



## Preserving Language

Many immigrant parents fear that their children will lose their native language and grow disconnected from their heritage. That is why CANMP launched our Arabic Language Program. About 50 children attend our weekend classes taught by our Program Assistant, Nakaa Nassir. It's one of our most popular programs.

# 395

Roughly 395 people from Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, & Morocco have settled in central Maine. **More than 90% of them have participated in CANMP programs!**

## Celebrating Culture

At CANMP, we celebrate the diversity of cultures in central Maine. Whether it's Family Fun Night with the local police, Community Day with the YMCA, or our own annual Eid celebration, we enjoy sharing immigrant cultures with the broader community. And of course, we always bring delicious, homemade treats!



*The Capital Area New Mainers Project is a cross-cultural organization that welcomes immigrants and works to build a thriving, integrated community in central Maine.*

Dear CANMP friends,

Integrating into a new culture takes time, much more time than most Americans realize. Immigrants face many obstacles, from language to housing to health care, and their needs evolve. CANMP must be **nimble** enough to respond to ever-changing challenges.

That's why our work can be unpredictable and a bit hard to describe. On any given day, we might help someone with their citizenship test, fix a stove in a rental property, create a résumé with a job applicant, chat with a city official about an event, and distribute donated vegetables to families.

CANMP is now 5 years old, an established institution in central Maine. But **at heart we are still a scrappy startup that adapts nimbly to our community's changing needs.** You make it all possible.

Thank you,

Chris Myers Asch, Executive Director

**P.S. — Your contribution helps keep CANMP nimble!**

## Revenue Sources

Fiscal Year 2021 revenue (excluding rental income): **\$134,773**

- Individual donations: **49.4%**
- Grant income: **49.2%**
- Direct services: **1.3%**

**Your donation makes a huge difference!**  
**You may send a check or donate online:**  
[www.newmainersproject.org/donate](http://www.newmainersproject.org/donate)



United Way  
of Kennebec Valley  
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## Board of Directors

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## Welcoming Afghan Families

We are thrilled to open our hearts and doors to Afghan refugees who are making their way to Maine. For each new family, CANMP creates a Family Mentor Team, which consists of 4-6 local volunteers who provide logistical, social, and educational support. Our teams help build the personal relationships that are essential to a thriving, integrated community.





## A New Home

Like French Canadian immigrant families who settled in central Maine more than a century ago, current immigrants from Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan often have large, multi-generational families with 4, 6, or 8 kids. For such large families, finding appropriate, affordable housing is a major challenge.

**Our Better Housing Program helps immigrant families find, fund, and furnish appropriate homes.** We currently own or manage 10 homes for 76 immigrants. Two of these homes are part of the former Episcopal Church in Hallowell. First, we renovated the parsonage to meet Section 8 requirements. Then we reconfigured and refurbished the fellowship hall into a 5-bedroom home for a Syrian family of 9.



## Transforming a Church into a Multicultural Center

The **Episcopal Church of Saints Matthew and Barnabas** in Hallowell gave an extraordinary gift to CANMP and the immigrant community of central Maine this summer. The church's leadership decided to close the church permanently and donate its sanctuary, fellowship hall, and parsonage to CANMP. We deeply appreciate the trust that the Episcopal Church has placed in us.

We have begun renovations to transform the gorgeous sanctuary into an event space for dinners, speakers, holiday celebrations, and other events. The **Hallowell Multicultural Center** will be open for fun in 2022.

Our renovation efforts have been a collaborative effort. Special thanks to:

- **E.D. Bessey Lumber Products** and **Ware-Butler Building Supply**, for donating more than \$2000 worth of materials
- Colby students connected to the **Center for Small Town Jewish Life**, for organizing a two-day volunteer work extravaganza with **Blue Marble Geographics**
- The **Artists Rapid Response Team** (ARRT!), for painting a beautiful banner for us
- More than **100 donors and 20 volunteers**, for contributing more than \$21,000 and 100 hours to the renovation



## Health Partnerships Produce Results

CANMP is partnering with a variety of health providers to help improve immigrant health. Our partnerships include:

- Hosting pop-up **Covid vaccine clinics** with the Maine CDC, Community Pharmacy, the New England Arab American Organization, and Kennebec Valley Community Action Program
- Conducting **immigrant health surveys** as part of the Maine Shared Community Health Needs Assessment
- Working with Farmer Kev's Organics and Healthy Communities of the Capital Area (HCCA) to provide **fresh farm produce** to immigrant families all summer long
- Creating **anti-tobacco education** materials for HCCA



80

We delivered 80 shots into 80 arms during two vaccine clinics in April.

## Working Together to Create Better Homes

We rely on **Efrain Ferrusca** to keep our properties up to code and running smoothly. A Mexican immigrant of Mayan and Aztec descent, Efrain runs Ferrusca Properties and manages our Better Housing Program. He is spearheading the renovations of the former Episcopal Church. As part of our program, he hires immigrant apprentices and teaches them the skills they need to be successful. We are thrilled to have Efrain on our team!



## Off to College

More and more immigrant students are graduating from local high schools, and CANMP helps them pursue their dreams of higher education. With support from Hoang Realty, we awarded our third annual **Kennebec New Mainer Scholarship** to Maha Alsaleh of Cony High School. Maha is using the \$1,000 scholarship to help her attend the University of Maine - Augusta. A native of Syria, Maha and her family came to Augusta in 2018. Maha hopes to become an optometrist. "My life has been hard, but I am not a quitter," Maha says. "This challenge will be great and I am ready for it."