

# KAREN ORGANIZATION OF MINNESOTA 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear friends of KOM,

We are glad to share this annual report with you after an exciting year of growth and change. We began 2015 with a move to our new office in Roseville and entered 2016 with a transition to a shared leadership model with our Co-Executive Directors, Eh Tah Khu and Alexis Walstad. During this time of transition, our staff worked harder than ever to ensure that community members continued to receive the same quality of service that they have come to expect from KOM. We are inspired by the teamwork and commitment that they bring to their jobs every day. We also extend our gratitude to the many partners, funders, board members, and volunteers who have come alongside us. With your support, we helped over 1,500 refugees find jobs, succeed in school, improve their health, and access numerous community resources.

In 2016, we continue to expand our programs to support refugees through multiple stages of life, from young adults starting a new career to elders striving to live independently. Your consistent support allows us to respond to the community's needs today while preparing refugees for a successful future. Thank you for your generosity, kindness, and partnership.

Sincerely,

*Dr. Jim Letts, Board Chair*

*Eh Tah Khu, Co-Executive Director*

*Alexis Walstad, Co-Executive Director*



## 2015 Highlights



### EMPLOYMENT

**293** refugees started working in new jobs

**24** participants acquired skills for employment in Job Club

**22** clients completed volunteer projects to gain work experience



### SOCIAL SERVICES

**147** families received support to find or maintain housing

**411** clients earned their Green Card or Citizenship

**3,313** walk-in appointments were held to meet needs outside of existing programs



### HEALTH

**449** people obtained health insurance through MNsure

**228** adults and youth attended health workshops on topics including breast cancer, family planning, alcohol and tobacco use, and mental health



### YOUTH

**157** students improved their academic performance

**92** youth gained leadership skills

**40** youth created and performed original plays to share their refugee experiences

## Board of Directors

Dr. Jim Letts, Chair  
George Thawmoo, Vice Chair  
B. Steven Messick, Secretary  
Soe Doh, Treasurer

Jennifer Dunbar  
Hsajune Dyan  
Rev. William Englund^  
Tha Kyi  
Thomas Nguyen

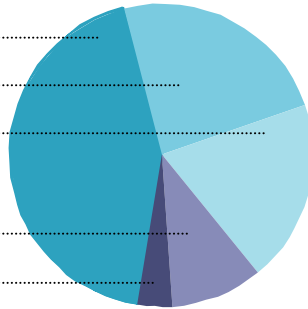
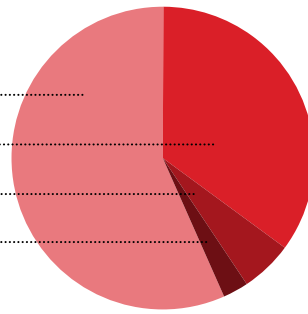
Aye Mya Phyu^  
Hmone Putz  
Maureen Rafferty\*  
Myat Thanda Tun  
Maiyia Yang

## Advisors

John James, Esq.  
Susan T. Schuster

\*Joined the board in 2016  
^Term ended in 2015

2015 Income	
Government Grants & Contracts	\$751,466
Foundations	\$464,080
Fee-for-Service	\$73,712
Contributions, Special Events, & Other	\$35,946
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$1,325,204</b>
2015 Expense	
Health & Social Services	\$536,482
Employment Services	\$293,235
Youth Services	\$242,003
<b>TOTAL PROGRAMS</b>	<b>\$1,071,720</b>
Management & General	\$122,103
Fundraising	\$45,372
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,239,195</b>



## Help Refugees Succeed!

Looking for ways you can help new refugees from Burma resettle in their new home? Please consider volunteering and making a donation. For more information, visit our website at [www.mnkaren.org](http://www.mnkaren.org) or contact Rebekah Jacobson by phone at (651)202-3112 or by email at [rjacobson@mnkaren.org](mailto:rjacobson@mnkaren.org).

**Ta blut doe mah!**  
(Thank you so much!)

For our complete financial audit, call 651-788-7593 or visit: [www.mnkaren.org/about.htm](http://www.mnkaren.org/about.htm)

## Funders & Sponsors

### Government Grants & Contracts

Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging  
Minnesota Department of Health—Office of Minority and Multicultural Health  
Minnesota Dept. of Human Services — Adult Mental Health Dept.  
Minnesota Dept. of Human Services —Resettlement Programs Office  
Minnesota State Arts Board  
MNSure Outreach & Assister Grants  
Ramsey County—Community Supported Programs  
Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board  
U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services—Office of Refugee Resettlement

### Foundations

Blue Cross Blue Shield Center for Prevention  
Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of Minnesota  
F. R. Bigelow Foundation  
George & Margaret Bailey Foundation  
Greater Twin Cities United Way  
Lillian Wright & C. Emil Berglund Foundation  
Marbrook Foundation  
Mardag Foundation  
Marshall Community Foundation  
Otto Bremer Foundation  
Roseville Community Fund  
The Saint Paul Foundation  
Securian Foundation  
Susan G. Komen Foundation  
Wells Fargo Foundation Minnesota

### Organizational Donors

Bailey Nurseries  
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church  
Roseville Lutheran Church

### 2015 Annual Gala Sponsors

#### **Gold Sponsors:**

HealthEast  
Lexdan Automotive

#### **Silver Sponsors:**

Bailey Nurseries, Inc.  
Bix Produce Company  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota  
Medica  
Wellness Adult Day Services, Ultimate Health,  
& Elite Home Care

#### **Bronze Sponsors:**

Amherst H. Wilder Foundation  
Arrive Ministries  
Bethesda Family Medicine  
Center for Victims of Torture  
Century College  
First Karen Baptist Church  
Goodwill-Easter Seals  
International Institute of Minnesota  
Leadership St. Paul  
Phalen Family Pharmacy  
Steven and Richele Messick  
Trinity Karen Baptist Church



**KAREN ORGANIZATION OF MINNESOTA**  
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