



In Her Presence

ANNUAL REPORT

2022



English Language as the "BRIDGE"

Many immigrant women who immigrate to the United States of America struggle to speak English due to language barriers. This language barrier creates problems when searching for a job or a career in their new home. In Maine, immigrant women have difficulties learning English because they have other responsibilities such as caring for their children and working multiple jobs that make it difficult to find the time and resources to learn. Being able to speak and understand English can greatly improve an immigrant woman's job prospects, and their access to important services such as healthcare, legal assistance, and government benefits.



1. Iraq
2. Armenia
3. Ukraine
4. Djibouti
5. South Sudan
6. Rwanda
7. Burundi
8. South Africa
9. Namibia
10. Angola
11. Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
12. Congo (Congo-Brazzaville)
13. Gabon
14. Cameroon
15. Togo
16. Burkina Faso
17. Guatemala
18. El Salvador
19. Mexico

Our Mission

Organized and Led by immigrant women living in Maine, we strive to bring together immigrant women from across communities and generations to ensure that Maine's economic agenda includes the aspirations and needs of immigrant women. We create spaces that support women's empowerment and personal ambitions without losing our unique identity and connect immigrant women and girls for collective empowerment in their communities to address common challenges and issues.

At In Her Presence, we work with immigrant women through our English language classes to teach participants the skills needed to navigate daily life and prepare for employment. Participants are clustered in beginner, intermediate, advanced classes, and leadership and career support classes.

In 2022, In Her Presence serves women from 19 countries. 89% of the women come from Africa and the remaining are from South America and the Middle east.



Executive Director Message



Dear supporters,

I am honored to present our annual report for the past year and reflect on the progress we have made in advancing our mission of supporting immigrants in Maine.

As an organization, we recognize that immigrants are a vital part of our communities, and it is our duty to ensure that they are welcomed, supported, and empowered to reach their full potential. Over the past year, we have worked tirelessly to deliver a range of programs and services to meet the evolving needs of our community. Our team has shown exceptional resilience, compassion, and determination, and I am proud of the work we have accomplished together.

None of this would have been possible without the generous support of our donors, volunteers, and community partners. Your contributions have enabled us to continue our important work and to make a meaningful impact in the lives of the immigrants we serve.

As we move forward, we remain committed to our mission of supporting immigrants and building stronger, more inclusive communities. We will continue to innovate, collaborate, and advocate for the rights of immigrants, and we look forward to continuing to work with you towards a brighter future for all.

Thank you for your support and partnership.

2022 Highlights

Bridge to Career Fulfillment Program

Career fulfillment for immigrants can be challenging, as they may face barriers such as language barriers, discrimination, and lack of access to networks and resources. Below are strategies that In Her Presence provided to immigrants to increase their chances of career fulfillment.

LEARN ENGLISH

English proficiency is often a key requirement for many jobs in the United States. Taking English classes or seeking out language exchange programs can help immigrants improve their language skills. Through IHP English classes, our women have improved their oral and writing skills each year. IHP served 120+ women each week and 71% of English language learners showed growth on pre-post speaking tests, allowing them to participate more equitably in American culture.

NETWORK

Building professional relationships with people in their field of interest can help immigrants gain access to job opportunities and mentorship. In Her Presence has partnered with Allagash to provide internships for our women and their children. Allagash has also conducted mock interviews with a number of our women to prepare themselves for future interviews

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Acquiring new skills and certifications can increase immigrants' chances of finding a job that matches their qualifications and interests. In Her Presence has partnered with Southern Maine Community College to run English classes at their campus and it has provided our participants to see themselves reaching another level in their education

SEEK OUT SUPPORT AND MENTORSHIP

Immigrants can benefit from the support of mentors and organizations that can provide guidance and advice on navigating the job market. In Her Presence's Career Counselor has supported and mentored a number of our women to apply for jobs in the field they want and prepare for interviews. The career counselor had 799 counseling contacts and 38 participants were placed in professional and frontline roles with Maine businesses in 2022.



BE OPEN TO DIFFERENT OPPORTUNITIES

Being open to different types of jobs and industries can increase an immigrant's chances of finding a fulfilling career. In Her Presence has created a story class and a leadership class where immigrant women can learn from the leadership of the two co-founders and also learn from each other's stories. 35 participants were part of the storytelling class in 2022.

BEING PERSISTENT

Immigrants may face many rejections and obstacles, but it's important to be persistent and not lose hope.

2022 Highlights

Cross Cultural Conversation

Cross-cultural communication between immigrants and the US workplace can present challenges, as both parties may have different communication styles, expectations, and cultural norms. The application process and job trainings can be intimidating for our women and often managers are reluctant to ask how they can help because they fear that they may not be competent while working with immigrants.

In Her Presence has created cross cultural conversation for immigrants and businesses to understand the cultural background of the person they are communicating with to help them anticipate potential misunderstandings or miscommunications. These conversations have helped managers and supervisors to know that immigrants may communicate slower than usual, as immigrants may not be as fluent in English, so patience and active listening is key.

Immigrants have also learned to be open to new ideas and perspectives and try to see things from the other person's point of view; and seek feedback and clarification when they are not sure about something.

In 2022, In Her Presence conducted cross cultural conversations with Maine Medical center, Allagash, Hannaford, Gorham Savings Bank, and Unum.



2022 Highlights

Cookbook

Immigrant women cooking cultural recipes is a wonderful way to preserve and celebrate their cultural heritage. Cooking traditional recipes from their home countries is also a way for our women to share their culture with others and build connections within their new communities.

Many immigrant women have brought with them a wealth of culinary knowledge and these recipes often use unique ingredients and cooking techniques that are unfamiliar to those outside their culture. In 2022, In Her Presence distributed more than 500 cookbooks to donors, private, and public partners.



2022 Highlights

In Her Community Events

In Her Presence organized two In Her Community events to fundraise for our programs. In Her Community event is an online or in-person fundraising event organized by our generous hosts donors. The hosts invite their friends and family for a small gathering at their house and In Her Presence and the host coordinate the event together. In 2022, our amazing donors Gillian Schair and Miriam Markowitz were the hosts for the In Her Community Event where we raised \$28,299.75.

In partnership with Allagash, one of our donors, Gena Canning, organized a networking event where IHP and Allagash had the opportunity to present about their collaboration and partnership we created.



Partnerships

IIHP has expanded the number of businesses, organizations, and educational institutions to 28 to encourage public/private partnerships and collaborations to help reduce racial bias.



Testimonials



"In Her Presence supported me morally and practically. It taught me the systems and the style of living in the US. It helped me learn and improve my English Language. Through 5 years of experience with IHP, I see and believe it is the best place to start your new life as an immigrant, to be successful and reach your goals and dreams." ~ Justine Mugabo



"Doing well what I am supposed to do can also inspire my peers. It's important to be you, but it's always you who is important." ~ Lilian Kanku



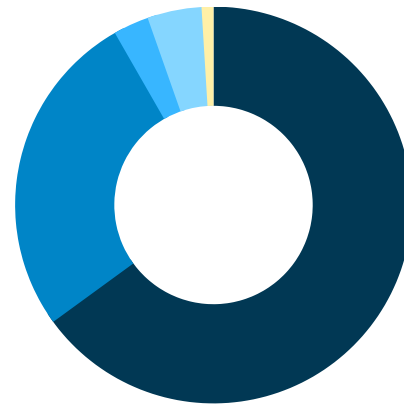
"I am from Rwanda. I have been in this country for a while, but after the leadership class, I discovered I have a couple of leadership styles. After looking deep inside me, I discovered I am a servant leader. The reason why I discovered I am a servant leader is because:

- I have the capacity to boost others by encouraging them to improve themselves without looking at my biases, such as where they come from, which language they speak, or without looking at the color of their skin.
- Power of persuasion means to influence other people or a group of people to change their beliefs or behaviors, so they can achieve their goals." ~ Jeannette Hitimana

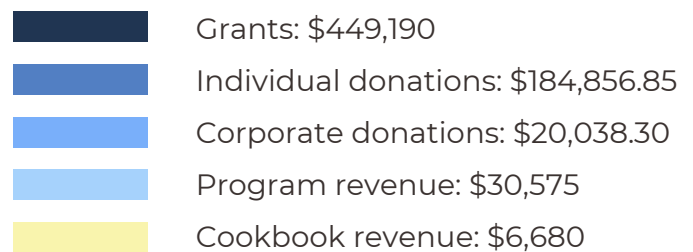
Finances

In 2022, In Her Presence raised \$691,340.15 through grants, individual donations, corporate donations, program revenue, and cookbook revenue. Grants are amounts IHP receives from foundations and family foundations. Individual donations are financial contributions made by individual people, rather than organizations or corporations. For IHP, these contributions play an important role in supporting the work of our programs as they provide a steady source of funding that allows IHP to continue their mission and activities. Corporate donations are donations from small, medium, and big for profit companies. Program revenues are amounts IHP receives after providing cross cultural services to other businesses while cookbook revenue are sale amounts paid by individuals and businesses for purchasing IHP cookbooks. Click [here](#) to get a copy of the cookbook.

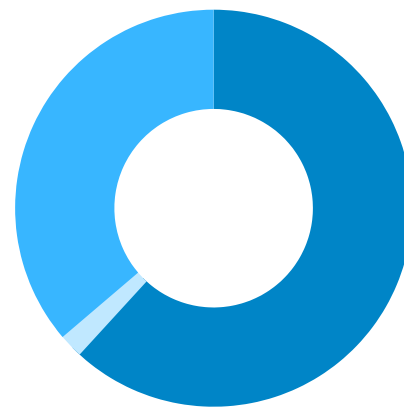
The breakdown of the various donations is as follow:



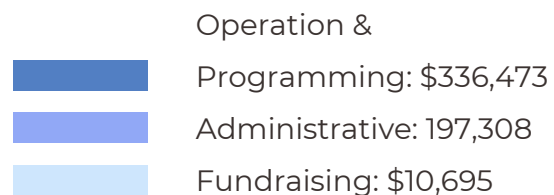
Revenue



Total: \$691,340.15



Expenses



Looking towards the future

2022 was a great year for In Her Presence and we want to grow more in 2023. The needs of our immigrant women keep growing as we continue to learn together how to help our women in various ways. Our partnerships with various corporations opened a door for In Her Presence and our participants to expand their knowledge and capabilities.

What's ahead for IHP? We are planning to:

- Expand and train our board
- Engage more businesses for partnerships
- Conduct multiple cross-cultural conversations between businesses and immigrants for a better workplace environment
- Fundraise for a Van and an office
- Expand our staff members (Development & Marketing officer and Project officer)



179 Mechanic Street
Westbrook, ME
04092



<https://inherpresence.org>



contact@inherpresence.org



(207) 280-7780