

## SUPPORT FOR OUR WORK

Significant support for the International Institute comes from generous donors in our community and federal, state and local governments.

### OUR FUNDERS INCLUDE:

- The City of Akron
- Akron Community Foundation
- The Brennan Family Foundation
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- The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.
- The International Institute Women's Auxiliary Board
- The Knight Foundation
- Northern Ohio Golf Charities Foundation
- OMNOVA Solutions Foundation
- The Ritchie Memorial Foundation
- The Sisler McFawn Foundation
- United Way of Summit County
- U.S. Department of Health & Human Services administered by Summit County's Department of Job & Family Services and supervised by the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services
- U.S. Committee for Refugees & Immigrants (USCRI), Washington, D.C.
- Women's Endowment Fund

And many more individuals, corporations, foundations and civic organizations.

## INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AKRON

### ALMOST A CENTURY OF SERVICE

The International Institute of Akron is a unique agency that provides quality social services and programs for new Americans, visitors from other nations and those who live in Summit County and surrounding areas.

Established in 1916, and originally intended to assist women from abroad, the International Institute of Akron's programs gradually expanded to encompass family-based immigration services. They currently include:

- Immigration & naturalization assistance
- Refugee resettlement for the Akron area
- Educational programs such as English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), Spanish classes, computer skills training and adjustment counseling on a number of practical issues including financial literacy
- Employment assistance
- Translation and interpreting services for clients and the community at large

### OUR MISSION

*"The International Institute of Akron contributes to the well-being of our community by creating and implementing programs and services to assist the foreign born to integrate into our society, to promote public awareness of the value of ethnic diversity and to encourage international communication."*

The International Institute of Akron appreciates donations of any amount to benefit its programs and services. Donations are tax-deductible and can be directed toward general operating or a specific program. Your gift can be sent to:

#### Development Department

The International Institute of Akron  
207 E. Tallmadge Avenue  
Akron, Ohio 44310  
330.376.5106  
[www.iiakron.org](http://www.iiakron.org)



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AKRON

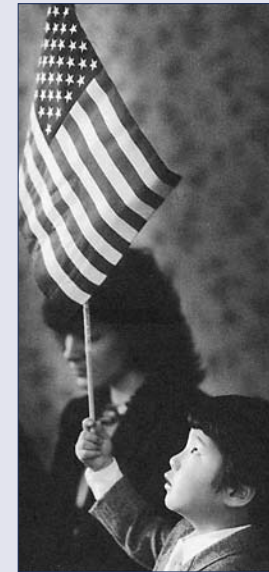
helping the foreign born to integrate into society

207 EAST TALLMADGE AVENUE AKRON, OH 44310-3298



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# INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AKRON

## IMMIGRATION COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

The Immigration Counseling Department helps its clients to adjust to life in the United States and to become self-reliant as soon as possible. Immigration Counselors provide support and assistance to individuals and families facing adjustment challenges, often through referral to other social service agencies in the area.

Our knowledgeable counselors assist their clients and the community by answering questions and resolving problems related to immigration and citizenship issues. Additionally, they are accredited by the U.S. Department of Justice to represent clients before the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Service (formerly INS).

An Employment Counselor is also available to assist legal immigrants to enhance their employability and to find jobs. Employers seeking reliable workers are encouraged to contact the Institute's employment staff. Our services include:

- **IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION LEGAL ASSISTANCE**
- **CITIZENSHIP OUTREACH PROGRAM** (includes classes for the naturalization exam)
- **CROSS-CULTURAL COUNSELING ADVOCACY**
- **EMPLOYMENT COUNSELING**



## REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT DEPARTMENT

As an affiliate of the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI), located in Washington D.C., the department provides comprehensive services for refugees, asylees, victims of trafficking and refugees who relocate from other states to the Akron area. Depending on their eligibility and needs, free services are provided through the following programs:

- **RECEPTION AND PLACEMENT PROGRAM** - Services include case management, financial assistance, airport reception, housing utility accounts, furnishings, home visits, health follow-up, referrals for children, social security cards and more.
- **MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM** - Services include case management, orientation, employment, budgeting, banking, volunteer support, donation drives and outreach.
- **PREFERRED COMMUNITIES PROGRAM** - Seminars for refugees on issues such as safety, legal, financial, educational, housing, childcare, transportation, advocacy and more. Provides community education on refugee issues, building community coalitions and partnerships, and promotion of refugee community public events.
- **SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAM** - Services include assessment, individual and group employment counseling, employment-related interpreting, referral and access to public services, follow-up on healthcare and public assistance.

## COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

The goal of the Communications Department is to help immigrants, refugees and service providers of the Greater Akron area to overcome language and cultural barriers in communication.

- **INTERPRETING SERVICES** - The Institute provides trained interpreters, proficient in over 50 languages, to governmental entities, courts, law enforcement, hospitals, health care and social service providers and businesses. Emergency face-to-face interpreting is available 24 hours a day/7 days a week/ 365 days a year. Our program consults and trains service providers on how to communicate effectively with non-English speakers through the interpreter.
- **TRANSLATION SERVICES** - We provide certified and notarized translations of written documents in over 50 languages to private individuals, numerous service providers and businesses.
- **INTERPRETER TRAINING PROGRAM** - Offers legal and healthcare terminology, skill-building and professional ethics training to free-lance interpreters as well as employees and contractors of other interpreting services in Ohio.
- **CULTURAL COMPETENCE PROGRAM** - Provides customized cultural competence training to businesses and service providers who deal with ethnically diverse clients. Immigrants and refugees are offered a course in American values, traditions and practices - "In the Heart of America."
- **FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM** - Designed to help refugees and immigrants acquire financial literacy, improve their access to the U.S. financial services and to promote entrepreneurship.

## EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The adult English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Program offers courses for individuals learning English at various levels of proficiency. Its primary goal is to help these individuals to acquire a working knowledge of the English language in order to gain employment, achieve self-sufficiency and adjust quickly to life in Akron.

In addition, our program is committed to offering a diverse selection of educational opportunities such as field trips and workshops that will help students function in the community as students, workers, parents and citizens.

- **NEW AMERICAN ESOL PROGRAM: IMMIGRANTS** - For immigrant students, the ESOL program offers low-cost tuition to individuals over the age of 18. Taught by trained ESOL instructors, classes are offered at the following levels: Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced.
- **NEW AMERICAN ESOL PROGRAM: REFUGEES** - For refugee students, the ESOL program offers free ESOL classes to adults living in Summit County over the age of 18 who are not enrolled in a public school system. Classes are funded by the State of Ohio Refugee Resettlement Program. Taught by trained ESOL instructors, classes are offered at the following levels: Beginning, High Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced.
- **FOREIGN LANGUAGE COURSES: SPANISH** - In addition to the ESOL program, the Education Department offers Spanish classes for individuals who wish to learn about Hispanic cultures and acquire a working knowledge of the Spanish language. Taught by a certified native speaker, classes are conducted for five or more students and focus on reading, writing, listening and speaking.