



## Place-Based Project to Support Refugees & Immigrants

In a two-mile radius of El Cajon, Middle Eastern refugees and Latin American immigrants have resettled in what was historically a white, middle-class neighborhood. The result: 61,000 residents living side by side, often without the trust and connections that enable communities to thrive.

Giving often scatters resources to nonprofits working in isolation. This project takes a different approach: coordinated investment in a single geography where eight nonprofit partners collaborate to serve over 3,000 clients monthly.

### How it works

Based at the Good Shepherd Ministry Center, our partners share resources and refer clients across organizations—directly increasing residents' access to services while building the relationships necessary for genuine community flourishing.

The Kinship Fund serves as a coordinating partner, raising funds, tracking outcomes, and providing technical assistance, allowing nonprofits to focus on their mission rather than on infrastructure.

Results demonstrate the power of coordination: partners who previously worked independently now actively collaborate, and residents who once navigated fragmented services now find pathways between programs designed to work together.

### Building Trust Through Shared Experience

Alongside service coordination, we're creating opportunities for cross-cultural connection through food—a universal language. The community garden currently brings neighbors together to tend plots side by side, sharing agricultural traditions and building relationships. When people share meals and culinary practices, they build the relational foundation necessary for broader community trust.

### Why This Matters to DAF Donors

A gift to this project isn't a donation to a single program—it's an investment in systems change. Your contribution joins a coordinated strategy where funders support an integrated approach, rather than duplicating efforts or leaving gaps.

### Immediate Expansion Opportunities

Three new nonprofit partners are in active discussion to join the collaboration or expand programming in the first half of 2025. Each fills a critical gap identified by residents with lived experience as refugees and immigrants:

*\$15,000 annually: Literacy Partners would provide programming for parents and caregivers to build functional literacy skills that create social and economic opportunities for themselves and their children.*

*\$25,000 annually: Barrio Logan College Institute would expand youth programming to prepare underserved students to be the first in their families to attend college.*

*\$20,000 annually: Kind Hearts would relocate to the Center to provide trauma-informed, culturally sensitive support to Middle Eastern refugees.*