

# CANOPY

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS

**CULTIVATING THE ART OF WELCOME**



**IMPACT 2023**

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

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Dear Friends,

In reflecting on the challenges of the past year, Canopy has been a beacon of hope for displaced refugee families, facilitating heartwarming reunions and offering support to those rebuilding their lives in Northwest Arkansas. Amid the global crises, our commitment to welcome and integration remains unwavering.

Our work at Canopy isn't always filled with joy, but it's consistently meaningful. We experienced the happiness of reuniting a young family, resettled by Canopy, with their parents. Upon receiving the travel notification for their parents, our Canopy team promptly connected with the family in Fayetteville. The young mom couldn't contain her excitement, exclaiming, "I can't wait to hug my mom! I've been waiting five years!" That dream came true when we all welcomed her mom to Arkansas this fall.

Our gratitude extends to the community's change makers—from faith communities volunteering to welcome newly arriving families, to third graders at Owl Creek Elementary donating the proceeds of their lemonade stand, to property managers trusting Canopy and renting a first home in the US to a refugee family, to immigrants bravely launching new local businesses, to people who arrived in our community as refugees and are now volunteering and serving as community leaders: your engagement is making our community better and stronger.

For the families arriving in Northwest Arkansas, Canopy stands as a guide, ready to provide support and help them reimagine their futures. As we look to 2024, we're prepared to extend our welcome to refugees globally, thanks to the unwavering support, energy, and encouragement from all of you.

In stepping into the new year, we want to express our deepest appreciation for your continuous support. Your belief in our mission is transformative, and we are grateful for the positive change you've helped us achieve.

With heartfelt thanks,



Joanna Krause  
Executive Director



## OUR MISSION

Is to create a community where refugees are welcomed and equipped with all they need to build new lives.

### AT CANOPY NWA, WE BELIEVE IN

- The Dignity and Worth of All People
- Wholeness of Body, Mind, and Spirit
- Cultural and Religious Diversity
- Collaboration with Community
- Empowerment
- Excellence
- Welcome

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**CLINT SCHNEKLOTH**  
CHAIR

**AYOOLA CARLETON**  
VICE CHAIR

**BETH KECK**  
SECRETARY

**CHRIS SCHAECHTEL**  
TREASURER

**TERESA CORNETT**

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**MOHJA KAHF**

**JENNIFER NEWELL**

**ANDRÉS RHODES**

**RIVKA ZEMKE**



# WHERE ARE OUR CLIENTS FROM?

**580**

Refugees resettled since the founding of Canopy

**139**

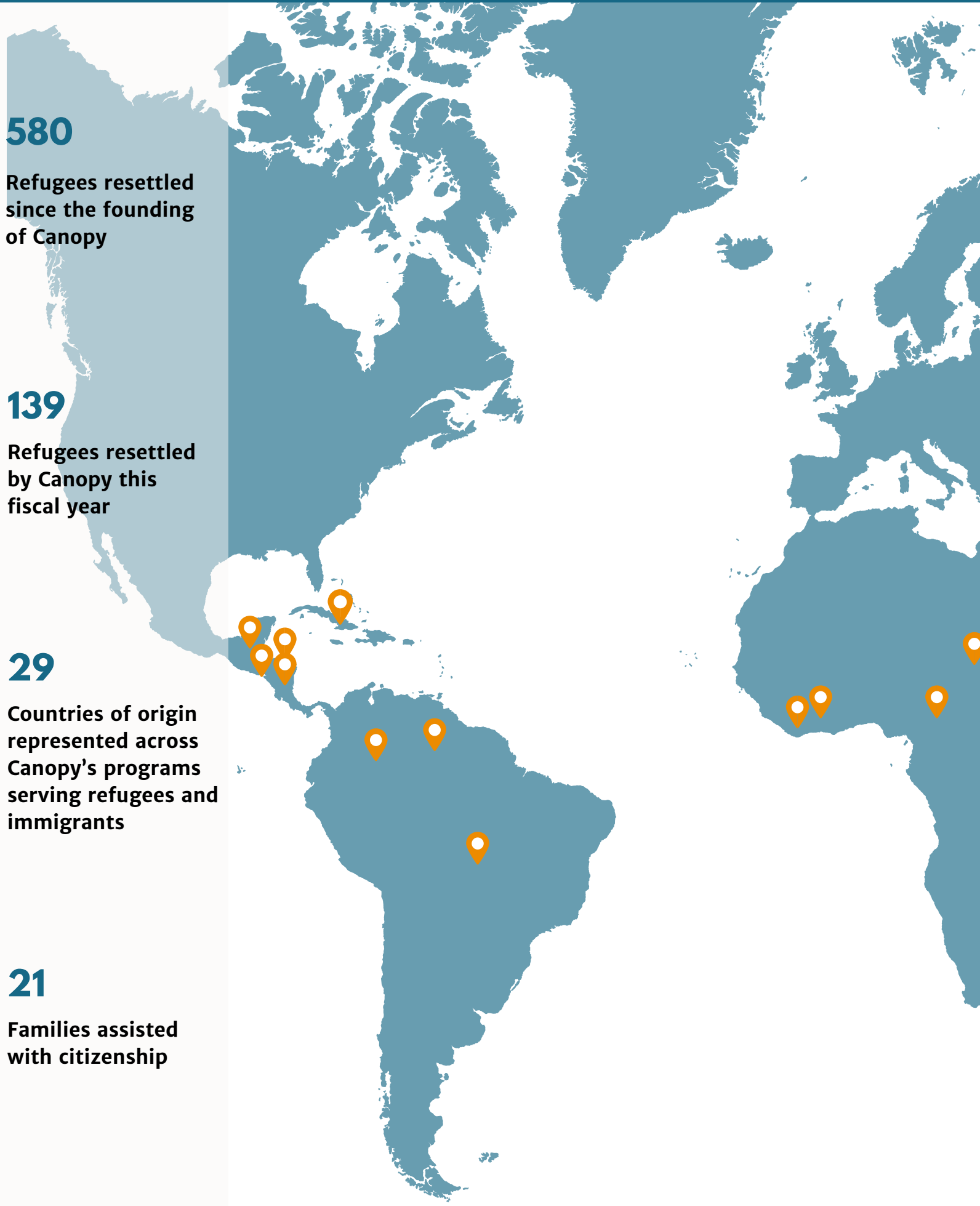
Refugees resettled by Canopy this fiscal year

**29**

Countries of origin represented across Canopy's programs serving refugees and immigrants

**21**

Families assisted with citizenship





## RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN IN FY2023

- Afghanistan
- Chad
- Colombia
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Iran
- Ivory Coast
- Nicaragua
- Sudan
- Syria
- Venezuela
- Yemen

# CANOPY BY THE NUMBERS

## CLIENTS' JOBS BY INDUSTRY

**\$15.35**

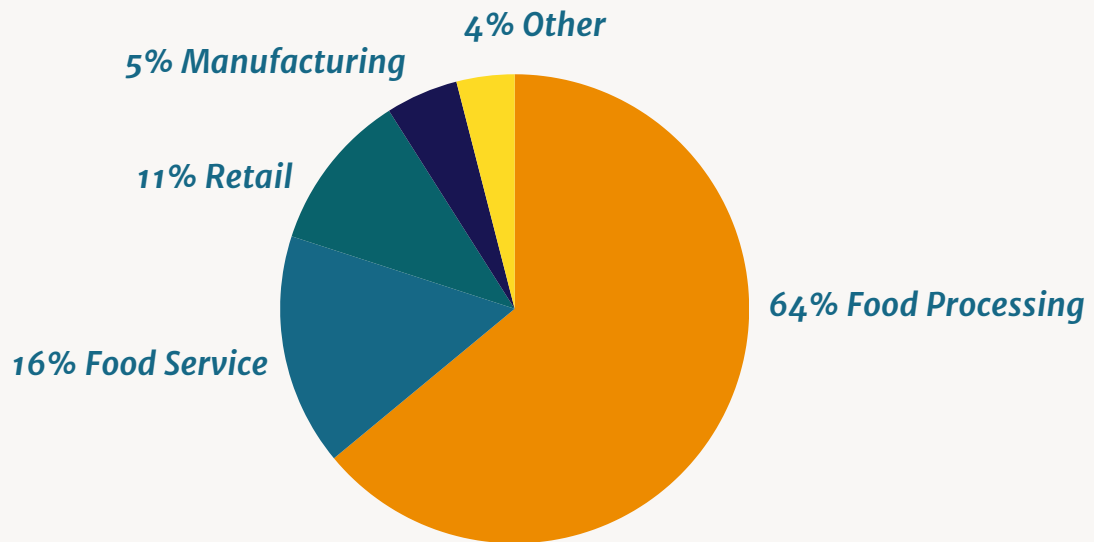
Average hourly wage

**45**

Job placements

**91%**

Receive health benefits from their employer



## ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT

### NEW AMERICAN CITIES

*Canopy is one of five sites in the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) New American Cities program.*

*The New American Cities (NAC) program focuses on helping refugee and immigrant workers by providing workforce development opportunities. The goal is to assist them in securing jobs that contribute to their family's financial well-being, ultimately empowering them to achieve economic independence and career advancement.*

**\$19.91**

Average hourly earnings of the refugees and immigrants who advanced through Canopy's NAC program, almost double the state's minimum wage

**67**

Clients participated in the NAC program



# ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM



**2** Cohorts in Fall '22 & Spring '23

**4** Nationalities represented (Cameroon, Venezuela, Marshall Islands, & Afghanistan)

**11** New businesses started

**763** Hours of technical assistance provided to new businesses

## Resilience Rising

### *The Inspiring Journey of Salome Riklon and the Success of Sal's Cleaning Services*

*After successful completion of Canopy's Entrepreneurship Program, a 12-week course that provides aspiring immigrant and refugee entrepreneurs with tailored training, business services, and technical support, Sal Riklon was able to secure a KIVA loan to start her business. Her journey from the Marshall Islands to Northwest Arkansas where she established Sal's Cleaning Services LLC showcases resilience, determination, and a commitment to excellence.*

*The success of Sal's Cleaning Services is rooted in the strong partnership between Sal and her husband, Timothy. Together, they provide comprehensive cleaning and outdoor maintenance solutions to the Airbnb industry. While Sal focuses on interior cleaning, Timothy specializes in exceptional lawn care, showcasing the power of teamwork and a shared vision for entrepreneurial success among the immigrant community.*

# CANOPY'S SERVICES

## YOUTH SERVICES

**100%** High school seniors graduated

**99%** Students advanced to the next grade

**110** Students in Canopy's after school programs (Fayetteville, Springdale, Rogers & Bentonville)



## HEALTH LITERACY WORKSHOPS

### PARTNER

Credit Counseling of Arkansas  
Community Clinic NWA  
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences  
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences  
University of Missouri Kansas City School of Medicine  
We Are Trailblazers

### TOPIC

Scam and Fraud Awareness  
Women's Health  
Reproductive Life Planning  
Pharmacy Tour  
Pre-natal & Contraceptive Care  
Adult First Ride

**21** Pregnant women received maternal health education

**14** Babies were born





# VOLUNTEERS

**2,785**

Total number of hours contributed by volunteers

**\$225,963**

Value of in-kind donations (furniture, vehicles, groceries, & household items)



## CO-SPONSORSHIP TEAMS

**140** Volunteers comprised of Co-Sponsorship teams (religious/interfaith groups, small businesses, a running club, & circles of friends)

**19** New arrival refugee families matched with Co-Sponsorship teams

## Volunteer Spotlight

***Little Guy Movers handled the heavy lifting for us.***

*As we welcome and settle new neighbors, our demand for furniture increases. Each piece adds comfort and turns a house into a home.*

*We want to express our sincere thanks to Little Guys Movers of Fayetteville, an invaluable partner to Canopy. Their generosity and dedicated efforts in helping us move furniture to newly arrived refugees in Northwest Arkansas over the past year are truly praiseworthy. At Canopy, our mission thrives on the strength of community partnerships, and your contribution has made a significant impact.*



## WELCOMING A NEW FAMILY COST BREAKDOWN

**\$23,263**

The cost to resettle a family of 5

**\$16,375**

The amount the federal government covers

**\$1,200**

Is raised by Co-Sponsors

**\$5,688**

The remaining cost for a family of 5

\*Breakdown costs do not include staffing

## WAYS TO HELP CANOPY WELCOME 250 REFUGEES IN 2024



### CO-SPONSORSHIP & VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

**Become a co-sponsor for refugee families by providing vital support through volunteer work.**

Join our community of volunteers committed to easing the resettlement journey. Whether it's furnishing an apartment, providing occasional transportation, or helping with cultural orientation, your time and skills can make a significant impact.



### FURNITURE AND WELCOME KITS DRIVE

**Extend a warm welcome to refugee families by participating in our Furniture and Welcome Kits Drive.**

Contribute essential furniture items, household goods, and welcome kits to furnish living spaces and make the transition smoother. Whether it's a couch, a bed, kitchen essentials, or hygiene products, your donations create a sense of belonging.



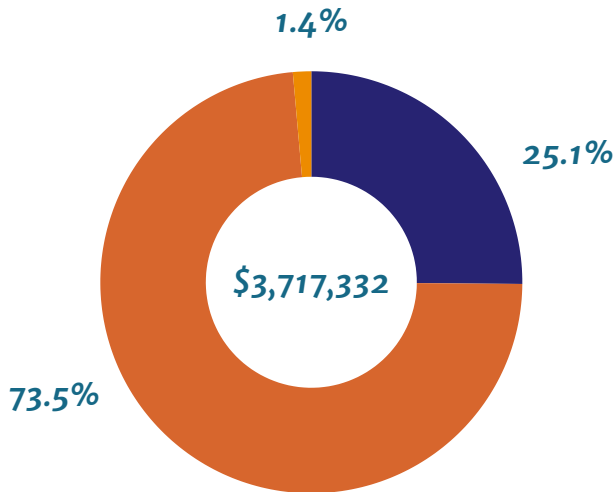
### SUSTAINABLE FINANCIAL SUPPORT

**Empower refugee resettlement by making a financial contribution to sustain our programs.**

Your donation directly fuels the development initiatives that pave the way for self-sufficiency. Every contribution, no matter the size, contributes to building stronger, more resilient communities.

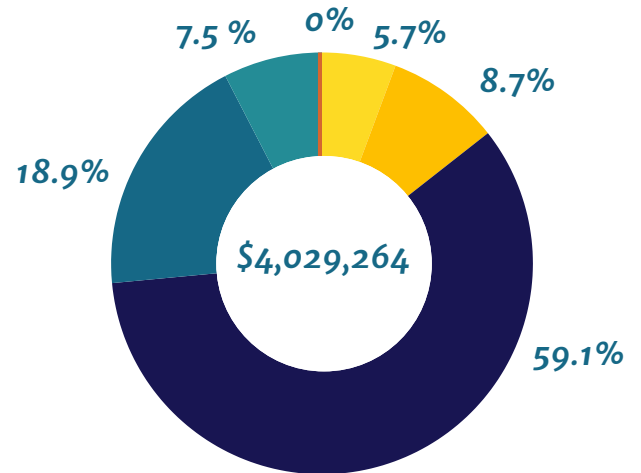
# FY 2022-2023 FINANCIAL REVIEW

Canopy NWA seeks meaningful partnerships with local businesses and community organizations to create a more inclusive and supportive community.



## EXPENSE BREAKDOWN

- Direct Client Expenses
- Programs and Services
- Fundraising



## REVENUE BREAKDOWN

- Federal Grants
- Foundation Grants
- Federal Subgrants
- Program and Services
- Gifts from Canopy's supporters
- In-kind donations

Many of Canopy's programs and services are made possible with the support of these Northwest Arkansas foundations:

- Arkansas Community Foundation
- Walton Family Foundation
- Excellerate Foundation
- Walmart Foundation



Thank you to the local and corporate businesses, religious institutions, and individuals who have made financial contributions to aid in Canopy's refugee resettlement efforts. Our work is made possible by **YOUR** support.

# WELCOMING REFUGEES SINCE 2016



## DONATE TODAY



*Canopy Northwest Arkansas is a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization as described in section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code. Our tax identification number is 81-1305235.*

[www.canopynwa.org](http://www.canopynwa.org)

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## IMPACT 2023