



**INTERNATIONAL  
INSTITUTE**

SAINT LOUIS

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2024**

The International Institute of St. Louis provides opportunities for immigrants and refugees to thrive in order to create a welcoming, prosperous, and healthy region for all.

2024 was a year of growth for the organization. The agency helped resettle more than 1,000

refugees between its offices in St. Louis and Springfield, Missouri. We also welcomed hundreds more to St. Louis through initiatives aimed at promoting St. Louis as a welcoming region for immigrants. Federal policies allowed IISTL and IISMO to serve a large number of new arrivals across program areas.

A near record number of arrivals in the last quarter of 2024 tested our capacity, but our mission never wavered. Staff, partners, volunteers, and supporters came together to stabilize services, and strengthen essential programs. New partnerships were formed, long-standing relationships deepened, and innovative approaches emerged to ensure families continued to receive the support they needed.

This Annual Report shares not only what we achieved, but how our community worked together to build a foundation for long-term strength and impact.





# A WORD FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear friends and supporters,

As I reflect on 2024, I am filled with gratitude for the way our community rallied around the International Institute of St. Louis and the families we serve. This was a year of momentum and adaptation as we responded to changing national policies, welcomed new arrivals from around the world, and continued to position the Institute for a strong future.

What stands out to me most is how often our partners, donors, volunteers, and staff said yes. Yes to expanding services for newly arriving families. Yes to deepening collaborations across sectors. Yes to supporting new initiatives like our food pantry and to sustaining signature programs like Festival of Nations that highlight the rich cultural life of our region.

Because of you, the Institute remained a trusted place where people find language classes, job opportunities, small business support, and a genuine sense of belonging. Your investment in this mission helped us strengthen our foundation, grow our impact, and take important steps toward long term sustainability.

Thank you for your belief in this work and in the power of a welcoming St. Louis. I am honored to serve alongside you and look forward to all we will accomplish together in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

**Jennifer Schwesig**

*Board President*

International Institute of St. Louis

# OUR STRATEGIC VISION

In 2024, our strategic focus was clear: stabilize, rebuild, and prepare for long-term sustainability.

Guided by this vision, we concentrated on the following priorities:

## Strengthening Core Programs

We focused on fortifying essential services — including resettlement support, workforce development, and community integration — to ensure continuity for the families who rely on us.

## Deepening and Expanding Partnerships

With reduced staffing and shifting resources, collaboration became more important than ever. We leaned into partnerships with nonprofits, employers, government agencies, and community organizations to extend our reach and share the responsibility of welcoming newcomers.

## Investing in Organizational Resilience

To build a more sustainable future, we improved internal systems, refined program operations, and enhanced our financial planning to better weather fluctuations in funding.

## Centering Community Engagement

Events, storytelling initiatives, and cultural programs played an essential role in keeping our mission visible, strengthening trust, and reinforcing St. Louis as a welcoming community.

This strategic direction reflects our commitment to building an organization that is strong, stable, and prepared for future growth



# OUTCOMES

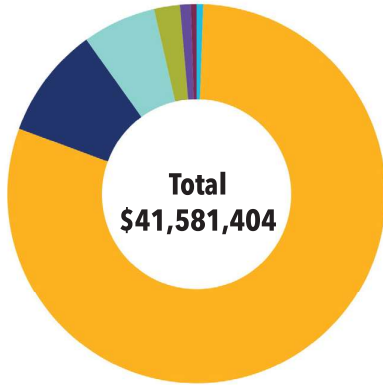
Despite a challenging year for immigrants and their allies, our impact remained significant. Through collaboration, adaptability, and strong community support, the International Institute achieved the following:

- Connected 593 clients with meaningful employment, supporting pathways to long-term stability and self-sufficiency.
- Enrolled 924 students across educational programs including workforce training, English language education, cultural orientation, and other integration services.
- Completed free tax preparation services for 677 community households, preparing 1,372 federal and state returns.
- Welcomed more than 100,000 participants across major community events and programs, including Festival of Nations, the Ubuntu Gala, World Refugee Day, the Community Bazaar series, and more.
- Distributed 8,427 boxes of food to families across the region through our Food Pantry.

These outcomes were made possible because our community stepped forward when the Institute and the people we serve needed it most.

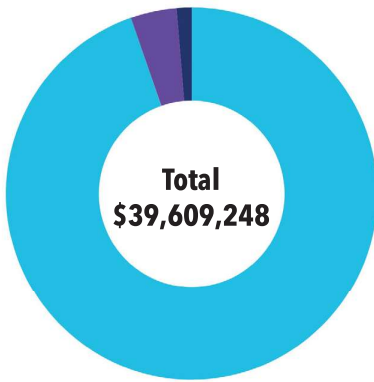


# 2024 BY THE NUMBERS



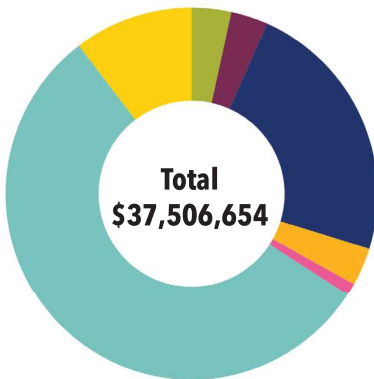
## Support And Revenues

- United Way of Greater St. Louis \$237,910
- Federal State and Local Grants, \$33,280,786
- Contributions \$3,950,304
- Nonfinancial Contributions, \$2,608,860
- Events and Sales \$918,831
- Loan Forgiveness \$381,247
- Rental & Other Income \$203,466



## Expenses

- Programs, \$37,506,654
- Management & General, \$1,587,334
- Fundraising, \$515,260



## Programs

- Employment & Training \$1,289,072
- Education & Citizenship \$1,206,566
- Case Management & Refugee Resettlement \$8,666,496
- Social Work & Health \$1,242,262
- Economic Development, \$397,145
- Missouri Grant Services, \$20,822,279
- Community Engagement, \$3,882,834

Net Assets - Beginning of Year	\$6,966,458
Net Assets - End of Year	\$8,937,654
Increase In Net Assets	\$1,972,156



**\$4.2M**

Fundraising Income

**\$733k**

Direct Emergency  
Assistance provided

**4,736**

Total Clients Served

**25.9**

Average Client Age

**2.4**

Average Family Size

2024 BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS & OFFICERS

**Jennifer Schwesig**  
*Chair*

**Christina Mayadas Lawrence**  
*Vice Chair*

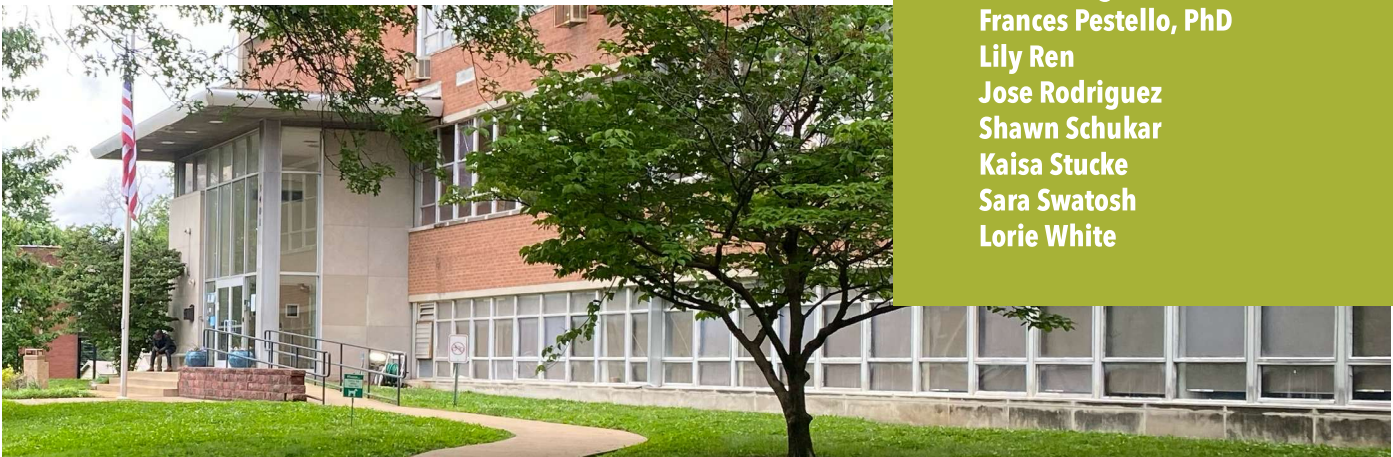
**David Hagee**  
*Treasurer*

**Samir Mehta**  
*Secretary*

**Mark Lee**  
*Member at Large*

**Adnan Omeragic**  
*Member at Large*

**Cullen Andrews**  
**Matthew Badler**  
**Nergis Cavitt**  
**Ken Fields**  
**Karyn Fowler**  
**Jose Gomez**  
**Eric Hansen**  
**Kirk Imhof**  
**Javad Khazaeli**  
**Ruth Kim**  
**Mina Leist**  
**Ekin Pellegrini, PhD**  
**Frances Pestello, PhD**  
**Lily Ren**  
**Jose Rodriguez**  
**Shawn Schukar**  
**Kaisa Stucke**  
**Sara Swatosh**  
**Lorie White**





**To our donors, partners,  
volunteers, advocates,  
and staff: thank you for  
your steadfast support  
this year and beyond.**

Your belief in the International Institute's mission ensured that thousands of families continued to learn, work, and belong in St. Louis. Your generosity lifted us through transition, strengthened our programs, and helped us build a more resilient future. We are profoundly grateful for your partnership, and we look forward to shaping the next chapter of this work together.

