



One Journey Impact Report

2019



Report Contents

- 03 A Message from Our Founders
- 04 A Movement with Momentum
- 06 About One Journey
- 07 What We Do
- 08 Year in Review
- 14 One Journey Festival
- 20 Our Impact
- 28 Looking Forward
- 30 Join Us
- 32 Acknowledgements
- 33 Appendices

A Message from Our Founders



Dear friends,

We first envisioned One Journey and its message in a coffee shop outside of Washington, D.C., disturbed by the anti-refugee and immigrant rhetoric in our country’s public discourse. As immigrants ourselves, we both have witnessed the vast contributions of immigrant communities. We believe the widespread narrative – that refugees and immigrants are a cost or even a threat to our society – could not be further from the truth.

One Journey was created to shift this narrative and connect people through the shared languages of humanity. We know that the difficulties of displaced people are massive in scale and that, without a dramatic change in our collective response, they will continue to worsen over our lifetimes and the generations to come. While One Journey began as a festival to celebrate refugee contributions and showcase their talents, it very quickly grew into much more, as it became clear from community members and partners that more was needed, beyond a one-day celebration.

In this second annual Impact Report, we are proud to share our accomplishments to date and the ways in which One Journey continues to grow. In just two years, this movement has reached thousands of people locally through our events and partners, and hundreds of thousands more through our virtual channels. This reach has translated to increased awareness, substantial opportunities for local refugees, and thousands of community members taking action through our NGO partners. Using music, dance, art, storytelling, technology, and food, we are putting a human face to the global refugee crisis.

We want to thank each one of our hundreds of volunteers for your dedication and leadership. From the beginning, your tireless work has been at the heart of this movement. We are also very thankful to our many partners and sponsors who have believed in our mission and supported us in this work. Finally, we want to thank the community members who have attended events, donated money, and spread the word; it is for you, and because of you, that this movement exists.

We are tremendously excited for the coming years, as the One Journey message spreads to new communities across the country and around the world. We hope that the motto of this movement, “Many Paths, One Journey”, will remind us all that, while we may walk on many paths of life, we are on one journey of humanity together.

Vanda Berninger

Wendy Chan

One Journey

A Movement with Momentum

AN URGENT NEED PERSISTS

The global refugee crisis has reached a historic scale. Across every continent, growing numbers of people are being forced from their homes by violence, climate change and persecution. From the political violence in Syria and South Sudan to the downward economic spiral in Venezuela, there were more displaced people in 2018 – 70.8 million globally – than the world has ever seen.¹

In response, much of the world is closing its doors. Nativism, bigotry and anti-refugee sentiment are on the rise in many of the countries best equipped to address this crisis, leaving the majority of the world’s displaced people to be taken in by developing nations. In the United States, refugee admissions have been reduced by 75% since 2016 and are on track to reduce further in 2019.² Hate crimes and vitriolic rhetoric are on the rise for the fifth straight year, unleashed against immigrant and non-white communities in a fearful backlash against a perceived foreign threat.³

The need has seldom been greater.

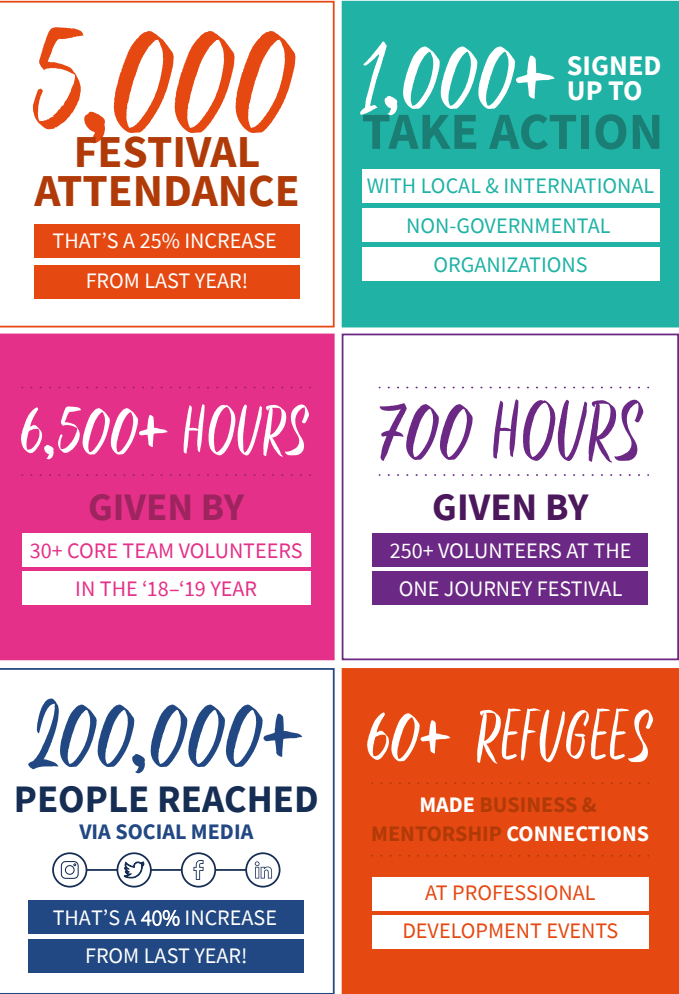
CONNECTION, COMPASSION, AND ACTION

The One Journey movement is a unique grassroots model in the landscape of responders to this crisis, activating community hearts and minds to turn the anti-refugee tide. The movement aims to build compassion for displaced people by encouraging more inclusive communities and creating connections that amplify the impact of service organizations.

In its first two years, One Journey has woven together a diverse, energetic network of supporters, representing businesses, NGOs, faith communities, academic institutions, and local residents. To date, these efforts have been 100% powered by volunteers. Through the “common languages of humanity”, including music, dance, art, storytelling, technology, food, and more, One Journey spreads knowledge and creates meaningful connections among individuals from a wide variety of backgrounds.

One Journey’s message has reached more people than ever through its many channels:

- The second annual One Journey Festival, a signature event of the movement, was attended by 5,000 people, a 25% increase from its first year. The event featured 3x the programming, an expanded Take Action Tent, engaging new technologies by and for refugees, and a joyful, interactive unity parade symbolizing attendees’ support of refugees.
- The calendar of educational and networking events expanded by 70%, with hundreds of people turning out to support refugees and learn more through film screenings, fundraisers, marketplaces, and more.
- One Journey’s virtual following continues to grow, with continued press coverage of events. Reach across social media platforms has increased by 40% since June 2018, with more than 200,000 people reached this year. Additionally, more people than ever are signing up to volunteer and stay in touch via the website, with a 350% increase from last year.



The second year has been full of exciting growth.

Building the Movement

One Journey has become an established presence in the Washington, D.C. area, but is also beginning to spread its message of empathy and inclusivity to audiences around the country. In the past year, successful events were hosted in San Francisco, CA and Charlottesville, VA, planting seeds of support in these cities. In the coming year, planning is underway for additional events in new major cities like New York City, Seattle, and Philadelphia.

These events aim both to spread the One Journey message more broadly and to plant the seeds for future festivals around the country.

Two years of continued engagement from sponsors, partners, volunteers, and community members has clearly demonstrated not only that the need for change is great, but that the approach is working. One Journey is proud of and humbled by this tremendous enthusiasm, and determined to continue building upon its momentum.

While the refugee crisis has reached historic scale and is still growing...



...nativism and anti-refugee sentiment are also expanding around the world



About One Journey

OUR VISION

A world where refugees and other displaced people are welcomed, valued, and supported so they and their host communities can thrive together.

OUR MISSION

To amplify refugee voices and enhance public awareness of refugee talents and contributions. We strive to build enduring allies for refugees and use cultural and technological tools to facilitate human connections between refugees and their host communities.

OUR STRATEGY

One Journey’s strategy is to build a diverse coalition of allies to:

- Create visible and positive platforms, both digital and physical, that bring diverse peoples together to encourage compassion, foster communication, and create human connections related to refugee issues
- Counter nativist stereotypes and shift the narrative about refugees and other displaced people by highlighting their human stories of resilience, talent, and accomplishment; build emotional connections among local and refugee populations by using “the common languages of humanity,” such as music, art, food, and sports
- Inspire and mobilize people to take action to welcome, assist, and advocate for refugees



One Journey aims to be the connecting layer between host communities and refugees and other displaced people. Through storytelling, technology, art and culture, One Journey creates a positive and energetic way for people to connect and collaborate.



What We Do

ONE JOURNEY FESTIVAL



A flagship festival celebrating refugee talents and contributions through music, dance, art, storytelling, technology food and more. This event is replicable and scalable and the eventual vision is of an enduring annual series held across multiple U.S. and international cities.

REFUGEE COALITION AND COMMUNITY BUILDING



Connecting community members with channels to take action through partnerships with service NGOs. The One Journey network extends nationally and globally, now encompassing several thousand members from NGOs, refugee communities, governments, businesses, academia, and faith communities.

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS



Organization of educational events throughout the year to raise awareness of the crisis and engage communities on refugee issues. These events remind participants of our shared humanity with those who are displaced through storytelling, sports, food, and arts.

Year in Review (2018–2019)

DEEPENING LOCAL ROOTS AND SOWING SEEDS OF EXPANSION

In its second year, One Journey deepened its existing presence, while also broadening its event calendar to encompass an even more diverse and widely attended set of programs.

These events aimed to:

- Increase public awareness and shape a compassionate narrative around displaced people
- Inspire action through connection with organizations that serve refugees domestically and abroad
- Build a holistic network of partners and volunteers for the flagship festival

For the first time, One Journey travelled beyond the Washington, DC area with successful events in Charlottesville, VA and San Francisco, CA, laying the foundation for extending the reach of its inclusive and compassionate message in future years.



Skilled Refugee Speed Mentoring

September 15th, 2018

A collaboration with NOVA Friends of Refugees, this first event of the year drew nearly 100 attendees, both skilled refugee job seekers and local professional mentors, to share career guidance and connections. The popular event also included a career fair of local employers.

The speed mentoring career fair resulted directly in the hiring of one refugee attendee!



Holiday Markets

December 7–8, 2018

The success of the inaugural festival's Global Marketplace led to the creation of two markets, held during the winter holiday season and hosted at the IFC/World Bank and St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C. These markets were unique opportunities for 11 refugee vendors and vendors supporting refugees to sell their products ahead of the holiday season.

Several vendors sold out of products on both holiday markets.



Cocktail Fundraising Event: Celebration of Women Refugee Entrepreneurs

March 8, 2019

This year's signature cocktail fundraiser, held on International Women's Day and attended by nearly 200 people, celebrated the success and tenacity of women refugee entrepreneurs. The program highlighted stories from incredible women entrepreneurs and was followed by live music and dancing. Food was provided by refugee women chefs and a robust silent auction featured several goods by refugee artisans.



Take Action Partner Happy Hour

June 5, 2019

One Journey and KAMA DC joined forces to co-host the first annual Take Action Partner Happy Hour at the Line Hotel. Around 50 individuals from across 30 invited partner organizations came together to share stories, exchange ideas, and make meaningful connections that would last beyond the festival day. A unifying event, the happy hour reinforced the collective mission of our Take Action Partners prior to the big day.

Refugee Community Soccer Day

June 8, 2019

One Journey brought together DC United (DC-based professional soccer team) and several community partners to host its first Refugee Community Soccer Day at Cardozo High School in Washington, D.C. The event was co-hosted by LACES and District Sports, with support from D.C. United and Onside. The day included a youth soccer clinic, pick-up soccer games for adults, and appearances by D.C. United player Chris Odoi-Atsem and mascot Talon.



2019

February

May

June

Accenture Digital and One Journey Refugee Professional Networking and Happy Hour

February 21, 2019

This Accenture-sponsored fundraising event focused on sharing stories of Washington, DC professionals who are former refugees and now working in the technology field. For many attendees, this event was an introduction to the One Journey movement and enabled Accenture employees to gain awareness and hear stories from colleagues.



Entrepreneurship Workshop: Start a Business, Build a Future

May 4, 2019

This hands-on workshop for nearly a dozen refugee entrepreneurs provided information on financing, mentorship, and establishing a business. Co-hosted by HSBC & NOVA Friends of Refugees, the event featured local financial services NGOs offering financing advice, as well as entrepreneurs and business leaders offering their support and mentorship to participants.



This community day drew nearly 200 participants and harnessed the power of sports to transcend differences across people of varied ages and backgrounds.

The soccer clinic was attended by 50 youth in the refugee and greater DMV communities.





Film Series

Between November and March, One Journey hosted a series of four film screenings, each featuring a panel of experts to compliment the film with deep subject matter knowledge and personal experiences. These screenings were free to the public, intended to spread awareness and generate thoughtful discussion.

More than 600 people attended the film screenings and panels

Part 1: Voices of the Sea

November 27, 2018

The first of the four screenings was co-hosted by Marymount University and featured the PBS film *Voices of the Sea*, the story of a 30-something mother of four longing for a better life. The subsequent panel discussion featured advocates who told their stories, and experts who helped attendees navigate the dizzying complexities of the refugee crisis.

Part 2: Last Men in Aleppo

January 9, 2019

The second screening featured *Last Men in Aleppo*, a piercing documentary about the Syrian civil war, at the New York University DC campus. In the discussion following, panelists shared personal stories of the conflict. CAVA and 734 Coffee partnered to provide food and coffee.

Part 3: 4.1 Miles and From Damascus to Chicago

February 28, 2019

The third film event featured two short documentary films and was hosted this year at the University of Virginia campus and sponsored by the UVA Batten Graduate Council. In light of the large Charlottesville refugee population, panelists discussed local issues and shared personal stories of their community-building efforts.

Film Series



Part 4: This is Home

March 11, 2019

In the final film screening, co-hosted by the National Community Church at Miracle Theater in DC, attendees viewed *This is Home*, an award-winning film that takes an intimate look at four Syrian families trying to find their footing as they resettle in Baltimore. This event also featured an opportunity to learn more about and support the International Rescue Committee, the organization that helped to resettle the family portrayed in the film. The film was followed by a panel of former refugees and industry supporters.

The event panel included Betoul Alsabagh, the former Syrian refugee portrayed in the film.



One Journey Festival



One Journey Festival

This second annual flagship event was the culmination of this year-long event series, a family-friendly, all-day outdoor celebration of refugee talents, stories, and contributions. Attendance grew in this second year, drawing 5,000 participants for a colorful, diverse program.

Visitors arrive on foot, by car, and using transportation sponsored by partners, including Bird scooters and Capital Bikeshare. Greeters at entrances handed out “passports” for both adults and children, with which they could collect stamps in each of the festival regions (see appendix). The passports provided informative facts and figures about the refugee crisis across geographies, while helping attendees navigate the diverse programming.

PERFORMERS AND SPEAKERS

This year’s festival featured a diverse and energetic program of musicians, dancers, and speakers. On the Main Stage, performers shared their talents and stories through original music, dynamic storytelling, and participatory experiences, designed to activate the senses of community and camaraderie being built all day throughout the grounds. Featured acts included World Poetry Slam Champion, Emi Mahmoud, Grammy-nominated artist Jorge Glem with César Orozco, and the 34-strong, all-girls Pihcintu Multicultural Choir, made up of former refugees from around the globe. Nearby, The Studio Stage hosted workshops and highlighted dance styles hailing from East Africa to the Middle East, places that local refugees once called home.

TECHNOLOGY

Innovative, cutting edge technologies were featured across the festival. Virtual reality experiences from the UN Foundation and Global Shapers enabled participants to see first-hand views of the fight against malaria and the emigration route of migrants from Venezuela. Immersive video from Shared Studios facilitated face-to-face conversations with people refugees in camps in Greece, Iraq, and Mexico. HelloUSA and UNHCR demonstrated software designed to assist refugees, while the Islamic Relief bus featured a multimedia and virtual reality tour that showcased the organization’s important global work. These incredible technologies demonstrated the power of technology to improve the lives of refugees and supplemented festival-goers imaginations with life-like, interactive views from across the world.

Refugee technologists Mustafa Nuur of Bridge and Lual Mayen of Junub Games showcased employment and gaming platforms they built to support other refugees.

HIGHLIGHTS

STORYTELLING

In the Storytelling tent, audiences had the chance to go ‘behind-the-scenes’ with the voices and artists of One Journey and learn about the inspiration and artistic roots of our performers. Attendees were also treated to live theater performances of Turkish shadow puppets and A New Nation from Convergence Theatre. This intimate setting created closer connections and delved deeper into the issues of migration, art, representation, public policy, and activism.

GLOBAL MARKETPLACE

The marketplace hosted many local refugee artisans and business owners who showcased their talents and social enterprises, as well as other vendors whose profits benefited local refugee support organizations. Products ranged from hand-crafted jewelry, scarves, and soaps to delicious coffee, chocolates, and cookies.

COMMUNITY SOCCER STATION

Soccer is one of the most celebrated sports across the globe, with over 4 billion people worldwide reporting that they are fans of or play the sport! At the Community Soccer Station, festival attendees stopped by all day to connect through this universal language, taking part in a soccer clinic, playing in friendly games, and meeting other fans of the game.

TAKE ACTION TENT

Thirty national and global NGOs set up booths to share information about their work and provide festival-goers with concrete opportunities to support refugees and other displaced people, (see appendix for full list). Along with the return of eighteen Take Action Partners from the inaugural festival, One Journey eagerly welcomed twelve new organizations to the 2019 tent. With so many opportunities to learn more and get involved, the Take Action Tent saw a constant stream of traffic throughout the day.

Over 1,000 people signed up to get involved with local and international NGOs

Of those recruiting volunteers, Take Action Partners received an average of 30 new sign ups

INTERNATIONAL FOOD LANE

The food lane brought together 12 refugee and immigrant-owned DC food trucks of varying cuisine. Festival attendees enjoyed Himalayan momos, Nigerian sloppy joes, Balkan chicken confit, and a medley of other delicious foods.

Truck owners served cuisine from many of the home countries of refugees and were excited to share their creations with festival participants.

These food trucks donated nearly \$1,200 in profits to support next year's festival!



“The Cathedral gives its power to everyone that performs... beautiful energy and a festival that everyone should attend.” – Hussein Smko, Iraqi dancer



KID'S CORNER

In the Kids' Corner, children painted posters and decorated puppets with bright colors and inclusive themes, which were carried during the afternoon's Unity Parade. Additionally, Catholic Charities facilitated mural painting, while the Oman Cultural Center taught kids to write their names in Arabic.



UNITY PARADE

In an upbeat, colorful rallying moment, festival attendees came together in a Unity Parade that circled the festival grounds. The parade was led by the Batalá Washington, an all-women Afro-Brazilian band, and followed by children who carried colorful artwork and welcome signs they had created over the day. Finally, three enormous puppets designed by San Francisco-based artist Wolfram Alderson, including a “Journeybird”, an adult, and a youth, were carried by volunteers and attendees.

Unity parade puppets represented the flow of migrants and their shared hopes in the face of adversity

Geographic Representation of Festival Programming



MUSIC & DANCE



STORYTELLERS



TECHNOLOGY



FOOD TRUCKS



VENDORS




“I thought it would be mostly a Syrian event, but I have been impressed to see how many different nationalities are represented.”

Catherine, Festival attendee


Our Impact

Strategic Objective #1 Create the Platform

Create visible and positive platforms, both digital and physical, that bring diverse peoples together to encourage compassion, foster communication, and create human connections related to refugee issues.


**Shared Studios** shared a post.
June 11 · 🌐

Join us at this year's 1 Journey Festival in Washington, DC, to hear voices across the Portals network share their stories in their own words.

**1 Journey Festival**
June 10 · 🌐

Returning to this year's festival are Portals by Shared Studios. **Shared Studios** is a global public art initiative that aims to connect people to those who are di...

[See More](#)



YOUTUBE.COM

Portals Overview

Portals is a global public arts initiative. Each Portal is a gold shipping container equipped with immersive audio and video technology inside. When you ente...

**USA for UNHCR** @UNRefugeeAgency · Jul 8

Did you see @OfficialLual at the @1journeyfest? His game, Salaam, combines high-tension gaming with a mission of social impact. All in-game purchases go toward lifesaving supplies for real refugees worldwide. [#NationalVideoGameDay](#)

bit.ly/2FmewgX



Creating connections is at the heart of One Journey’s mission, serving as the touchpoint between businesses, NGOs, faith communities, academic institutions, and individuals. This focus is a differentiator, as many NGOs and service organizations lack either a public platform to reach potential supporters or the relationships to support and build attendance at events.

Over the 2018–2019 year, One Journey has strived to use its events, website, and social media to foster new connections between these diverse groups and is seeing tangible results.

PARTNERS

Dozens of organizations have collaborated with One Journey throughout the year. Many events were co-hosted by NGOs with deep service roots, corporations with a commitment to corporate responsibility, or academic institutions with educational objectives. These partners have made invaluable in-kind contributions, through content, technology, event space, and knowledge. Finally, partners are also critical to spreading awareness, sharing posts and creating original content so that news and events reach a broader audience.

One Journey is proud that partners continue to voice their appreciation for the movement. The vast majority returned for a second year and many have already expressed enthusiasm for Year Three!

Partner Snapshots

Event Collaboration

Google, Think Global, Act Local event
University of Virginia, film screening

In-kind Contributions

CAVA, event catering
Bird Scooters, festival transportation

Greater Online Reach

USA for UNHCR, Twitter promotion
Shared Studios, Facebook promotion

See appendix for full list of partners

“This [festival] is the first event I have EVER run out of business cards, an indication of how excited festival-goers were to have us there and learn about our brand and mission! I have sent out emails to a dozen different organizations I connected with, and we are working on finding unique and new ways to collaborate and move our mission forward.”

Christen Kinard, Threads by Nomad

“All of our staff and volunteers had an awesome time at the festival. It is such an upbeat and positive atmosphere that contributes to making or renewing great connections.”

Yasmina Mudarez, Solutions in Hometown Connections

SPONSORS

Twelve dedicated sponsors provided critical support for One Journey activity, of which half were continuing their support from the inaugural year. One Journey welcomed six new sponsors in the 2018–2019 year, including Starbucks, Islamic Relief, and Ultra Mobile.

Together, these sponsors provided more than \$90,000 towards 2018–2019 events. Without their contributions, these activities would not have been possible. One Journey is incredibly grateful to its sponsors for their belief in its mission.



ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

One Journey is building more meaningful connections than ever with people around the world. Event attendance continued to grow in One Journey’s second year, with not only more people per event, but also 70% more events on the calendar. Four film screenings over the course of the year had more than 600 people attend and the annual festival saw approximately 5,000 attendees, a 25% increase from year one.

Simultaneously, One Journey has also built its social media following, with a 40% increase in reach across platforms compared to Year One. Facebook reach increased by 75% to more than 25,000, while Twitter and Instagram impressions increased by 25% to more than 200,000.

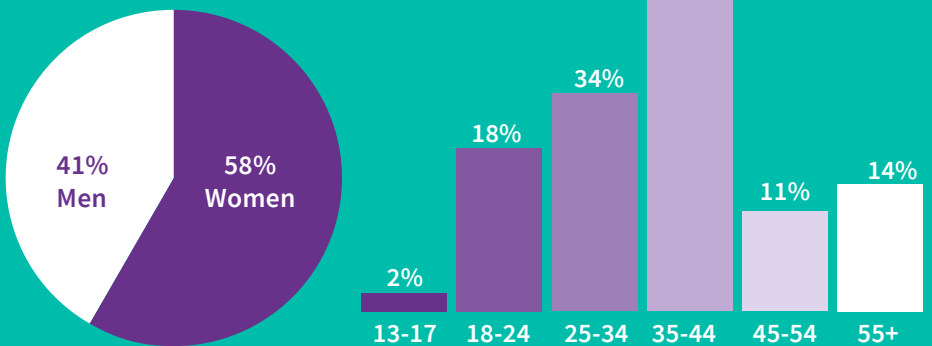
Additionally, the One Journey website received more than 14,000 unique visitors from January

through August 2019. The communications and marketing team continues to optimize methods for driving web traffic, with over 5,000 individuals visiting the site in the week before the festival, the highest total spike to date. This additional traffic, along with a newly redesigned site layout, is translating to meaningful connections, with volunteer and newsletter form submissions increasing this year by more than 350%.

Local press has also continued to cover One Journey’s story and events. Voice of America (VOA) provided video and print coverage of the Community Soccer Day, interviewing both youth participants and event organizers. A second story about One Journey’s roots and mission was printed in advance of the festival. Washingtonian Magazine highlighted One Journey Festival performers and festival participants in their July 2019 print issue.



Audience by the Numbers



Top ten origin countries

United States, Germany, Syria, Turkey, Vietnam, United Kingdom, Canada, Egypt, Palestine, India

Platform Highlights

Twitter

190,000 pre-festival impressions

6,000 day-of festival impressions

Instagram

15,000 pre-festival impressions

3,000 day-of festival impressions

Facebook

25,000 people reached pre-festival

2,500 people reached during festival

Post-Festival Survey Results

77%

agreed or strongly agreed that One Journey has helped them gain a deeper understanding of the global refugee crisis

70%

agreed or strongly agreed that because of One Journey, they have a more favorable view of refugees

95%

responded they were more likely to further educate themselves about the refugee crisis or attend refugee-related events.

“As refugees, it is our responsibility to redefine the way people think about us. That we are not a burden to the city.”

**Lual Mayen, Founder
of Junub Games**

Strategic Objective #2 Shift the Narrative

Counter nativist stereotypes and shift the narrative about refugees and other displaced people by highlighting their human stories of resilience, talent, and accomplishment; build emotional connections among local and refugee populations by using “the common languages of humanity,” such as music, art, food, and sports.

Increasingly, refugees are being portrayed as threats to and burdens upon society by politicians and the media. It is more important than ever that supporters of inclusion and diversity are united in their opposing message. One Journey is providing the facts and stories to support this narrative, featuring refugee resilience, talents, and cultural contributions.

Events were a powerful way to showcase these stories. Each film screening panel featured an individual who has overcome displacement and events like Think Global, Act Local and the Cocktail Fundraiser highlighted local refugees who had gone on to become successful business professionals. Other events, like the entrepreneurship workshop and holiday markets, facilitated one-on-one conversations between refugees and community members and highlighted shared experiences.

Blog posts on the website and shared through social media have captured the incredible first- and second-person journeys of migrants; posts like “Mir Azafal’s Story” describe experiences of persecution, violence, escape, and rebuilding. They are windows into other worlds.

The Festival itself featured stories throughout the programming, from the main stage to the storytelling tent. Technology was a particularly powerful vehicle in this venue, with VR, immersive video, and gaming platforms transporting attendees beyond their personal lived experience.

What Festival attendees are saying...

“I came to the festival today looking forward to going through the immersive Shared Studios Portal. You don't often get to hear people's stories first-hand.”

“Not everyone has the chance to see what's happening at the border or what's happening in countries experiencing extreme violence... Doing the VR showed a really interesting and unique perspective.”

“Being able to make the connection between what you see in the news and what's happening in real people's lives is so important to build empathy.”

“I love that this festival allows refugees' experiences to be made real and humanizes the whole experience through food and dance and learning.”

“For my friends that are not here today, I will be able to share that I was able to interact with people in Iraq, which is really cool. These are people my age and I can relate to that... They are people just like us.”

Strategic Objective #3

Inspire Action

Inspire and mobilize people to take action to welcome, assist, and advocate for refugees.

Community members taking action is the most concrete manifestation of One Journey’s impact. This movement seeks to harness the moment as an individual is moved by compassion and connect them with an outlet for action. These outlets are as varied as the One Journey network is broad, from spreading the word to donating money to leveraging unique skills and networks. One Journey itself is a fully volunteer-driven movement. Its core logistical team is made of 30+ members, who have contributed 6,500+ hours to planning events, raising funds, and administrative functions. The festival alone drew on the support of 250+ volunteers for day-of execution, totaling more than 700 volunteer hours. These volunteers have reported overwhelmingly positive experiences, many of whom signed up after moving experiences at prior events.

One Journey has also harnessed community energy on behalf of direct service organizations. The festival featured more than 30 Take Action partners, which are NGOs working locally, nationally, and internationally to serve refugees and other displaced peoples [see Appendix for a full list]. These partners were featured on the One Journey website, in social media posts, and in listserve emails, and many collaborated on events and activities.

Over **1,000** people signed up to stay in touch and get involved with local and international NGOs.

These partnerships translated to real connections and energy; of those partners recruiting volunteers, organizations reported an average of 30 new volunteers registered and, of those recruiting listserves sign-ups, they reported adding 50 new people on average. Across all Take Action partners, that sums to more than 1,000 new concrete connections.

People were also motivated to speak with their wallets. At the festival, many attendees purchased food and wares from refugee entrepreneurs or organizations, and several Take Action partners reported receiving unsolicited donations. The Global Holiday Markets, organized after the tremendous success of last year’s festival marketplace, were also opportunities for attendees to take financial action and many vendors reported selling out of goods.

These are inspiring numbers and heartening feedback, and they speak to the need for this type of connecting vehicle between organizations, refugees, and community members.

Our Volunteers

6,500+ planning hours given by **30+** One Journey core team members

700 hours given by **250+** volunteers to staff the festival

“[The One Journey Festival] has been an incredible opportunity to network and promote my ethnic-inspired art gallery. The interest and demand has propelled me to take steps to launch my first brick and mortar retail gallery. The result of this is a direct, positive impact on the lives of many talented artists from Sudan and elsewhere who now have a platform and source of livelihood.”

Selm Siddig, Fenzoul

“We had several people stop at our table to learn about refugee resettlement for the first time. They expressed that they appreciate the opportunity to learn about newcomers and the organizations who support them.”

Nezia Munezero Kubwayo, ECDC

“Now that we’re retired, we have a lot more time to be able to give back to our community and we were really happy to see so many organizations that shared simple ways we can help.”

Joyce and Ted M., Festival Attendees



Looking Forward

With successful events logged in cities like San Francisco and Charlottesville, One Journey is excited to pursue new growth opportunities across the country, while continuing to explore ways to deepen its continued impact in the DMV area.

One Journey is proud of the grassroots momentum generated over the past two years and determined to maintain its positive trajectory, with planning for an ever more impactful June 2020 festival already underway. In the Metro D.C. area, existing favorites like the film screenings and Global Holiday Market will be complemented by new events and initiatives, including a refugee food festival and a Social Practice Residency with the Kennedy Center's new REACH living arts center.

The movement's footprint is spreading as well, with additional small-scale events being planned in new cities like New York, Philadelphia, Boston, and Seattle. These events aim both to spread the One Journey message more broadly as well as plant the seeds for future festivals around the country.

This model is scalable. One Journey intends to grow further to 5 cities in 2020 and 6+ cities by 2021, with preparations for global expansion beginning in 2020. Tools are in development to support this growth, including a Festival Playbook, Communications Playbook and Style Guide, volunteer management tools, partnership models, and fundraising lessons learned.

It is exciting and humbling that enthusiasm continues to exist in the Washington, D.C. area and that other communities hope to adopt the One Journey message. The team is delighted to be able to return in 2020, while reaching new audiences nationally.

OUR FOOTPRINT



Join Us

The One Journey movement is truly grassroots.

Each of its incredible successes to date has been built by the sponsors, donors, volunteers, and partners who have put their faith in its mission. The tremendous energy behind this movement reflects the deep need for the amplification of refugee voices and increased public awareness.

And after two years, this need is clearer than ever. As rhetoric has become increasingly divisive, this type of inclusive, collaborative platform is becoming more unique. One Journey has already reached thousands of people and created substantive connections and opportunities for refugees in local communities. Groups around the country and the world are already calling for network-building and educational events in their cities.

The possibility is enormous. Join the movement to help us sustain this incredible impact and realise One Journey’s global potential.

SUPPORT OUR CAUSE

Every dollar counts! If you’re inspired by our message, help us continue to support our communities and grow to new cities by visiting

www.crowdrise.com/o/en/campaign/one-journey-festival-2019

Become a Corporate Sponsor


Rally the power of your workplace to demonstrate support for refugees and displaced people. To learn more, visit www.onejourneyfestival.com/sponsor

Sign up to Volunteer

Whether in a coalition city or from afar, help us with event planning, communications, fundraising, and more. Sign up at www.onejourneyfestival.com/volunteer

Keep in Touch

onejourneyfestival.com

-  [@1journeyfestival](#)
-  [@1journeyfestival](#)
-  [@1journeyfest](#)



“I have survived three wars and am able to find peace by helping others and paying back the debt of gratitude through those who helped me. I’m proud to support One Journey’s mission.”

Dahlia Mansour
One Journey Marketplace Lead

“All of our families, at one point in time, were immigrants to America. That’s what makes the promise of our country so inspiring and welcoming. This festival [celebrates] our diversity and I’m proud to be a part of it.”



Julia Duncan
One Journey Logistics Lead



“As a Syrian-born teenager growing up in Kuwait, I had 24 hours to gather a few things and escape the 1990 war... I believe it is an obligation for everyone living in a safe place to open their doors to those in desperate need of shelter and better opportunities in life.”

Feras Nabulsi
One Journey Web Designer



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Appendix Contents

- I Sponsors and Partners
- II Take Action Partners
- III Speakers and Performers
- III Tech for Humanity Tent
- IV Vendors
- V Festival Passport
- VI Endnotes

Sponsors and Partners

One Journey is grateful to the many sponsors and partners who have enabled us to accomplish so much in the 2018–2019 year.

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PARTNERS

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Boston Consulting Group
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International
Enterprise Development Group
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Fred Siegel and Associates College Counseling
Global Works Foundation
Google
HSBC
Hint Water

Cont.

Humanity Helping Sudan Project
International Family Medicine Clinic
International Neighbors
International Rescue Committee
IRC Charlottesville
Karam Foundation
KindWorks
Kotrotsos Fine Wines
L.A.C.E.S
La Cocina
Love Without Borders for Refugees in Need
Lutheran Social Services
Mars, Inc
Marymount University
Maysara

Mount Olivet United Methodist Church
Mosaic
National Community Church
New York University
No One Left Behind
NOVA Friends of Refugees
OnSide
Partnership for Trauma Recovery
PBS POV
Phillips Collection
Raj Pippalla Photography
Refugee Investment Network
Refugee Outreach
Shared Studios
Squire Patton Boggs

Sospeso Restaurant
St. Alban's Episcopal Church
Sunset Run for Refugees
Syrian Community Network
Tarjimly
The Refugee Center Online
The Women's Storytelling Salon
Tony Hack Photography
Tryst Trading Company
University of Virginia Batten Graduate Council
Urban Stems
Upwardly Global
Washington National Cathedral
World Relief

Speakers and Performers

MUSICIANS

Abraham Mwindi
Batala Washington
Cheick Hamala
Diabate Griot Street
Fandango
Jorge Glem and Cesar Orozco
Kumera Zekarias
Megumi Saruhashi
Pihcintu
Multicultural Choir
Stephane Detchou
Tributary Project featuring Mezhdu

DANCERS

Hussein Smko
Joseck Asikoye
Leila Mire
Maru Montero
MENDÉ
Silk Road
Sokeo Ros

STORYTELLING

Convergence Theater
Emi Mahmoud
Fadia Afashe
Suehaila and Feras Nabulsi
Jay Abdo
Karagoz Shadow Theater
Lual Mayen
Mustafa Nuur
Salma Hasan Ali

INTERFAITH VOICES

Imam Mohamad Magid
Rev. Canon Leonard L. Hamlin
Dr. Sovan Tun
Rabbi Susan Shankman
Melaney Tagg

Tech for Humanity Tent

UNHCR

UN Foundation –
Nothing But Nets (VR)

Souktel

Bridge

Natakallam

Refugee Center
Online: USA Hello
Junub Games

Global Shapers (DC), Plan País and Mycrom Logistics' "Walking for Freedom: A Venezuelan Story"

Accenture

Ultra Mobile

Vendors

GLOBAL MARKETPLACE

734 Coffee
FenZoul
Karam Foundation
Crafting Love and Hope
Sughra Hussainy
Wills Art
Dafero
Buldano
Merienda DC
Kin & Care
Definition Studio

Foodhini

From Egypt with Love

1JF Merch Table

Love Without Borders

Ahmed Alkarkhi Art

Threads by Nomad

Love to Sew

Khalid Alani Art / Maysoon
Crafting Art

Shatherwan RT

Catholic Charity Jewelry /
Crescendo

FOKUS Handcrafts

SafarTas

FOOD TRUCKS

Bubble TeaLicious

Come'Chop

From Scratch

Himalayan Soul Foods

Korean BBQ Taco Box

Maracas

Moh Moh Licious

NeatMeat DC

PhoWheels

Sambal

Tazah

Take Action Partners

American Near East
Refugee Aid (ANERA)

Catholic Charities of
Arlington

Catholic Charities of D.C.
Refugee Service Center

Church World Service

Episcopal Migration
Ministry

Ethiopian Community
Development Council

Friends of Khwendo Kor
USA (FOKUS)

International Rescue
Committee

Islamic Relief USA

Jesuit Refugee Services

Just Neighbors

KAMA DC

Karam Foundation

KindWorks

La Cocina VA

Life And Change
Experienced thru Sports
(LACES)

Lutheran Immigration and
Refugee Service

Lutheran Social Services
National Capital Area

Mozaic

NOVA Coalition for Refugee
Wellness

NOVA Friends of Refugees

OnSide

Paper Airplanes

Shapers for Venezuela /
Coalition in support of
Venezuelan Refugees

Solutions in Hometown
Connections

Their Story is Our Story

United Nations Relief and
Works Agency (UNRWA
USA)

Upwardly Global

USA for UNHCR
(United Nations High
Commissioner for
Refugees)

Washington National
Cathedral Sanctuary
Committee

Festival Passport



Endnotes

1 “Refugee Statistics”, USA for UNHCR. 2019. <https://www.unrefugees.org/refugee-facts/statistics/>

2 Fact Sheet: U.S. Refugee Resettlement. National Immigration Forum. January 25, 2019. <https://immigrationforum.org/article/fact-sheet-u-s-refugee-resettlement/>

3 Factbook On Hate & Extremism In The U.S. & Internationally. Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism, California State University, San Bernardino. 2019.

