

International Community Center

Founded in 2014 by Diana Uwera in Arizona, USA, the International Community Center is a nonprofit organization with a mission to empower refugee and immigrant families, helping them to thrive in their new communities. With 501(c)(3) status, the Center is committed to providing essential resources, education, and support that enable these families to build stable, fulfilling lives in the United States.

Recognizing the challenges faced by refugees and immigrants, the International Community Center offers a range of services designed to ease their transition, from language training and job placement to legal assistance and cultural integration programs. Our goal is to ensure that every family we serve has the opportunity to achieve self-sufficiency and success.

Beyond our work in the United States, the International Community Center also operates programs in Rwanda. These initiatives focus on supporting children with special needs, sponsoring educational opportunities for underprivileged children, and empowering women to start small businesses, helping them to lift themselves and their families out of poverty.

Guided by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, our programs are designed to create lasting change in the communities we serve. By focusing on No Poverty, Good Health and Well-being, Quality Education, and Gender Equality, we are making a tangible difference in the lives of those most in need.

The International Community Center is more than just a resource provider; it is a community of people dedicated to making the world a better place for all. We invite you to join us in our mission to support and uplift those who need it most, both here in the United States and around the world.

Vision: To create a world where every refugee, immigrant, and vulnerable community member thrives with dignity and self-sufficiency, empowered by the resources and opportunities they need to build a brighter future.

Mission: The International Community Center is dedicated to empowering refugee and immigrant families by providing essential resources, education, and support to help them integrate and succeed in the United States. Additionally, we extend our mission globally by supporting special needs children, advancing education, and fostering economic independence for women in African countries.

Goals:

1. **Empower Refugee and Immigrant Families:**
 - Provide resources such as language training, job placement, and cultural integration services to help families thrive in the USA.
 - Offer legal assistance and advocacy to ensure that refugees and immigrants can navigate their new environment successfully.
2. **Support Special Needs Children:**
 - Expand and sustain programs that provide care, education, and advocacy for children with special needs in Rwanda and other African countries.
3. **Promote Education:**
 - Sponsor the education of underprivileged children in African countries, ensuring they have the opportunity to reach their full potential.
 - Establish partnerships with local schools and educational institutions to provide scholarships and resources.
4. **Empower Women Economically:**
 - Support women in starting small businesses through training, microloans, and mentorship, helping them achieve financial independence and contribute to their communities.
 - Create and sustain networks of women entrepreneurs who can support each other through shared knowledge and resources.
5. **Foster Community Engagement:**
 - Build strong, supportive communities both in the USA and abroad, where families can share experiences, resources, and support.
 - Encourage volunteerism and community involvement to strengthen ties and promote mutual understanding between diverse cultures.

Core Values:

1. **Empowerment:** We believe in providing individuals with the tools and opportunities they need to take control of their own lives and futures.
2. **Dignity:** We respect the inherent worth of every person, regardless of their background, and strive to treat all individuals with compassion and understanding.
3. **Community:** We are committed to building strong, inclusive communities where everyone can find support and belonging.
4. **Integrity:** We conduct our work with honesty, transparency, and accountability, ensuring that our actions reflect our mission and values.
5. **Collaboration:** We believe in the power of partnerships and work closely with other organizations, communities, and individuals to achieve our goals.
6. **Resilience:** We support the strength and resilience of those we serve, recognizing their ability to overcome challenges and build better lives for themselves and their families.

International Community Center's Alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals in African Countries:

SDG 1: No Poverty

- **Program:** Women's Economic Empowerment
- **Objective:** To reduce poverty by empowering women to achieve financial independence through entrepreneurship.
- **Activities:**
 - Business Training: Provide women with comprehensive training in business management, financial literacy, and marketing.
 - Microloans and Grants: Offer microloans and small grants to help women start or expand their own businesses.
 - Mentorship: Connect women with experienced entrepreneurs who can offer guidance and support as they navigate the challenges of running a business.
 - Networking Opportunities: Facilitate networking events and workshops where women can share ideas, collaborate, and support each other's business ventures.
 - Monitoring and Evaluation: Track the progress of women's businesses, providing ongoing support and adjustments to programs as needed to ensure success.

SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being

- **Program:** Special Needs Children Support
- **Objective:** To improve the health and well-being of children with special needs by providing access to necessary care and support services.
- **Activities:**
 - Healthcare Access: Partner with local healthcare providers to ensure that children with special needs receive the medical care and therapies they require.
 - Specialized Education Programs: Develop and support specialized educational programs tailored to the unique needs of children with disabilities.
 - Parental Support Groups: Establish support groups for parents of children with special needs, offering resources, counseling, and a community of shared experiences.
 - Advocacy: Advocate for the rights of children with special needs to ensure they receive proper care, education, and social inclusion.
 - Health Workshops: Conduct workshops on nutrition, mental health, and physical well-being tailored to the needs of special needs children and their families.

SDG 4: Quality Education

- **Program:** Educational Sponsorships
- **Objective:** To provide quality education to underprivileged children, ensuring they have the opportunity to complete their primary and secondary education.
- **Activities:**
 - Sponsorships: Offer financial support for school fees, uniforms, books, and other necessary supplies to children from low-income families.
 - Tutoring and Mentorship: Provide tutoring services to help students improve academically and mentorship programs to guide them in their educational journey.
 - School Partnerships: Partner with schools to ensure that sponsored students receive the support they need to succeed, including access to quality teachers and learning materials.
 - Career Guidance: Implement career guidance programs to help students plan for higher education or vocational training, ensuring they have a path forward after secondary school.
 - Community Involvement: Engage the community in supporting education, including encouraging local businesses and individuals to invest in the future of their youth.

SDG 5: Gender Equality

- **Program:** Gender Equity and Support Services
- **Objective:** To promote gender equality by supporting teen mothers, domestic violence survivors, and rape victims, ensuring they have the resources they need to rebuild their lives.
- **Activities:**
 - Teen Mothers' Education: Provide scholarships, childcare, and support services to help teen mothers return to school and complete their education.
 - Domestic Violence and Rape Support: Offer counseling, legal assistance, and safe housing to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.
 - Empowerment Workshops: Conduct workshops focused on self-esteem, legal rights, and economic empowerment for women who have experienced gender-based violence.
 - Advocacy and Awareness: Raise awareness about gender-based violence and advocate for stronger laws and enforcement to protect women and girls.
 - Community Outreach: Work with communities to change attitudes towards gender-based violence, promote respect for women's rights, and support gender equality initiatives at the grassroots level.