



Sahaba
Initiative
nurturing healthy families



ANNUAL REPORT



VISION

To transform lives by leading community programs that inspire future generations to break cycles of poverty.



OUR VALUES

We hold these values central for our organization:

كرامة

Dignity
All people hold a special value that is tied solely to their humanity.

أمانة

Trust
Demonstrating sound moral and ethical principles, accountable, responsible, and truthful.

إحسان

Excellence
Excellence requires constant adaptation, innovation, and beauty in order to achieve success.





MISSION

To transform communities and support families in crisis through addressing core areas in housing, hunger, economic stability, and well-being.



OUR STORY

Sahaba Initiative was founded in 2009 by high school students who came together to create change by feeding the homeless community at a local park in Riverside. Over the past 15 years, due to the overwhelming support of the community, it has become one of the largest Muslim nonprofits serving the Inland Empire.

Today, it continues to uphold its values as a grassroots non-profit organization focused on breaking the cycles of poverty in the San Bernardino & Riverside counties. It is dedicated to service in accordance with the principles of Islam, and offers critical relief to families in crisis in order to allow them to work towards becoming self-sustainable.

A community is only as strong as its families. Sahaba Initiative's mission is to lift families out of crisis and into sustainable independence. In order to create transformative change, we cannot only focus on one area; rather, Sahaba Initiative takes a holistic approach to nurture healthy families in our community.



OUR 4 AREAS OF FOCUS



1 ECONOMIC STABILITY



2 HUNGER



4 WELL-BEING



3 HOUSING





HUNGER

Sahaba Initiative was founded with the simple goal of feeding the underserved in our community. Over 15 years, we have gone from volunteer feedings at a local park to becoming one of the critical food assistance centers for our San Bernardino community.



1,100,000

Pounds of food
Distributed



916,600+

Meals Produced



126,500+

Individuals Served

In 2022, Sahaba Initiative purchased an illegal drug house near San Bernardino High School & transformed it into our Food & Wellness Center. We turned a source of harm & despair into a place of hope & healing for the community. We are proud to serve over 350 families every Saturday through the Food & Wellness Center's food pantry. We are currently in the process of transitioning our pantry into a full client choice model and a Gold Certified pantry through Leah's Pantry. The Food & Wellness Center often serves as an entry point for our community members to become involved with our other services.

WELL-BEING

Mental health, and overall well-being, has long been overlooked as a critical factor in the social and financial success of both families and individuals. No matter how much aid you give someone, they cannot break out of the cycles of poverty if they are crippled by trauma. However, most never get therapy due to stigma, lack of culturally competent therapists, or simply because they cannot afford it.



760+

Counseling Sessions



160

Clients Served



Sahaba Initiative provides mental health services to those in the Muslim community who otherwise could not afford them. We offer individual, couples and family therapy services and support groups. Our licensed therapists are culturally competent and have extensive experience with challenges unique to Muslim community members.

Many Muslims, especially our refugee clients, are dealing with extremely stressful realities such as their families being trapped in war-torn areas. For example, we provide counseling to many Palestinian clients who are struggling with the genocide of their families. We see this service as a critical element in breaking the cycles of poverty and establishing strong, healthy families within our community.

EMERGENCY FINANCIAL **ASSISTANCE**

Sahaba Initiative is the last hope of many families facing homelessness and other emergencies. Wages have failed to keep up with the rising cost of housing, and many families are struggling to pay for their basic needs such as shelter and utilities. Increasing numbers of Muslim refugee families are being relocated to the Inland Empire, without the capacity to provide for their families.



Approximately 90% of our emergency assistance goes towards families who cannot afford rent or are facing eviction. We also offer Utility Assistance Programs, debt relief, transportation assistance, and much more. Our Emergency Financial Assistance programs have prevented many families from spiraling into homelessness, which most never recover from, and have given them the chance to get back on track towards sustainability.

\$331,000

Emergency Assistance
Distributed

433 Families

Provided Emergency
Financial Assistance

159 Families

Provided Utility Bill
Assistance

**1,584
Beneficiaries**

Provided Emergency
Financial Assistance



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2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Launched Project CLIMB

Sahaba Initiative has launched its newest program, Project CLIMB, to take the next step in breaking the cycles of poverty for local families. This project provides career pathways, workforce development, and intensive case management for families caught in poverty who just need an extra boost to achieve financial sustainability. Through Project CLIMB, we are fostering generational change by transforming our direct assistance services into long-term solutions.



Launched CMHPP in Riverside

In 2024, we opened our third location in Riverside as a center for our CMHPP program in partnership with Riverside County. Through this initiative, we have conducted presentations for over



between the ages of 9 and 70, promoting greater mental health awareness within our local communities.



Altadena Fires Disaster Response

As we witnessed the devastating Altadena fires impact the communities of many friends and neighbors, we knew we had to take action. We facilitated the distribution of over \$10,000 worth of essential items to those affected, including hygiene kits, blankets, sleeping bags, water bottles, shoes, backpacks, and more. In times of crisis, we remain committed to being a source of hope for our neighbors and communities.



Utility Assistance Program

We have partnered with Edison and SoCal Gas to launch our Utility Assistance Program, which is open to all families in the Inland Empire struggling with overdue utility bills. Through UAP, we helped relieve utility bill debt for 159 families in 2024.



Doubled Our Team to Meet the Growing Need

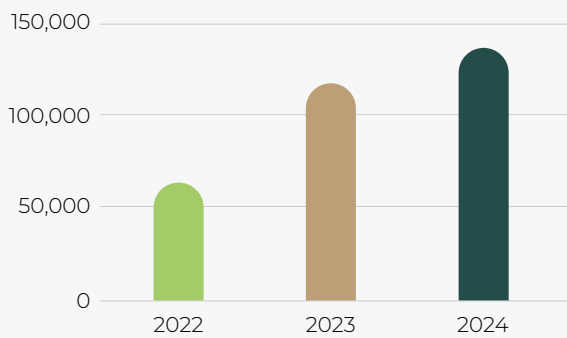
The demand for assistance in the Inland Empire has grown exponentially over the past year. With an unprecedented number of families applying for our services, Sahaba Initiative expanded its team by hiring eight new staff members in 2024. These roles include a Financial Assistance Coordinator, two Mental Health Promoters, a Grant Writer, an Outreach & Development Manager, a Well-Being Coordinator, a Food Pantry Coordinator, and a Chief Operations Officer.

GROWTH

Sahaba Initiative keeps a strong emphasis on strategic growth and sustainability. These priorities have allowed us to exponentially increase both our impact and our capacity over the last 3 years.

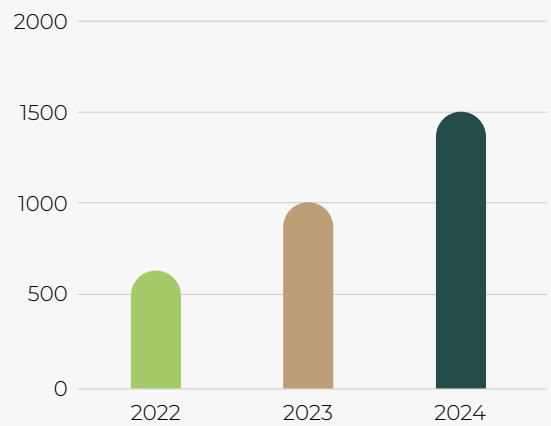
TOTAL CLIENTS SERVED

● 2022 ● 2023 ● 2024



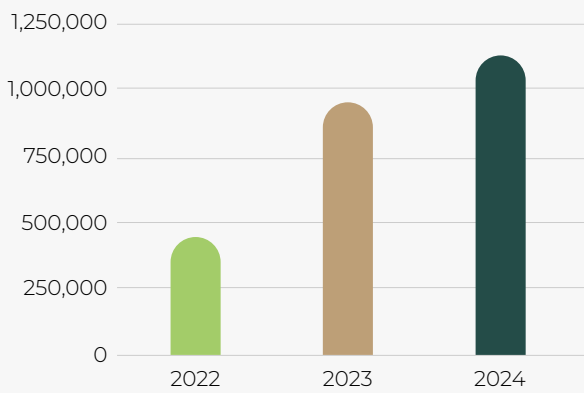
EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE CLIENTS

● 2022 ● 2023 ● 2024



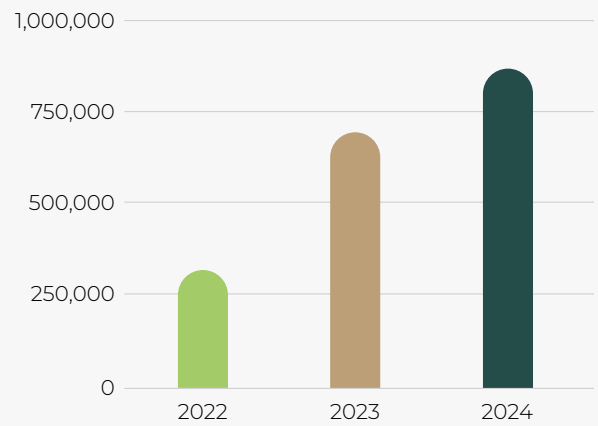
POUNDS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED

● 2022 ● 2023 ● 2024



TOTAL MEALS DISTRIBUTED

● 2022 ● 2023 ● 2024

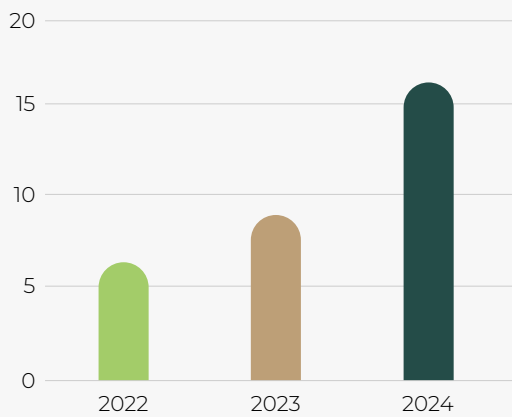


GROWTH CONTINUED

We look forward to continuing to grow in our impact, and helping more families break the cycles of poverty every year. We would like to extend a huge thank you to all of our partners and contributors whose support makes this growth possible.

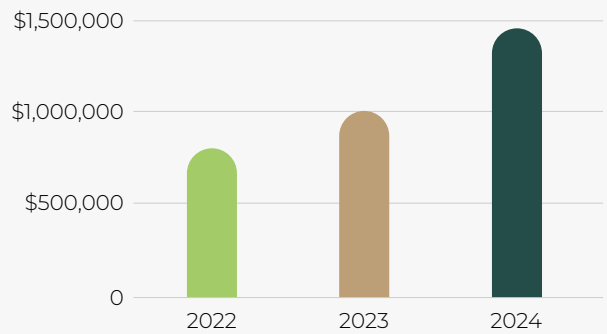
TOTAL STAFF

● 2022 ● 2023 ● 2024



BUDGET

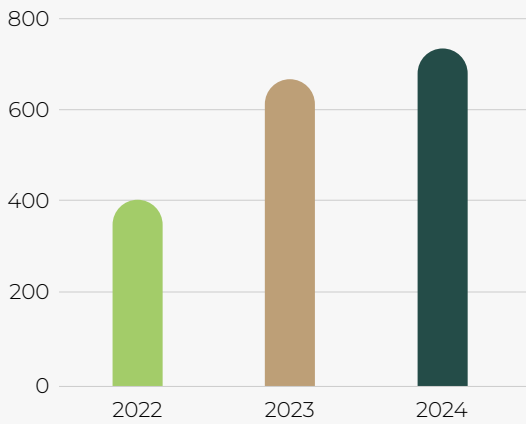
● 2022 ● 2023 ● 2024





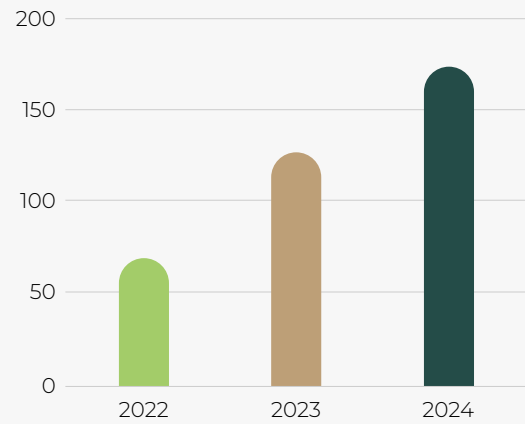
COUNSELING SESSIONS

● 2022 ● 2023 ● 2024



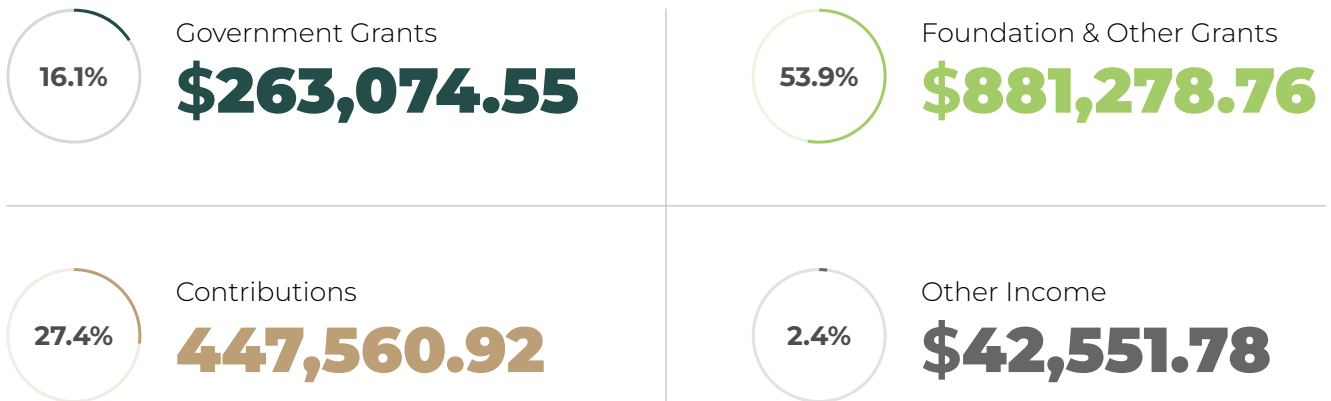
TOTAL THERAPY CLIENTS

● 2022 ● 2023 ● 2024

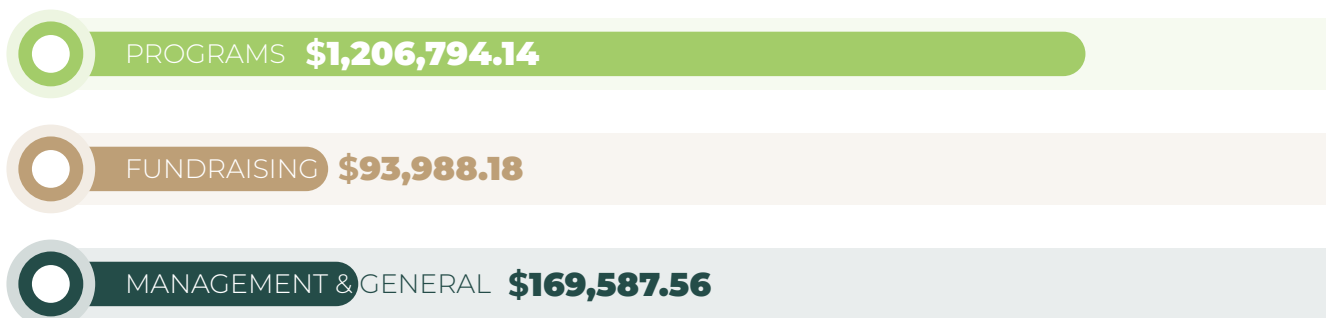


FINANCIALS

Sources of Funds



Use of Funds



OUR SPONSORS & PARTNERS



Inland SoCal United Way



OUR LEADERSHIP & STAFF



Dr. Arbazz Nizami
Founding President



Mohammed Kuko
Founding Secretary



Faezeh Fathizadeh
Board Member



Adnan Syed
Chief Financial Officer



Hateem Siddiqui
Endowment

LEADERSHIP



Malek Bendelhoum
Co-Founder & CEO



Rangeena Salim-Eissa
Program Director



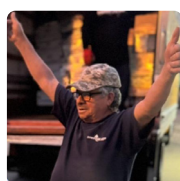
Samira Hazama
LMFT



Rabia Fazil Ludin
Community Mental Health Promoter



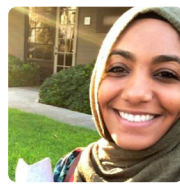
Iman Mimou
Wellbeing Coordinator



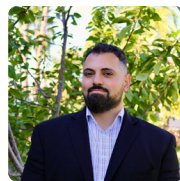
Sergio Godinez
Pantry Support Staff



Zayn Razi
COO



Amanee Bendelhoum
LCSW



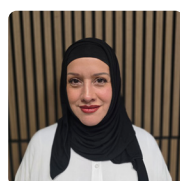
Shaheen Nassar
Development and Outreach Manager



Amin Donshael Clark
Pantry Coordinator



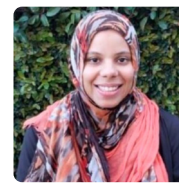
Ahmad Ludin
Financial Assistance Coordinator



Veronica Weihs
Case Manager
Project C.L.I.M.B.



Janette Court
Program Director



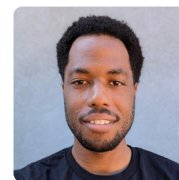
Nacera Bendelhoum
LMFT



Asma Kanaan
Community Mental Health Promoter



Jill Kowalski
Grant Writer



Christian Court
Pantry Support Staff

STAFF

LOCATIONS



Family Resource Center

1887 Business Center Dr. Suite 3, San Bernardino CA 92408

(909) 381-3002

Hours

Monday-Thursday, 10:00-02:00 PM
Monday & Wednesday, Walk-ins
Tuesday & Thursday, by appointment only



Pantry & Wellness Center

1694 N. D Street, San Bernardino, CA 92404

Hours

Every Saturday, 12:00 PM – 02:00 PM



Riverside Satellite Office

3600 Lime St building 2, Riverside, CA 92501

Hours

Appointment Only



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Sahaba Initiative is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) public charity Tax ID: 45-2488503
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