



2020 Annual Report

The Alabama Interfaith Refugee Partnership received Internal Revenue Service approval for 501C3 tax-exempt status on October 16, 2019. Since that time, the 11-member board has worked hard to develop and approve policies and procedures, create a website and other social-media platforms, recruit and orient volunteers, and implement our three-part mission of supporting refugees and asylum-seekers locally and globally through advocacy, education, and direct assistance.

This report highlights the major accomplishments of the 2020 year. The first section discusses overall accomplishments of the organization and the board, and subsequent sections highlight accomplishments of our six committees (Advocacy, Communications, Direct Support/Volunteer, Education, Finance, and Fundraising/Outreach).

Summary of General Accomplishments of the Board and the Organization

- Created and approved policies and procedures which are included in a Policy and Procedure Manual and [posted on the ALIRP Google Drive](#).
- Recruited and supervised three UAB student interns for summer and fall; and one Samford Master of Social Work intern (fall 2020 and spring 2021).
- Established linkages with other organizations – [Episcopal Migration Ministry](#) Asylum Ministry Network, and [Inspiritus](#).
- Obtained approval from eight Birmingham-based organizations to list as [ALIRP partners on website](#)
- Took the lead on establishing a Birmingham Immigration Resource Network, and a Network of Immigration Attorneys
- Elected new board members to replace those whose terms ended in September, and [modified bylaws](#) to name Farook Chandiwala as an ex-officio board member for a two-year term. A list of board members for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 is posted on the [google drive](#), and a list of current board members is posted on [the ALIRP website](#).
- Approved logo and [developed new logo](#)

Summary of Major Activities of ALIRP Committees

Advocacy

- Participated in Virtual Advocacy Day in July 2020, partnering with other immigrant advocacy groups in the US (including American Friends Service Committee, Refugee

Council USA). This initiative was coordinated by the Asylum Working Group and the Interfaith Immigration Coalition, and organized calls to congressional representatives asking for four specific policy changes related to asylum-seekers: (1) Defund Unlawful Anti-Asylum Policies Including Unlawful CDC Expulsions; (2) : Ensure Robust Oversight of Any USCIS Appropriation; (3) End Immigrant Detention, Deportations, and 1325/1326 Prosecutions at Minimum During the COVID-19 Pandemic; and (4) Support & Co-Sponsor Pro-Asylum Legislation including the Refugee Protection Act (RPA): The *RPA* ([S.2936](#) / [H.R.5210](#)), Immigration Enforcement Moratorium Act (to halt deportations), and the Federal Immigrant Release for Safety and Security Together Act (FIRST Act): The *FIRST Act* ([H.R.6537](#) / [S.3645](#)) which would provide urgent and critical restrictions on immigration detention and enforcement during the COVID pandemic.

- The Committee began work with one of the UAB School of Public Health interns (Rashmi Whagmare) to develop an Advocacy toolkit to guide future advocacy initiatives.

Communications

- Developed and maintained [website](#), [Facebook page](#), [Instagram platforms](#) and ALIRP [YouTube channel](#), as well as policies for maintenance;
- Produced newsletters in May, July, September, and November. Newsletters were distributed to 331 ALIRP friends via Mail Chimp, and posted on [ALIRP website](#).
- Reached out to UAB Schools of Business and Public Health and recruited an intern for a Communications Specialist for spring 2021.

Direct Support

- Finalized [Volunteer Handbook](#) which is available on the ALIRP website
- Developed [Covid-19 policy](#) to ensure safety of volunteers and Partners, which is posted on the ALIRP website
- Developed and Offered Parts 1 and 2 Volunteer Orientation Online in July (with assistance of student intern Maria Dorcal). [Youtube recordings of the orientations](#) are available on the ALIRP website for future volunteers
- Developed [Volunteer Management procedures](#) and [Volunteer database](#), including procedures for responding to people who submit [volunteer interest forms](#) and engaging volunteers (this is currently being coordinated by student intern Emily Paxton)
- Placed all [volunteer and partner forms](#) (volunteer and partner agreement, background check authorization, media release, time sheet) on website so that forms can be signed and submitted electronically
- Approved purchase of 1-year subscription to website which provides resources for Language partners (for up to 5 partners). Website is called [One Stop English](#)
- Coordinated direct support for nine individuals or families during 2020:

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Education

- On Feb 25, 2020 Rachel Hagues, David Cecil and David Robbins, faculty at Samford University, presented a program on their visit and research related to the “The International Migration Crisis: Perspectives from Lebanon” at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Birmingham.
- Planned to co-sponsor a program in March with the UAB Institute for Human Rights on “Hugs and Capitalism: One Lawyer's Week at a Women's Detention Center at the U.S.- Mexico Border,” but program was cancelled due to the COVID pandemic
- Sponsored a [virtual film night on July 14](#) (New Immigrant and Refugee Visions). The event was part of the Community Supported Film project, and co-sponsored with the UAB Sparkman Center for Global Health and Institute for Human Rights, Birmingham Islamic Society, and Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice. Recording of the event is [available on the ALIRP YouTube channel](#).
- Sponsored a [virtual book discussion](#) on the ALIRP Facebook page during the months of September and October, facilitated by volunteer Karina Cortes, and followed by a Zoom discussion on November 9, for the book *The Ungrateful Refugee*.
- Sponsored a Zoom program on [Global Climate Migration](#) featuring Anne Ledvina on November 22, 2020.

Finance

- Established Compass bank account and debit card;
- Managed all finances and maintained records on spreadsheet in secure folder on Google Docs accessible only to the Treasurer, Vice President and President;
- Followed all financial control procedures including maintain records of financial request forms, invoices, receipts, donor information, and thank you letters sent to donors as the donations are received.

Balance January 1,2020 \$16,415.72

Income January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020 \$48,857.76

Foundations	\$5,190 (10.62%)
Religious Institutions	\$9814.50 (20.29%)
Individual Donations	\$18,446.79 (37.76%)
Fundraising Events	\$15,121.24 (30.95%)
Other	\$ 285.23 (0.58%)
TOTAL INCOME	\$48,857.76

Expenditures January 1, 2020-December 31, 2020 \$32,810.26

Direct Support (85.33%)	
Rent	\$11,935
Food	\$4700
Legal	\$9667

Medical	\$ 35
Other	\$1985.47
Subtotal	\$28,322.47
Education (1.17%)	
Speaker Fees	\$300
Other	\$50
Subtotal	\$350
Administrative (13.5%)	
Liability Insurance	\$1689
Web/Social Media	\$1099.96
Printing/Copying	\$127.74
Software	\$120
IT/Telephone	\$281.90
Other	\$819.14
Subtotal	\$4,137.79
Total Expenses	\$32,810.26

Fundraising/Outreach

- Purchased Square machine so that donations can be accepted by credit card at in-person events, and set up Square account to accept online donations, linked with our Compass account.
- Developed a flyer and PowerPoint presentation about ALIRP ([which is posted on the website](#)) to be used with outreach/fundraising initiatives.
- Held a fundraising event at Al's Deli on March 10, 2020 and raised \$ 108-
- Held Facebook Network for Good birthday fundraisers
- Share the Plate donations from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Birmingham for the month of July were donated to ALIRP (total of \$1814.50)
- One of the board members purchased two “Buy One, Give One” announcements about ALIRP on WBHM public radio station during March and November
- Organized fall [GoFundMe](#) campaign Nov. 9-23, 2020 with video and newsletter ads
- Submitted eight grants to local organizations
- Outreach Initiatives
 - Generated [a list of 305 faith-based and other community organizations](#), and Lynda Wilson has sent initial email introducing ALIRP and requesting phone or zoom meeting to discuss our work and explore collaboration.