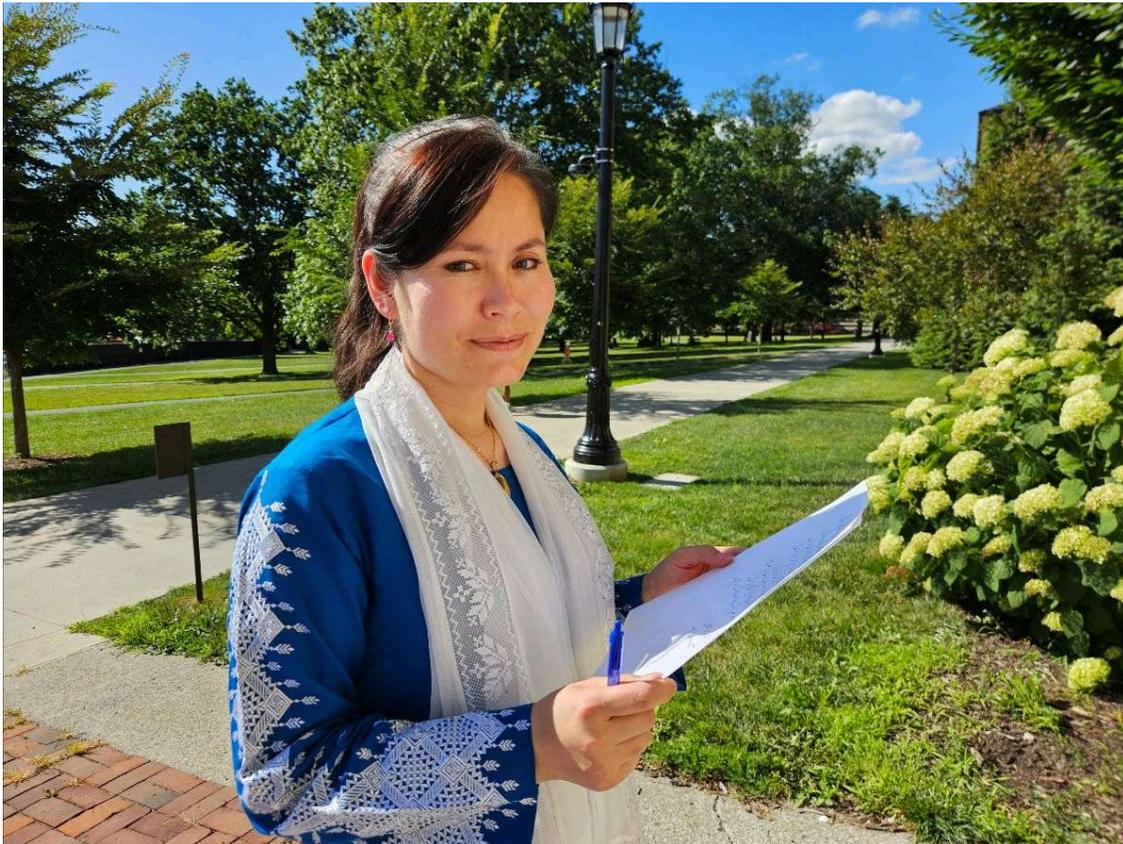




A poetry of care: How Khadija is healing and creating



For Khadija, poetry is a means of transforming pain into beauty. Her creation, through poetry and otherwise, is a form of self-expression that leads to healing. Khadija is one of nine women who fled Afghanistan when the Taliban took over and arrived in Ithaca to continue their studies at Cornell. Our latest [blog post](#) tells of Khadija's poetry and her experience of resettling in Ithaca, the support from IWR that has helped her on this journey, and her ambitions for the future.

Crisis support update

In the second half of this year, we have been distributing higher levels of aid from our Crisis Fund to support a greater number of IWR individuals and families who regrettably find themselves facing exceptionally hard circumstances. From June through August we started supporting six families with basic needs expenses such as rent, utilities and food. In four cases, working family members had had work permits revoked due to federal changes to immigration policy, resulting in the sudden loss of their income; the other two families were also going through highly challenging life situations. From June to August we disbursed a total of \$33,906 in crisis support. We continue to distribute crisis funds to support families as they wait to receive their asylum-based work permits or their crisis has passed. While we do not share details about the cases to protect people's privacy, we are able to share anonymously the following two messages sent to us recently by recipients of these crisis funds:

"We continue to move forward with gratitude and hope, trusting that stability is just around the corner. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for walking alongside us."

"Dear dear friends, I would like to say THANK you for all of your help and support this tough times. Thanks from me, kids, my parents and husband. You gave us a hope that we would survive despite being in tight situation. I just want to tell you that your support saved me and my family in summer. We survived and felt ourselves good. I appreciate you are in my life."

Back to School



At the start of this month, children in Tompkins County returned to school after the summer break. To help IWR families prepare for the school year, a number of community groups and individuals donated supplies and backpacks. Their support was topped up by funds from a grant courtesy of the Legacy Foundation of Tompkins County. Thank you to all who contributed to this positive seasonal effort!

Current needs

It has been a busy couple of months and we are truly grateful to everyone who has given items in response to multiple recent needs lists!

We are pleased to share that a family we are supporting has just welcomed a new baby. We previously posted a gift list - thank you to all those who gave essential baby items. We still have a few items on the list that would be of great help to the family at this time. Please take a look if you are able to contribute: [Baby Registry](#).

For a recently arrived family and another family arriving soon, we are seeking several **twin box springs or frames with slats, twin mattresses** and **twin**

blankets or comforters.

We are continuing to collect donations of **gift cards from grocery stores** in the area that we can pass on to families we are working with who are struggling with food insecurity. Please note the amount on the face of the gift card and mail it to Ithaca Welcomes Refugees, 315 N. Cayuga St., Ithaca, NY14850.

There are three children aged 4-9 among the families we have just started supporting. If you have **gently used baby and children's items**, please donate them to the Mama Goose & Jillian's Drawers store on Clinton Street and add any store credit to IWR's account. Our account has run down and we would love your help boosting it up so we can give vouchers to these families! Check the [Mama Goose schedule](#) for drop-off dates.

For questions about donations, please contact our Welcome Home team at welcome.home@ithacawelcomesrefugees.org.

For up to date needs information, check the [Current Needs for Families](#) page on our website, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [Bluesky](#).

Last chance to enter IWR photo competition!

IWR's 10th anniversary photo competition on the theme of Ithaca's inclusive spirit ends next Monday, **September 22!** Don't forget to submit your picture for a chance to feature in a 2026 IWR calendar celebrating and promoting local inclusivity. The top four entries will receive prizes donated by [Discover Cayuga Lake](#), [Hazelnut Kitchen](#), [Sunbeam Candles](#) and [Odyssey Bookstore](#)! Details of rules and prizes are [here](#). Send entries to leilaw@ithacawelcomesrefugees.org.

Requesting gently used jewelry for fall fundraiser



This fall, we are delighted to see the return of the much-loved jewelry sale fundraiser in aid of IWR, organized by volunteers Debbie Benzer, Yvonne Fogarty and their wonderful team. The sale will take place on November 22 in the First Baptist Church of Ithaca. The organizers are now requesting donations of gently used jewelry for the sale. To donate, please contact Debbie at 607 279-7174 (Dpbenzer@twcny.rr.com) or Yvonne 607-592-2799. More details [here](#).

**HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH
LATINO CIVIC ASSOCIATION**

FOR TICKETS AND INFO GO TO LCATOMPKINS.ORG

SEPT 19	SPANISH STORY TIME 5PM-6PM • 330 E STATE ST, ITHACA COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC & ART
SEPT 27	DRAG PERFORMANCE ALL AGES 11 AM - 12PM & 1PM - 2PM KITCHEN THEATRE @ 417 W STATE ST
OCT 3 NOV 7 NOV 21	HISPANIC & LATINE GROUP EXHIBIT @ COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC & ART 330 E STATE ST, 5-8PM MEET THE ARTISTS / PURCHASE ART
OCT 4	DRAG & BURLESQUE PERFORMANCE 18+ 7PM [DOORS OPEN] 7:30PM - 9:30PM 417 W STATE ST
OCT 5	ANNUAL HERITAGE FIESTA FOOD, LIVE MUSIC, ARTISANS, ORGANIZATIONS PRESS BAY LOT ~ 11AM-6PM 118 W GREEN ST
OCT 18 OCT 19	LEONOR PUPPET SHOW 10:30AM LIL YPAD PUPPET SHOW 12:30PM @ KITCHEN THEATRE ~ 118 W GREEN ST <hr/> LEONOR PUPPET SHOW 10:30AM @ KITCHEN THEATRE ~ 118 W GREEN ST

ONGOING CINE CON CULTURA MOVIES THROUGHOUT THE MONTH!!

Gratitude



Our featured supporter this month is the Legacy Foundation of Tompkins County, which has contributed to our Welcome Home project over the past year. A grant from the Foundation helped us to provide a complete welcome to newly arrived refugees and immigrants as we move them into their new home, including by purchasing essential household items supplementary to donations. Thank you for making this possible!



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Call us: 607-288-3815

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