

REFUGEE ARTS AND CRAFTS BAZAAR

The Global Impact Initiative (Gii) was honored to partner with the Greater Austin YMCA to host a refugee arts and crafts bazaar on December 30th, 2023. The event was made possible by the incredible work of Afghan and Ukrainian refugees, as well as the tireless dedication from Gii volunteers and YMCA staff.



AT A GLANCE

Post-Event Statistics

- **22 vendors** from Afghanistan and Ukraine
- **400+ attendees**
- **\$20,000+ in sales** during the 4-hour event, with all proceeds going to the vendors.
- **4 refugees** have since received work contracts
- **2 refugees** have been offered full-time employment



"I saw so much joy and motivation from refugee vendors who were hoping for a miracle, and you made that happen!"

Elizabeth Arhunova, Uk

PRODUCTS SOLD

There was a wide variety of art, gifts, food, and other handicrafts from the vendors. Some included handmade jewelry, hair accessories, fabric dolls, hand-sewn pillows and pouches, clothing, traditional Afghan food, Ukrainian desserts and sweets, and more. This was no simple arts-and-crafts fair, however - the goods sold were from hardworking, talented people, with the overarching goal of securing them long-lasting, stable employment in their respective industries.

NEXT STEPS

Seeing the massive success brought about by this event - both in terms of raw sales, issue awareness, and community-building - we plan to hold similar bazaars regularly. In these upcoming events, we will increase the number of prospective employers present, as well as include more community resources and opportunities for donations and volunteering.

MEDIA COVERAGE

CBS Austin

[YMCA hosts arts & crafts bazaar for refugees](#)

FOX 7 Austin

[Refugees from Ukraine, Afghanistan sell crafts at YMCA holiday bazaar](#)

KXAN Austin

[Refugee Holiday Arts and Crafts Bazaar](#)