

Front Cover

AFGHAN COALITION ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2017-2018

“...Empowering refugee families
and championing their cause...”



Message From the Board of Directors

Dear Friends,

On behalf of all of us at the Afghan Coalition, we thank you for your support and partnership. As we take this time to reflect on that past year, we would like to share the progress and successes we have experienced. We are thankful to our funders, partners, and supporters for enabling our services to the community. We cannot succeed alone; we need and appreciate all of you. We do so much more together.

In this Annual Report we want to honor some special people that help make our work successful. We celebrate our board member Aisha Wahab who was elected to the Hayward City Council this last year (page 2). We have also added some new staff members (page 7), including Dr. Masoud Ghafoer (page 9). We continuously develop programs that will empower and promote peace. Our staff remain committed to the service for the community, and its mission now more than ever.

On behalf of the board,

Waheed Momand
President,
Board of Directors

Afghan Coalition Board of Directors



Waheed Momand, Ph.D.
Board President



Rona Popal
Executive Director



Morwarid Hatef
Treasurer



Aisha Wahab, MBA
Board Member



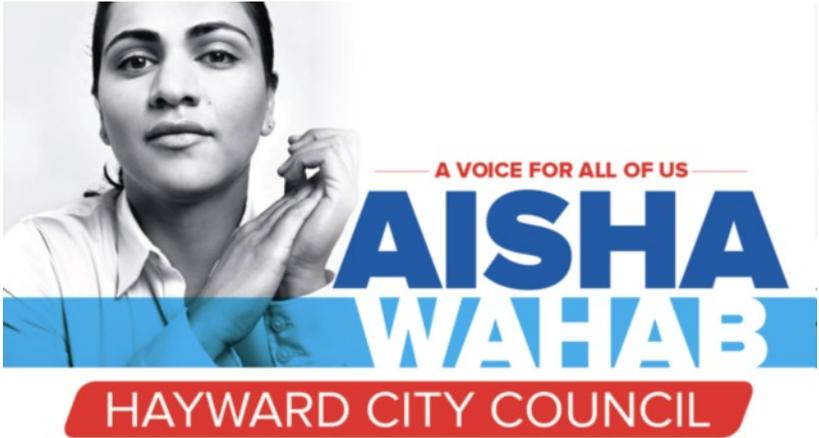
Rev. Bruce Green
Secretary



Nazema Momand
Board Member



Haji Razmi
Board Member



Article with photos



Table of Contents

Message from Board	1	Our Funding	8
Honoring Aisha Wahab	2	Dr. Masoud Ghofeer	9
Who are Afghans?	3	Health Consortium	10
Our Mission	4	Promoting Safety	11
Our Programs	5	Success Stories	12
Our Services	6	Advocacy	13
Our Staff	7	Our Volunteers	14

Who are Afghans?



- ◆ The Office of Refugee Resettlement estimates that 60,000 Afghans currently live in the SF Bay Area
- ◆ Afghans are continuing to arrive on the SIV Visa as they assisted the US Military in Afghanistan
- ◆ 87% were in life-threatening situations while in Afghanistan or when they escaped
- ◆ 78% have had close family members or close friends killed during one of the wars or coups in Afghanistan—of these, 39% have lost five or more close family members or friends
- ◆ 54% have witnessed someone being killed or seriously injured
- ◆ 45% currently suffer from PTSD but only 7% have ever been diagnosed by a doctor or mental health professional
- ◆ Only 24.1% are able to speak English fluently
- ◆ Many are unemployed due to lack of English proficiency
- ◆ 87% of women in Afghanistan have been victims of domestic violence

Taken from survey of 257 Afghan community members compiled by Dr. Carl Stempel of the California State University East Bay



Our Mission

The Afghan Coalition is a non-profit community based organization seeking to empower refugee families, women, and youth to be self-sufficient and to showcase the unity and diversity of the Afghan Community in order to champion their cause.



The mission is accomplished through the provision of community services, supporting member organizations' community based programs and fostering understanding, reconciliation, reconstruction and mutual relations between the people of Afghanistan and the people of the United States.

As the only hub for the Afghan community in the Bay Area, our organization provides a vital link to necessary resources. We educate our clients how to live a healthier lifestyle, while promoting self-sufficiency. Additionally, we foster growth by advocating for justice and civic engagement.



Afghan Coalition's Culturally Competent Programs

Serving the community in the areas that matter



Domestic Violence Prevention:

- Anti Violence Campaign
- Victims Support group
- Connection to Legal Services
- 83 Crisis Intervention Services in FY16/17*

Group Services:

- Women's Support Group 40 Participants a Month*
- Men's Support Groups
- 160* Cultural Celebrations and Programs

Micro Enterprise:

- Serving 89 Individuals
- ESL
- Support Group
- Community Kitchen
- Financial Literacy
- Savings Program

Connection to Resources:

- Social Services
- Legal Services
- Over 1,000 Services in
- Fy16/17*

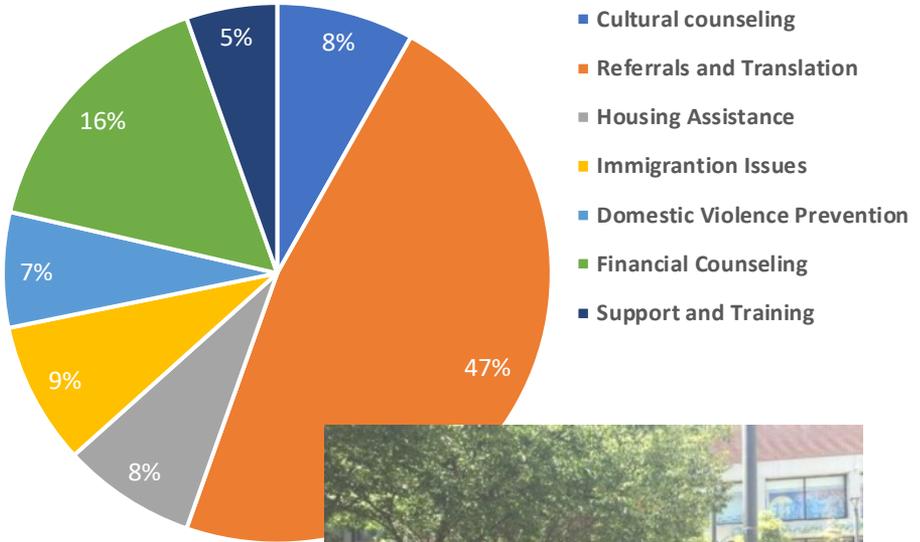
Mental Health:

- Prevention and Early Intervention
- 100 individuals served per month*



Our Impact –The Year in Numbers

In fiscal year 2017-2018 we logged 1,494 individual services rendered by our staff members in the following areas:



Our Staff

Our dedicated management and staff serve our diverse community with compassion and efficiency while maintaining a personal touch. We believe that we have hired talented people who are deeply committed to our mission.

Seema Farhad

Office Manager
Micro enterprise and Domestic
Violence Prevention Programs



Rona Popal
Executive Director



Tonya Bellati

Project Manager, Afghan Wellness Program
Administrative Assistant to ED



Abdullah Mojaddidi
Youth Community Worker
Afghan Wellness Program

Wasima Khaliqi

Community Outreach Worker
Afghan Wellness Program



Dr. Masoud Ghafoer, PsyD., AMFT

Prevention Counselor
Afghan Wellness Program

Manizha Paiman

Program Specialist
TEAM Program



Sima Alizadeh

Immigration Attorney
PARS Equality Center



We are so thankful for each and every one of our hard-working staff!

Introducing Dr. Ghafoer

Dr. Masoud Ghafoer, PsyD, Marriage and Family Therapy Associate (*supervised by Isabel K'Burg, LMFT*), is an Afghan-American psychotherapist who graduated in 2018 and has obtained his doctorate degree in counseling psychology in the field of Marriage and Family therapy in the state of California. Throughout his career, Dr. Ghafoer has worked with a diverse client population in a variety of different settings, such as substance abused treatment, individual psychotherapy, couples and family therapy.

In his doctoral dissertation, Dr. Ghafoer has researched and investigated factors that seemed to be impacting Afghan parents' parenting practices, especially the impact of past trauma experiences on their current parenting styles was investigated.

Because of his multilingual ability (Farsi/Dari, Pashto, Dutch, English) Dr. Ghafoer has been able to extend his expertise and professional experience to those who are greatly in need of mental health treatment, socially isolated and underserved groups in the community.

Since September 2018, Dr. Ghafoer has been providing mental health services as a prevention counselor to the Afghan community in the Fremont area through Afghan Coalition. In addition, Dr. Ghafoer also works as the program coordinator at Afghan Coalition to ensure quality and effective communication between different services providers in the agency.



Leading an Afghan MenSupport's Group

Many Afghan immigrants living in the U.S. have experienced trauma and violence in their home country, along with other traumatizing encounters such as immigration, resettling, loss of identity as immigrants, etc.

While working with the Afghan community, Dr. Ghafoer’s mission is to make mental health services available and accessible to all Afghans and those who are in need of mental health prevention counseling services by addressing and discussing common mental health issues among Afghans and how/when to seek professional assistance.

Dr. Ghafoer’s vision is to help create a strong, stable, and healthy Afghan community in which people’s mental health needs are attended to in a very effective, non-shaming and healthy manner.



Health Consortium Meetings

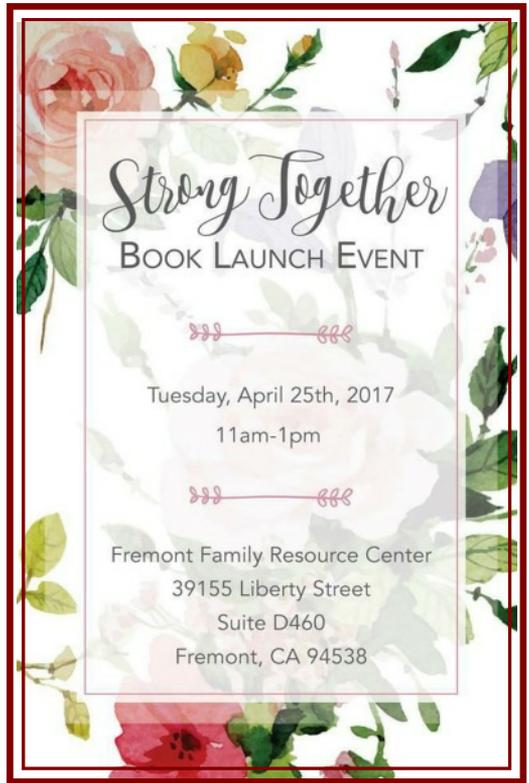


The Afghan Coalition brings together health professionals for training and networking so they can be aware of best practices in providing health services to the Afghan Community. Special thanks to Dr. Valerie Smith who coordinates these important consortiums.

Promoting Safety in the Community

The Afghan Coalition promotes the prosperity of the Afghan people, and condemns violence in all forms. We are delighted to provide a space where our community members can feel safe.

We are proud to provide the Stronger Together Curriculum, a resource for assisting victims of domestic violence, and promoting advocacy for peace in every home.



I am a woman

I pretend that I am lovable and powerful, but I feel inferior inside.

I worry about every single thing in my home and outside.

I dream about being a super woman who can bring equality and peace in my family and the whole world.

Yes!

I am a woman who can bring change herself and the world around herself.

-Strong Together participant

Our Impact – Success Stories

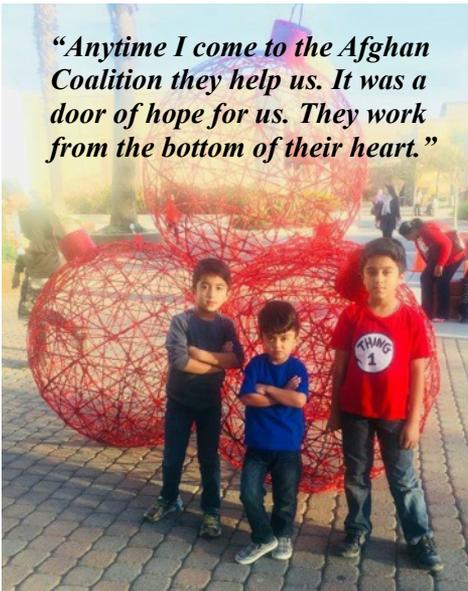
This year we assisted one family that came here on an SIV visa. This visa is reserved for those who have worked with the U.S. military in Afghanistan. This family of five came here with their three children and very few resources.

When they came to our office we provided translation and assistance to connect them with vital services. We helped the family apply for benefits such as social services including food stamps and WIC. We also taught the parents how to navigate simple areas of life such as, how to write a check, how to sign up for PG&E and internet, and how to create a bank account. We also helped them with applications in order to help with resettlement.



We helped them apply for jobs and register their children for school. Through many months we continued to assist them navigate the complex social services and fill out paperwork. We also connected them to other resources, like the Rahima Foundation to help them during this difficult time of transition. Even when our client lost his green card we were able to help by contacting immigration and applying for a duplicate.

“Anytime I come to the Afghan Coalition they help us. It was a door of hope for us. They work from the bottom of their heart.”



This family was extremely thankful for our help and support. By providing culturally appropriate information, translation and referrals they were able to make a smoother adjustment to life in the U.S. Now the children are in school and the parents are learning English and improving their situation day by day.

Advocacy

To champion the cause of the Farsi- Speaking community in the Bay Area, the Afghan Coalition provides opportunities for individuals to make their voices heard.

The Afghan Coalition partnered with Asian Law Caucus to help the community engage in the Redistricting of the City of Fremont. Participants spoke at City Council Meetings, and submitted their written preferences. We were proud to see our community members engage in this active dialogue.



We continue to advocate for the stability of the Afghan Community and promote the cause of its people.



Our Volunteers

Our work would not be possible without the dedication of our volunteers. We would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every person who has given their time to serve the community.

Thank you!



Meena Naim
Receptionist



Hadia Askarzada
Application Assistant

Karima Ashufta
Event Coordinator



If you or someone you know would like to volunteer please contact the Afghan Coalition.

Afghan Coalition

Address

Phone



We Need Your Help!

We are only able to provide vital assistance programs through the support of community members like you. Please consider partnering with us to serve the Afghan Community.



ESL Class with volunteer teacher (name?)

Photo credit: _____

