantly increased.

## EXPENSE COMPARISON OVER 5 YEARS





# New Strategic Plan

CMC's current strategic plan was developed after we successfully completed our previous plan that outlined addressing space issues, opportunities for expanded programming, and financial sustainability. We have now been in our new home since July of 2020, but with the pandemic and a natural disaster, we only last year felt settled. This new plan is about putting our focus on people, engagement, and the systems needed to work effectively into the future.



## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1:

### Invest in People

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Ensure staff, volunteers, and board are equipped, fulfilled and have the capacity to do their work.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2:

### Community Engagement & Collaboration

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Expand and strengthen our welcoming community and Place of Welcome while reinforcing CMC values of dignity, inclusion and empowerment.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3:

### Discernment & Decision Making

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Provide for the focus and impact of programs and operations.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4:

### Resource Development

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Provide for financial sustainability and growth as we maximize resources and assets in order to meet the needs of our community.



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Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

## Board of Directors

**Lori Weih**, UnityPoint Health — President

**Donald Chizek**, Lil' Drug Store Products, Inc. — Past President

**Sr. Kathy Thill**, RSM, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas — Sisters of Mercy Representative

**Tatum Buse**, Collins Aerospace — Treasurer

**Kim Grady**, Mercy Medical Center — Secretary

**Paula Land**, Catherine McAuley Center — Ex-Officio Member

**John Bailey**, Retired, AEGON

**Sr. Julie Brown**, RSM, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

**Anna Drexler**, Coe College

**Elsabeth Hepworth**, TrueNorth

**Sr. Connie Howe**, RSM, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

**James Klein**, Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust

**Zhen Rammelsberg**, Marion Independent School District

**Janet Satern**, Mt. Mercy University

**Mary Tarbox**, retired, Mt. Mercy University

**Mialisa Wright**, Kirkwood Community College

## Upcoming Events

### Immigration & Business LUNCHEON

Join us to shine a light on the contributions of refugees and immigrants in our business community and workforce!

**Thursday, February 29, 2024**

Radisson Hotel Cedar Rapids  
1200 Collins Rd NE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

#### **Educational Session: 9:00 – 11:00 am**

Engage with employer partners dedicated to inclusive workplaces for refugees and immigrants, and hear firsthand accounts from refugees and immigrants sharing about their employment journeys in the United States.

#### **Luncheon & Awards Ceremony: 11:30am – 1:00 pm**

Network over lunch, hear from keynote speaker, Dr. Dau Jok, Executive Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for West Des Moines Community Schools, and applaud the outstanding achievements of the Immigration & Business Awards recipients.



Register online at [cmc-cr.org](http://cmc-cr.org) or scan the QR code here:



### PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

We're hosting our first ever pickleball tournament on Thursday, May 23rd at Smithfield Tennis & Pickleball Center! We'll be calling for teams of all skill levels to compete and have fun for a great cause. Registration details coming soon!



### SPEAKING OPPORTUNITIES

Would you like to host CMC at your next event or meeting? We can provide training, presentations, and volunteer opportunities for your group. Contact [volunteer@cmc-cr.org](mailto:volunteer@cmc-cr.org) for more information.

### CELEBRATE 35 YEARS WITH US IN 2024

Stay tuned for more information about the ways you can join us in celebrating 35 years of providing the CMC mission.