



Eh Soe Dwe, *Our Feet Will Carry Us* (2023), Digital art, 8x8, copy of full story located at Mandalay Kitchen.

# 2023 Annual Report



**Karen Organization  
of Minnesota**

2353 Rice Street, Suite 240  
Roseville, MN 55113  
651-788-7593 | [www.mnkaren.org](http://www.mnkaren.org)



# Letter from the Directors

Dear supporter,

For the past few years, KOM has experienced significant growth. This includes adding crucial youth case management to address substance use challenges, and expanding financial coaching. In 2023, we grew our leadership team from 4 to 6 directors. The new roles we added were Program Director for New Arrivals and Youth Services and Development Director to support grants and fundraising.



While we still specialize in culturally specific services, and over 90% of our clients are from Burma, our programs have grown in the past 13 years to serve refugees and immigrants from around the world. In 2023 we updated our mission statement to be more inclusive for all of the communities we serve and to be more specific about the kind of change we hope to see in people's lives. We are committed to advocating for policies that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion and providing services and resources that help refugees and immigrants succeed.

Thank you for your ongoing trust, energy and support

In partnership,

Eh Tah Khu & Alexis Walstad  
Co-Executive Directors

**New mission statement in 2023:**  
*To build on the strengths of refugee and immigrant communities and reduce the barriers to economic, social, and cultural wellbeing.*

## 2023 Board of Directors

Dr. Timothy O'Brien,

*Board Chair*

\*Hsajune Dyan

\*Saw Sunshine Timothy

\*Kaziah Josiah,

*Board Vice Chair*

\*Ler Htoo^

\*Mallika Sutaya

\*Soe Doh,^

*Treasurer*

\*Nay Htoo

Julie Warner^

Isabel Toledo,

*Secretary*

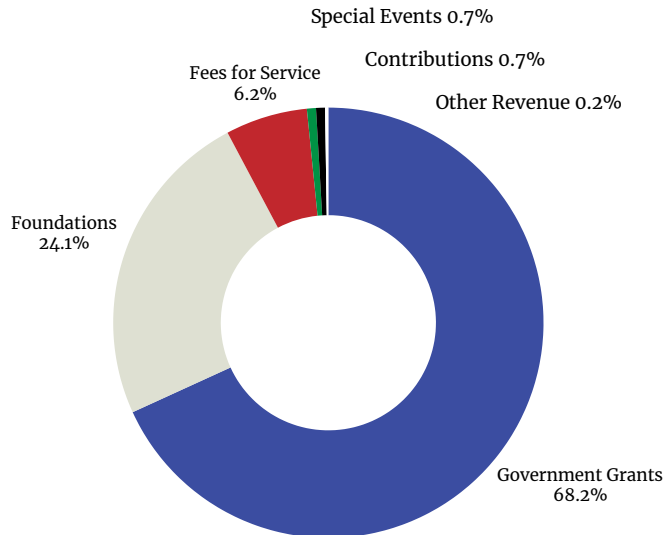
^ Term ended in 2023

\* Board members with an asterisk are refugees or immigrants from Burma

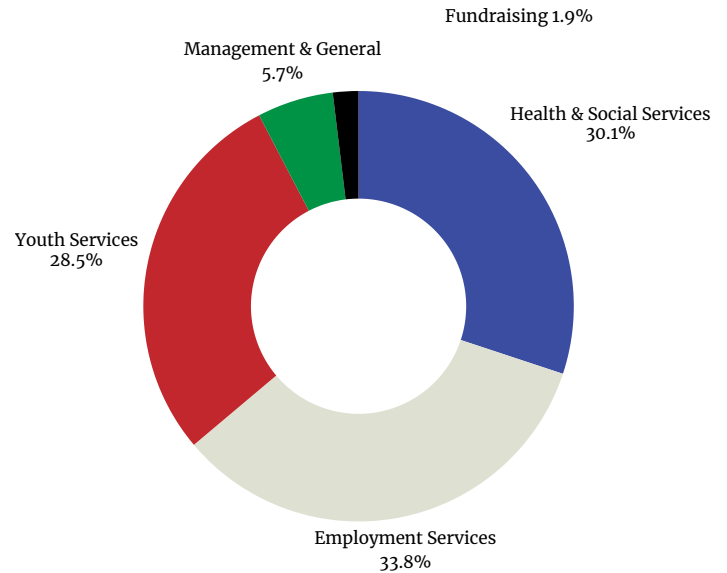


# Our Financial Overview

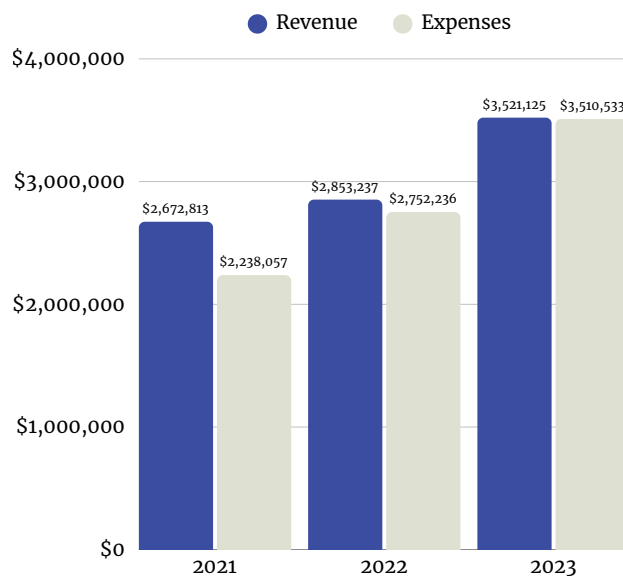
## 2023 Revenue



## 2023 Expenses



## 2021-2023 Growth



OUR FEET WILL CARRY US TO SAFETY. SO LET'S KEEP GOING.



## Balance Sheet (as of 12/31/2024)

Total Assets	\$1,958,302
Total Liabilities	\$810,333
Net Assets	
Without Donor Restrictions	\$756,283
Without Donor Restrictions - Board-Designated	\$243,000
With Donor Restrictions	\$148,686
Total Net Assets	\$1,147,969
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$1,958,302



## 2023 Highlights

# Employment and Financial Coaching

---


Mah Jabin Amiri (pictured on the right), a former participant in the Refugee Employment Services program spoke at KOM's 2023 Gala, on her immigration journey to Minnesota and how KOM's Refugee Employment Services program helped her find stable employment as she transitioned to her new life in the States.



**195** were served in our workforce programs.



**566** households received assistance with income supports.



**3** KOM staff were trained to work as financial coaches.



**82** clients obtained jobs with increased wages.

KOM hosted 9  
paid interns and  
41 volunteers in  
2023





## 2023 Highlights

# Social Services

---

KOM staff try to create opportunities for the elderly to take part in activities and build community cohesion. By doing outdoor activities, they can bring new energy, comfort, and connection for elders who may feel isolated. In the winter of 2023, the Elders Program visited the Como Zoo Conservatory, retreating into a warm atmosphere of vibrant green.



52

elders and caregivers accessed case management and/or group activities.

1,398

clients received walk-in services in 2023, supported by individual donations and unrestricted grants. Our office includes direct assistance in multiple languages for food, housing, transportation, health insurance, immigration, civic engagement, and more.





# 2023 Highlights

## Community Health

---

A vital role in the continuum of care are the KOM culture brokers. Clara Tunwin, KOM's Program Director for Community Health and Social Services, said Karen Culture Brokers "play an important role in the community connecting community members to services, resources, and guiding them through difficult situations."



*In October of 2023, the Karen Culture Broker Program partnered with M Health Fairview to provide the community with free flu shot clinics.*

**318** adults and youth attended workshops on mental health and substance use prevention.

**47** youth enrolled in case management, of which 50% have accessed treatment.

**13** Karen faith community leaders completed training in substance use prevention.

**\$857,000**

successfully won in funding from the State of MN Department of Human Services for chemical dependency programming.

We added a second youth case manager in 2023 and have plans to expand case management and prevention in 2024.





# 2023 Highlights

## Youth Development

---

KOM's "What's Next" program is designed specifically to support and empower youth in our community. One of the most popular aspects of the "What's Next?" program is the college trips. These trips provide an opportunity for youth to visit college campuses, meet with admissions counselors, and learn about the different programs and resources available at each institution.



*Photos of the College students' panel from Century College and North Western University in 2023.*

We have expanded our after-school Karen Club to **4** schools and seek to add more cultural activities for youth around the year.

**259**

youth attended after school programs, and **94%** reported that they increased positive self-identity, based on last year's data.





# Thank you to our funders:

## **Government Grants and Contracts**

Believe & Build Afterschool Grant (ARPA funds)  
City of Roseville ARPA Community Grants  
City of Saint Paul  
Department of Labor & Industry  
Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging  
Metropolitan Regional Arts Council  
Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development (DEED)  
Minnesota Department of Health  
Minnesota State Arts Board  
MNsure Outreach & Enrollment Grant  
Ramsey County Learn & Earn Grant (ARPA funds)  
U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement | MN Department of Human Services

## **Foundation Grants and Contributions**

Coulter Foundation | East Side Employment xChange | Fairview Foundation |  
F. R. Bigelow Foundation | Greater Twin Cities United Way |  
Hardenbergh Foundation | Local Initiatives Support Corporation |  
Marbrook Foundation | Mardag Foundation | Medica Foundation |  
Mortenson Family Foundation | Otto Bremer Trust |  
Patrick and Aimee Butler Foundation | Pohlada Family Foundation |  
Saint Paul Children's Collaborative | Saint Paul Foundation |  
Stevens Square Foundation | Target Foundation |  
University of St. Thomas Morrison College

## **Organizational Donations**

Allstate Foundation | M Health Fairview | Bolton & Menk | Carr Family Foundation  
| BIX Produce Company | HAP | Maplewood & Inver Grove Toyota | Jody Baber State  
Farm Agency | Bethesda Family Clinic | Rise Baking Company | Roseville Area  
Schools | Bailey Nurseries | Cargill - Albert Lea | Como Park Senior High School |  
Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans | Ebenezer Karen Baptist Church | Emmanuel  
Karen Baptist Church | First Karen & Burmese Home Health | First Karen Baptist  
Church | Health Partners | Hope Community Academy | Japs-Olson Company |  
Karen Community of Minnesota | K'nyaw Baptist Church | Lexdan Automotive |  
Metropolitan State University | Minnesota Department of Education | Shiloh Karen  
Baptist Church | SKD Auto Transport | Trinity Karen Baptist Church



## **Karen Organization of Minnesota**

2353 Rice Street, Suite 240

Roseville, MN 55113

651-788-7593 | [www.mnkaren.org](http://www.mnkaren.org)