

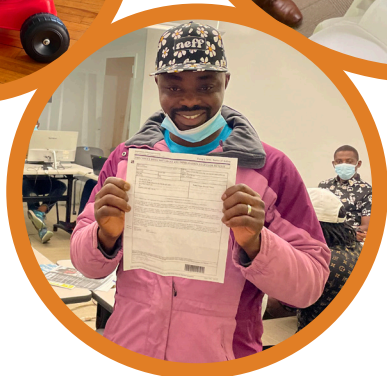
Dear Friends,

2022 marks another year of remarkable growth for Hope Acts. Behind the numbers are individuals and families, each with their own story of hope and fierce determination to restart their lives in the U.S. It isn't easy. The affordable housing crisis, a very complex and backlogged immigration system, and a myriad of other challenges make the journey long and difficult.

Thank you to our generous donors, volunteers, and partners who work with Hope Acts to welcome and support newcomers as they continue their journeys of hope in Maine.

Sincerely,

Martha Stein
Executive Director



Our Mission

We provide housing, English classes and other resources that support immigrants in transitioning to life in Greater Portland and in achieving their goals for a successful future.

Our Vision

We envision a community where immigrants are welcomed and empowered socially, emotionally, physically, economically and spiritually.



Hope Acts

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Journeys of Hope & Perseverance



Every person and family who walks through our doors is on a unique journey. To provide them with support, we focus on creating solutions specific to their most critical needs with the following programs:

Hope House—Transitional Housing

Hope House is the first American home for up to 13 adult asylum seekers at any given time. As each resident develops goals, we work to support them with one-on-one guidance and cultural and educational activities in a warm, family-like environment.

Hope House English Language Program (HHELP)

HHELP offers the opportunity for adult English learners to develop and practice their English language skills. We are continuing with remote classes, along with in-person tutoring, cultural outings and small conversation groups.

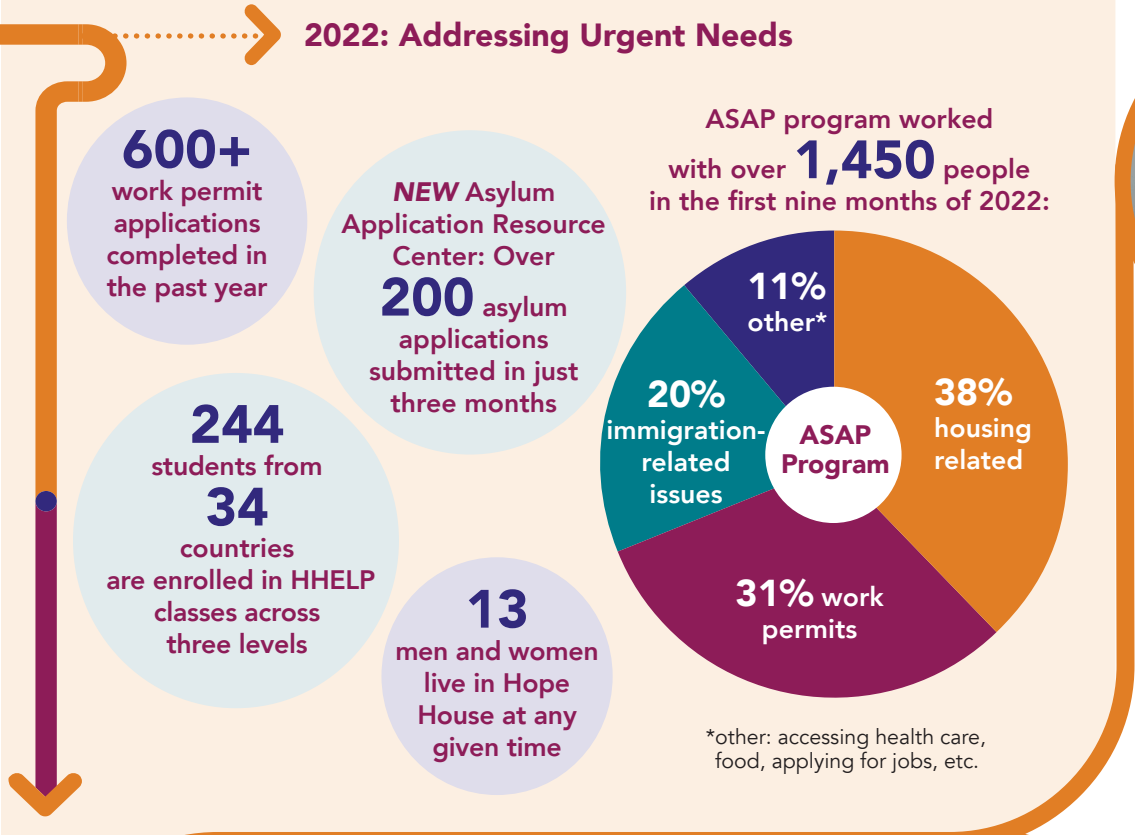
Asylum Seeker Assistance Program (ASAP)

ASAP continues to evolve and grow to meet our clients’ most urgent needs:

- **Basic needs:** One-on-one assistance to individuals and families to help them access much-needed food, housing, healthcare and many other resources.
- **Work permits:** Working with clients to submit their applications to legally work in the U.S.
- **NEW Asylum Application Resource Center (AARC)** at the Portland Public Library: Resources for asylum seekers to work on their asylum applications in a safe environment with interpreters and in-language instructions.



2022: Addressing Urgent Needs



“ I am so fortunate and that fortune is directly attributed to Portland’s open arms. ”

Board Member Shares Own Immigration Journey

Behzad Habibzai joined Hope Acts’ Board of Directors in 2022. Originally from Kabul, Afghanistan, his family came to Portland as refugees when they fled Afghanistan during the Soviet invasion. He credits his family’s success to the openness and generosity of non-profit organizations and individuals in the community.

Behzad is inspired by his desire to aid the increased number of new arrivals coming to Maine, many of whom are Afghan families. He sees them as future leaders and great contributors to our “wonderful state.”



“ I recommend to people to go to Hope House. I tell them they will be welcomed. ”

Young Mother Shows Determination for Son

Dee* first arrived in the United States in 2021 as a young mother with a new baby. She made the difficult decision to leave her parents, siblings, and extended family in Africa to seek asylum to help keep her child safe.

Upon arrival, like so many newcomers, she faced the challenge of finding a home in a limited housing market, and she didn’t speak English. Dee knew she needed help.

After hearing about Hope Acts through a friend, Dee received the support she needed to find a space, furnishings, and other housing essentials. She now works with a Housing Mentor, assigned to her through Hope Acts, to help her build a life in Portland with her son.



*Names changed to protect client privacy

Navigating the Asylum Application Process

New Program

Hope Acts is leading the new **Asylum Application Resource Center (AARC)** at the Portland Public Library. The program provides resources so asylum

seekers can work on their asylum applications in a safe, supportive environment with interpreters and in-language instructions. Over 200 people have submitted their applications in just three months.

