



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

ALIRP Annual Report

This year, we celebrate 5 years as a non-profit and we officially joined the Alabama Association of Nonprofits (AAN). The 11-member board has worked hard to develop and approve policies and procedures, maintain a website and other social-media platforms, recruit and orient volunteers to ALIRP Care Teams, and implement our three-part mission of supporting refugees and asylum-seekers locally and globally through advocacy, education, and direct assistance.

Through compiling this report, we, the Board of Directors, are thrilled to reflect on all that we accomplished together with our wonderful volunteers, community sponsors, grant funders, ALIRP Partners, and all our wonderful staff who go beyond the call of duty year after year. We envision a world where all refugees and asylum seekers find safety and live with dignity.

Our activities and efforts seek to:

1. Educate the community and elected officials about the current refugee crisis and the process of refugee resettlement;
2. Advocate for policies that address the root causes of the refugee crisis, and that increase U.S. support for refugees; and
3. Provide direct support for refugees and asylum seekers in the United States and in the Birmingham community.

We started the year with some changes to our structure. Our part-time Case Manager, Matt Buttler became our first full-time, paid employee. As the ALIRP Case Manager, Matt's weekly tasks include interviewing potential new Partners, assessing initial and ongoing needs of new Partners, and working to address all Partner needs by engaging our amazing AmeriCorps VISTAs, volunteers, and community organizations and resources. And the ALIRP Founding President and Director, Lynda Wilson was honored with an award of service as she retired from her position.

The Board of Directors organized an Executive Leadership team that worked collaboratively with Matt Buttler to implement programs that fulfilled our mission and vision. One successful program included the Quarterly Furniture Donation Drives. Mid-year, we hired Leonela "Leo" Ramirez to serve as our Executive Assistant. In this role, Leo executes and supports the organization's internal operations, including internal and external communications (e.g., email, website, print materials, social media, and online communication). And we began using a PO Box to centralize our mail.

This document is organized into the following sections: Executive Summary covering outcomes in Direct Support, Education, and Advocacy; ALIRP Board of Directors, which lists the board members from 2024; and ALIRP Financials, which provides a summary of the financial report for 2024.

Executive Summary

The Alabama Interfaith Refugee Partnership (ALIRP) is a 501c3 non-profit organization based in Birmingham, Alabama. ALIRP is a diverse coalition of community members, interfaith religious leaders and laypersons, as well as representatives of other community groups, who have come together for the purpose of supporting refugees and asylum seekers through direct assistance, education, and advocacy.

Direct Assistance & Program Impact (2024)

The 2024 calendar year marked significant progress toward ALIRP's goals for direct assistance. Through our programs and policies, we supported families navigating the asylum process while building stability and self-sufficiency. ALIRP began the year serving 37 partner families (146 individuals) and closed the year supporting 48 partner families (193 individuals). During this time, five partner families transitioned to alumni status, reflecting increased independence and reduced need for intensive case management.

Our partners achieved several important milestones toward asylum, refugee status, and economic stability in 2024, including:

- 10 youth partners granted Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (with 3 additional cases pending)
- 43 adult partners receiving work permits
- 1 partner granted asylum
- 6 partners securing regular employment
- 2 partners obtaining driver's licenses

Access to employment and mobility allows our partners to support their families and engage more fully in their communities, fostering both stability and a sense of belonging. Much of ALIRP's work focuses on bridging the critical gap between arrival and long-term self-sufficiency while partners pursue humanitarian status.

In 2024, ALIRP allocated \$60,000 toward direct financial support. Expenses were distributed as follows: 50% rent and utilities, 30% legal support, and 20% medical and other essential needs, including school supplies for children.

New Direct Support Program: Furniture Donation Drive

Housing stability remains a significant challenge for many ALIRP partners. With the majority of household income dedicated to rent and utilities, families often lack resources to furnish their homes with basic necessities such as beds, tables, and appliances. To address this need, ALIRP launched a Quarterly Furniture Donation Drive in partnership with Canterbury United Methodist Church.

Every three months, ALIRP Case Manager Matt Buttler coordinated furniture collection and same-day delivery to partner families using a truck provided by Canterbury. Volunteers supported the effort by donating items, spreading the word, and assisting with deliveries. In 2024, ALIRP delivered multiple full-

and queen-size beds with frames and mattresses, dressers, dining tables and chairs, and small appliances. Based on Salvation Army and Goodwill valuation guidelines, the estimated total value of donated items was \$3,524.

Program Highlights

- **A Bed for Everyone:** Avondale United Methodist Church donated 22 twin beds, ensuring that every ALIRP partner had a safe and comfortable place to sleep.
- **Partners Giving Back:** One partner family that received furniture through the donation drive later returned unused items after becoming more self-sufficient—earning income with a work permit and furnishing their home independently—demonstrating the full-circle impact of community support.

Table 1. Top Donations for FY 2024

Item	Total
Beds with Frames	33
Living Room Furniture (Arm Chairs, Sofas, End Tables or Coffee Tables, and Bookcases)	17
Space Heaters & Thermal Blankets	16
Dresser	5
Dining Table and Chairs	5
Washer and Dryer	4
Rugs	4

Education & Advocacy Impact (2024)

Education and advocacy are foundational pillars of ALIRP’s mission, strengthening our ability to support immigrant families while advancing more just and humane policies. In 2024, ALIRP hosted four major education and advocacy events designed to inform, engage, and mobilize our community.

In May, Board Members Jane Vines and Meredith Gartin represented ALIRP at National Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill, sponsored by Refugee Council USA in Washington, D.C. There, they joined advocates from across the country to engage with policymakers, deepen their understanding of federal immigration priorities, and strengthen ALIRP’s advocacy capacity.

Building on this experience, Jane and Meredith hosted a community open house in June to share the advocacy tools, resources, and insights gained in the nation’s capital. This event expanded ALIRP’s local advocacy network and equipped supporters with practical ways to engage in immigrant justice efforts at both the local and national levels.

Throughout the year, ALIRP also maintained a strong presence in the broader community. Below is a list of sponsored programs, invited outreach events, and professional convenings where Case Manager Matt Buttler presented on ALIRP's programs, direct support model, and the lived realities facing our partner families further amplifying ALIRP's mission and impact.

ALIRP Sponsored Education Programs

1. *ALIRP Fall Book Club: When Stars are Scattered*, Hoover Public Library, Hoover, AL, in-person, 23 Oct 2024.
2. Tips for ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages), Birmingham, AL, online/virtual, 1 Jun 2024.
3. *ALIRP Spring Book Club: Inside Out and Back Again*, Domestique Coffee Shop, Homewood, AL, in-person, 6 Apr 2024.
4. *ALIRP Open House and Advocacy Training*, ALIRP Office, Trinity West Outreach Hub, Homewood, AL, in-person, 20 June 2024.

Invited Public Presentations and Community Outreach

1. February 16: ALIRP tabled at the Kindness Summit at Hoover Library
2. March 20: ALIRP hosted the Birmingham Women for Good Quarterly Meeting.
3. April 17: ALIRP attended and presented at the Crosscreek Baptist Church Dinner Night
4. April 24: Case Manager, Matt Buttler along with several Board Members attended the Alabaster Schools - ESL Community Event.
5. October 9: Board President, Meredith Gartin presented to the Cosmos Club at Arlington House.

Research Symposiums and Conference Presentations

Gartin, M., and Buttler, M. (2024, August) Seeking Asylum is Stressful for the Asylees and their Advocates: A case study from the Alabama Interfaith Refugee Partnership. [Panelist, online/virtual]. Refugee's Lived Experiences: A focus on Faith and Resilience Conference, Samford University.

Invited Speaking Events and Presentations in Academic Settings

"From Grassroots to Global: Improving health access for asylum-seekers and refugees in Central Alabama," presented by Meredith Gartin, Board President

Sparkman Center for Global Health, Birmingham, AL, in-person, 22 Jan 2024.

https://youtu.be/3cWlpAgofig?si=Zi_qBumSL_HChjxA

"Global Health Case Competition: Understanding the Impact of Trauma on the Health of Refugees in the United States," invited judge Matt Buttler, Senior Case Manager

Sparkman Center for Global Health, Birmingham, AL, in-person, 2 Mar 2024.

"Practice Perspective: Case Studies & Considerations for Supporting Refugee & Asylum-Seeking Mothers & Children" and presented by Matt Buttler, Senior Case Manager

Maternal & Child Health Student Association, University of Alabama at Birmingham, online/virtual, 26 Mar 2024. <https://youtu.be/XKQqZDjyCFk?si=1gxjsGoW5sExoLT8>

ALIRP Board of Directors

Each board director serves as a chair/co-chair of a committee that helps to meet the mission and vision of the organization. ALIRP has 7 committees. The Executive and Finance Committee is composed of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Executive Director. The other committees include: Communications, Direct Support, Education and Advocacy, Fundraising, Outreach, and Volunteer Committee(s). Each committee chair is provided a modest budget to develop programs and coordinate events that help to leverage the work that they do.

List of Board Members for 2024

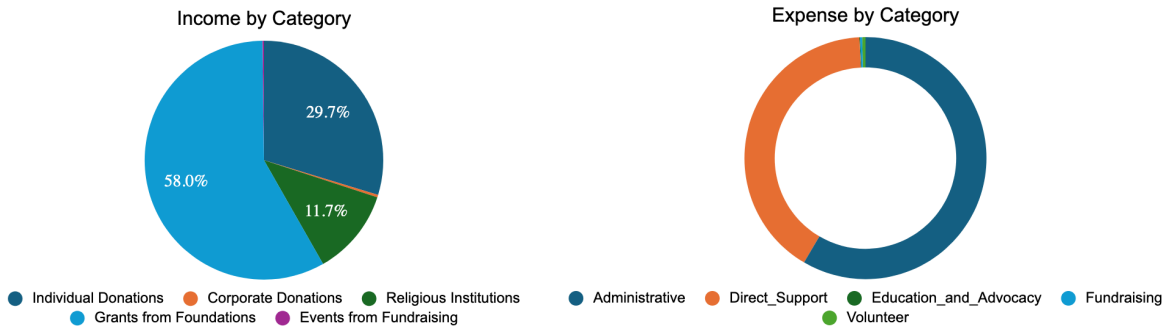
- Meredith Gartin (President, 2022-2024)
- Elishua Markham (Vice-President and Co-Chair of the Fundraising and Grant-writing Committee)
- Allison Cobb (Treasurer)
- Divya Annamalai (Secretary and Chair of Communications Committee)
- Adam Oliver (Co-Chair of the Fundraising and Grant-writing Committee)
- Cindy Dawson (Chair of the Volunteer Committee)
- Jonathan Diaz (Co-Chair of the Direct Support Committee)
- Jane Vines (Co-Chair of the Education/Advocacy Committee)
- Bola Fenny (Co-Chair of the Education/Advocacy Committee)
- Edna Vásquez (Co-Chair of the Direct Support Committee)

The Board Outreach Chair position remained open in 2024, prompting a strategic reassessment of how ALIRP can most effectively expand its reach and partnerships. At year's end, the Board of Directors voted to recruit new at-large members and intentionally invite leaders from organizations deeply engaged in immigration services and advocacy. Incoming Board members will represent HICA, ACIJ, and Inspiritus, supporting increased collaboration and coordination across the immigrant and refugee services sector.

ALIRP Financials

Account Balance	
Beginning Balance	138,925
2024 Net Income YTD	(41,998)
Current Balance	97,940

The Charts below show the proportion of income and expenses by category. With the increase in salaried employees, our administrative expenses went up.



Grants from Foundations

Attached is a chart of all the grants we submitted in 2024. We applied for 10 grants. Three were awarded. Two are still pending. Four were denied. The total amount requested (except for RWJF) was \$85,000 and \$21,100 was received. We are currently also receiving funding from Direct Relief Fund, which awarded us \$60K for two years and the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham which awarded us \$26,000 for three years.

Funder	Total Requested	Grant Term	Total Awarded
Canterbury	\$5,000		\$1,200
St. Luke's	\$5,000		\$3,000
Caring Foundation (Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama)	\$10,000		Denied
Daniel Foundation	\$7,500		Denied
First Horizon – Grants for Good	\$10,000		Denied
Hugh Kaul Foundation	\$7,500		Denied
Robert Wood Johnson	\$262,850	2 years	Denied
Robert Meyer Foundation	\$15,000		\$7,000
Susan Mott Webb Charitable Trust	\$10,000		\$5,000
Independent Presbyterian Church Foundation	\$15,000		\$9,100

Organizational Sponsors

Organizational sponsors pledge \$500 annually to support ALIRP mission and programs. In total, we raised \$25,500 from organizational sponsors this year. The list of sponsors are included below:

Baptist Church of the Covenant
Canterbury United Methodist Church
Crosscreek Baptist Church
First United Methodist Church
FUMC Adult Sunday School Class
Independent Presbyterian Church
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Friends of ALIRP

Individual donations of \$50 earns the status of being a "Friend of ALIRP". This year, we received around \$26,600 in individual donations. Below is a list of all the donors who helped support ALIRP by becoming a Friend of ALIRP:

Robert & Kathleen Angus	Christy Nix
Robert Baker	Jacob Norris
Barbara Burke	Tammi Sharpe
Patricia Clements	Mary Slate
Tom Cobb	Diane & Howard Slaughter
Liston Cook	Jim & Patti Steelman
Susan Davenport	Brian & Elizabeth Sullivan
Lisa & Alan Engel	Rowena Teague
Marion Fintel	Louise Thibodaux
Linda Flaherty-Goldsmith	John Timmons
Bradley Fournier	Ani Villa
Barbara & Edwin Gartin	Jane Vines
Andrea & Kent Haines	Barbara White
Connie Hill	Stephen Williams
Krell James	Marilyn Williams
Briend Kilone	Janice Williams
Emily Levine	Lynda Wilson
Betsy Mishoe	Ellen Wit
Ann Elizabeth Montgomery	

