

MOSAIC MOMENTUM

February 2024



MOSAIC
FAMILY SERVICES

Hi there!

I am so thrilled to introduce myself to the incredible partners of Mosaic Family Services!

My name is Gazal Valestani, and I joined the development team as the Individual Giving Manager at the start of January 2024. It has been such a privilege learning about Mosaic, and the enthusiasm for helping survivors has been so contagious. I am so grateful for the continuous warmth, welcoming atmosphere, and the enormous space held in everyone's hearts for refugees and survivors of human trafficking and domestic violence!

I have always found immense joy and purpose in serving my community, and I have spent most of my professional time at nonprofit agencies that focus on survivors and underserved populations. I first became familiar with Mosaic Family Services while working at another domestic violence shelter in Dallas, where I had the amazing opportunity to engage directly with survivors of abuse as both a hotline counselor and a case manager. Witnessing the resilience firsthand sparked my desire to pursue a lifelong career helping transform the lives of those in need in this field, and I feel so honored to be able to continue that work here at Mosaic.

As a first-generation immigrant and daughter of parents who left their home country of Iran to seek refuge in the United States when I was just a baby, Mosaic's mission to provide culturally comprehensive services to our community is also very personally moving for me. Reflecting on my family's journey to this country, I am confident that having access to an organization like Mosaic would have significantly impacted their success as they navigated the challenges of a new world.

Thank you all for your incredible support – I look forward to hearing your unique stories and finding out what Mosaic's mission means to you!

Gratefully,

Gazal Valestani



MOSAIC
FAMILY SERVICES

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Volunteer Spotlight: West Monroe uses their talents to make an impact!

Partnerships make us stronger, and Mosaic is undoubtedly stronger because of our partnership with West Monroe!

West Monroe is a digital services consulting firm and has been a dedicated corporate partner since they began volunteering with Mosaic in 2021. From volunteering with the children living at Mosaic House during the holidays to assembling furniture, they are always eager to help!

Recently, Mosaic made significant changes to our software and transitioned to a new email platform. This switch was a huge undertaking, and it would not have been possible without the help of West Monroe. West Monroe took on this project pro bono, set up the backend of our new software, and managed the data migration. They

even sent volunteers to answer questions and train staff on the new systems! These changes are critical to helping Mosaic stay up-to-date on all things related to cyber-security and IT and to help protect the safety and security of our clients' information.

"It is such a great feeling to know that we have members of the community like Mosaic Family Services who are focused on the mission of helping others and creating a safe haven for survivors to thrive! I have had the great fortune to work with Mosaic team members for many years and it has been such an honor to watch as their hard work and dedication has led to one success story after another! It is with the support of West Monroe's commitment to our local community that I have been able to be a

part of this mission and we are so pleased to be Mosaic's partner and friend in the community!" Said Alanna Disque, West Monroe's Executive Assistant for the Dallas office.

We are truly so, so grateful for West Monroe! Thank you for your commitment to serving our community!



You give refugees the chance to dream big

Feras, his wife, and children recently arrived in the United States after fleeing Syria and living in a refugee camp for several years. Feras is a tailor and used to have his own business back home. The brutality of the civil war forced him and his family to flee their home country and start the refugee journey.

Feras was referred to Mosaic, and he was paired with a case manager who spoke Arabic, his native language. During the intake assessment, the case manager learned the family was overwhelmed with feelings of distress and hopelessness.

The case manager invited Feras and his family to join the Espresso Yourself support group to talk about the psychosocial needs of newcomers to the U.S. During a session, Feras asked many questions and felt relief knowing he found a place he could openly talk about his fears, challenges, and stress that come from starting over.

One of the family's most significant needs was receiving their employment

authorization, which had been delayed. After Feras' case manager got involved and directly advocated for the family, they finally received work authorization.

Once Feras was able to work, the case manager focused his efforts on the client's self-sufficiency by providing intensive services and orientations on the U.S. health system, family budgeting, money management, opening a bank account, etc. Feras also started taking ESL classes and was assisted in enrolling his kids in school. Feras was provided with all the resources that empowered him and helped him regain his confidence.

Feras soon started his first full-time job in the United States, and he was happy he could pay his monthly rent and put food on the table for his family.

As his English improved, Feras decided to chase his dream and applied for a job as a tailor at a high-end retail store. He was hired with a well-paid hourly rate and is now one

step closer to his dream of opening his own business.

"I could only achieve my dream job because of the help and support that Mosaic has provided. My family and I have learned a lot from our case manager, and he delivered a great message about humanity. His time, energy, and smile meant a lot to us. I am very grateful for everything I have and for having Mosaic in our community to support those in need."



Liberty in Labor

In honor of our 30th anniversary, Mosaic is on a mission to train 3,000 people about labor trafficking in 2024 through our latest initiative, Liberty in Labor. This program is available to businesses, corporations, community groups, and others to receive a one-hour training about labor trafficking.

Mosaic is proud to be one of the few organizations in North Texas that serves survivors of both sex and labor trafficking, and we have an in-depth understanding of this hidden crime and the role we all play in addressing labor trafficking and supporting survivors.

Most of the focus and awareness about human trafficking is about sex trafficking, but most trafficking that occurs in Texas is indeed labor trafficking. According to a 2016 study done by the University of Texas School of Social Work, there are approximately 313,000 trafficking victims in Texas, and of those, about 234,000 have been subjected to labor trafficking.

Labor trafficking happens throughout a diverse array of industries, including construction, agriculture, factories/warehouses, domestic servitude, bars and restaurants, hotels, and massage parlors, just to name a few.

Because there is less awareness of labor trafficking, there are also fewer resources and services available to labor trafficking

survivors. This impacts survivors' ability to leave their situation and can leave them vulnerable to being trafficked again. This is even true throughout the judicial process; the lack of understanding of labor trafficking impacts survivors' ability to seek justice and prevents offenders from being held accountable.

We hope this initiative will expand the public's perception of human trafficking. By teaching North Texans what trafficking looks like, we are all more equipped to prevent trafficking and protect our community.

To schedule a Liberty in Labor training, email Sonia Hagfors, Mosaic's Community Outreach and Partnerships Coordinator, to schedule a Liberty in Labor training at soniah@mosaicervices.org.

Barnes and Thornburg helps spread holiday cheer!

The holidays can be a difficult time for survivors and refugees. Many of the families Mosaic serves have tight budgets and need help providing gifts for their families. With the help of compassionate corporate, religious, and community groups, Mosaic helps meet those needs for clients.

This year, Mosaic teamed up with the Dallas office of Barnes and Thornburg, a business law firm committed to giving back and making an impact!

Barnes and Thornburg hosted a holiday drive

for Mosaic and collected many incredible gifts, like air fryers and kitchen appliances, the coolest toys, and self-care items for the ladies.

These incredible gifts brought so much joy to clients and allowed them to relax and enjoy the season without financial stress.

Thank you so much to all the wonderful staff at Barnes and Thornburg for making the holidays merry and bright for survivors and refugees!



Have you heard about Mosaic's Champions of Human Rights Society?

The Champions of Human Rights Society provides members the opportunity to serve survivors of human rights abuses, including domestic violence and human trafficking survivors and refugees.

As a member of the Champions of Human

Rights Society, you will join a team of leaders who bring high-impact support and wraparound services to survivors in our community.

You will take pride in knowing that your membership in this special society ensures Mosaic's ongoing ability to provide culturally competent and trauma-informed care to survivors of human rights abuses.

Your support is vital to our success as we move into the next stage of Mosaic's history.

To be recognized in the Champions of

Human Rights Society, we ask you to invest a minimum of \$1,500 in the futures of our clients and their success in North Texas. You are welcome to pledge your commitment and make your gift within one year. This option includes recurring donors giving \$125 or greater monthly.

Scan the QR code below to become a Champion today!

