



2021

# IMPACT REPORT

SOMALI FAMILY SERVICE OF SAN DIEGO



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SOMALI FAMILY SERVICE OF SAN DIEGO IMPACT REPORT 2021

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DEDICATED TO BUILDING THRIVING COMMUNITIES

# MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

## STRENGTH AND COLLABORATION IN THE YEAR AHEAD

Dear Friends,

I express my deepest gratitude to our community champions: partners, sponsors and supporters -- for the work we accomplished together in 2021. In light of the many challenges we faced, we remained steadfast in our pledge to serve and advocate for San Diego's refugee and immigrant communities.

In this impact report, I am hopeful you will gain a significant understanding of how our culturally-aware and innovative programs and services align with SFS' vision to foster self-sufficiency, build healthy communities, and promote equity.

We're grateful for our strong foundation, as we enter our 22nd year of service, and we continue to grow in our capacity to uplift the community. Thank you for bolstering our efforts to reach new levels of success through your cherished partnership along the journey!

Sincerely,

Ahmed Sahid

President and CEO

Somali Family Service of San Diego



# OUR IMPACT

**60K**

We distributed nearly 60,000 diapers to families in need.



**400**

We assisted over 400 families during our food distribution events.



**700**

We helped nearly 700 individuals get vaccinated against COVID-19.




# OUR STAFF



Our skilled and dedicated staff is what makes all of our impact possible! They come from diverse backgrounds and offer services in many languages including Arabic, Dari, English, Kirundi, Kinyarwanda, Pashto, Somali, and Swahili.

# FEEDING OUR COMMUNITIES



Somali Family Service offers many services to help families to meet their nutritional needs, including food distribution events and assistance with CalFresh applications.

In 2021, we assisted **260 individuals** with CalFresh applications and assisted over **400 families** at our food distribution events

# CLIENT TESTIMONIAL



Abdul Hamid, a refugee from Ghana, describes how Somali Family Service of San Diego assisted him through the ORR program since he arrived in the U.S. in 2019.

“I’m so happy when I joined the Somali Family Service,” Hamid says. “The first time when I came here, I asked for prayer material and within a minute, I get it. I’m so proud about that.”

“My job right now is because of Somali Family Service,” he says. Hamid works at T.J. Maxx, a department store, and says SFS helped him write his résumé toward applying for a job there and at Home Depot.

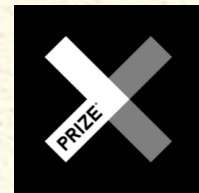
SFS also provided him with transportation assistance. “I receive a Lyft code from Somali Family Service. I get a [bus] pass card now from Somali Family Service,” he says.

**He offers other refugees the following advice: “If you are a refugee and they’re helping you at Somali Family Service...the more they are helping you, you have to help yourself, too.”**

# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT


The logo for shifa360 features the text 'shifa360' in a dark blue, sans-serif font. To the right of the text is a stylized signal icon consisting of three curved lines in red, green, and blue, resembling a Wi-Fi symbol.

Sponsored by:



**XPRIZE**  
**RAPID**  
**RESKILLING**

**NEWPROFIT**

A woman wearing a purple headwrap and a light blue surgical mask is sitting at a desk, looking at a laptop. The laptop screen displays a web application interface with various buttons and text. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

In 2021, we became a semifinalist in the XPRIZE Rapid Reskilling Competition and launched **shifa360 solutions** - a workforce development program for reskilling underserved and underemployed community members. We have implemented a virtual training program for community health workers, and will be expanding our efforts to include medical secretary and motor vehicle operator training in 2022!

For more information, visit [shifa-project.com](http://shifa-project.com)

# YOUTH PROGRAMS

## LION: LEADERS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

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More than **100 youth** engaged in Leaders in Our Neighborhood (LION) events and activities promoting arts and culture, academic achievement, recreation, and team-building. Guest speakers provided enriching presentations about physical and mental health resources, STEM careers, and civic engagement. Many LION youth received donated school supplies and access to technology resources.

LION youth program partners, sponsors, and supporters include The Parker Foundation, Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art, Women Give San Diego, San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), Muslim American Society-Public Affairs & Civic Engagement (MAS-PACE), KPBS' One Book, One San Diego program, Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan, San Diego Unified School District, National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC), San Diego Metropolitan System, and Price Philanthropies.



# YOUTH PROGRAMS

## NNAAC TRANSFORMATIVE LEADERS

Through a partnership with National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC), Transformative Leaders Fellow, Imaan Sahid, launched a series of voter registration efforts designed to civically engage immigrant and refugee youth and communities.



**"Voting is an important way to get our voices heard in politics and participating in society. Throughout these interactive workshops, youth are provided the opportunity to learn more about their democracy in this nation in an entertaining and interesting manner."**

Imaan Sahid

NNAAC Transformative Leaders Fellow

# MICROENTERPRISE PROGRAM

## HELPING OUR CLIENTS BUILD AND SUSTAIN SMALL BUSINESSES AND REACH ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY

We served diverse clients of various races and ethnicities through our microenterprise program in 2021, including Black/African American, Asian, and White. We were able to provide services in many languages including English, Somali, Arabic, Swahili, and French.

We assisted businesses with local and statewide grant opportunities reaching **\$79,847 in accessed funds.**

Grants included:

- City of San Diego Small Business Relief Fund
- San Diego Small Business COVID-19 Relief provided by Lendistry
- EIDL Targeted/Supplement provided by the Small Business Administration (SBA)

We assisted **46** businesses, providing **133** technical assistance sessions and **12** virtual workshops



# HEALTH PROGRAMS

## PROMOTING HEALTH AND WELLNESS WITHIN OUR COMMUNITIES

Our health department has been particularly busy this year promoting COVID-19 education and vaccination and addressing urgent needs within the communities we serve.

**CASE MANAGEMENT:** We served **762 clients** with case management services in 2021 .

**SENIOR SERVICES:** We reached **1,989 seniors** through our senior programs which included workshops and walking groups to combat pandemic isolation.

**BASIC NEEDS:** We distributed food and diapers to **9,434 recipients** during 2021.

We provided COVID-19 testing and vaccination services to **1,070 community members**



# OUR PARTNERS

SFS IS PROUD TO PARTNER WITH THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS WHO HELP TO STRENGTHEN OUR CAPACITY AND IMPACT



United Way  
of San Diego County



# OUR FUNDERS

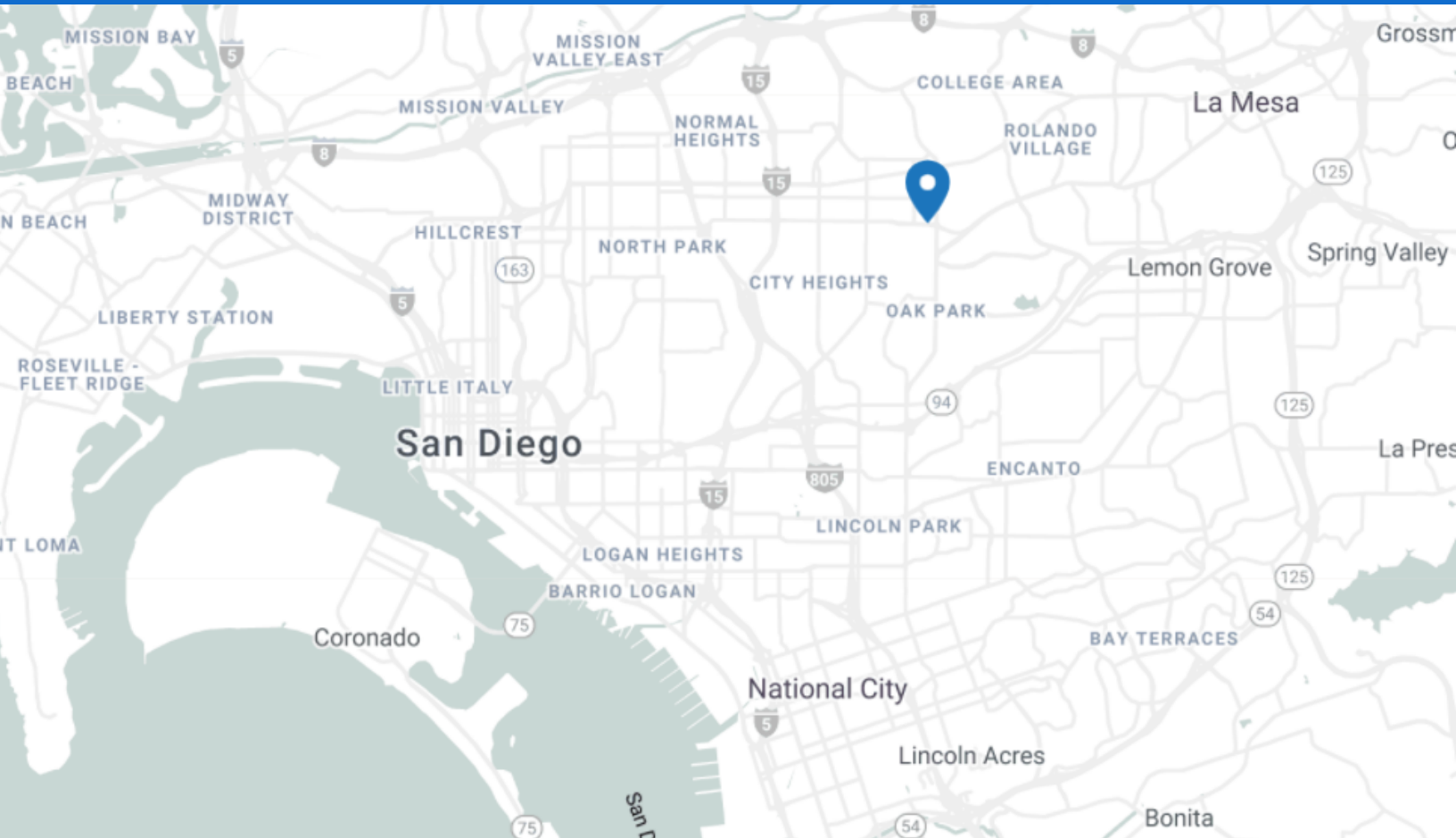
SFS OFFERS OUR SINCEREST THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS FUNDERS. THEIR SUPPORT HELPS MAKE OUR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES POSSIBLE.



We are also grateful for support from: California Department of Social Services



# VISIT US



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