

# THE AFGHAN JOURNAL

ISSUE #07

JULY EDITION



THE AFGHAN JOURNAL

## **BUILDING CAREERS AND BRIDGING COMMUNITIES**

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## **WELCOME CORPS: REIMAGINING REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN THE U.S.**

Welcome Corps, a new and innovative refugee resettlement program..

## **AN ARCHITECTURAL MARVEL**

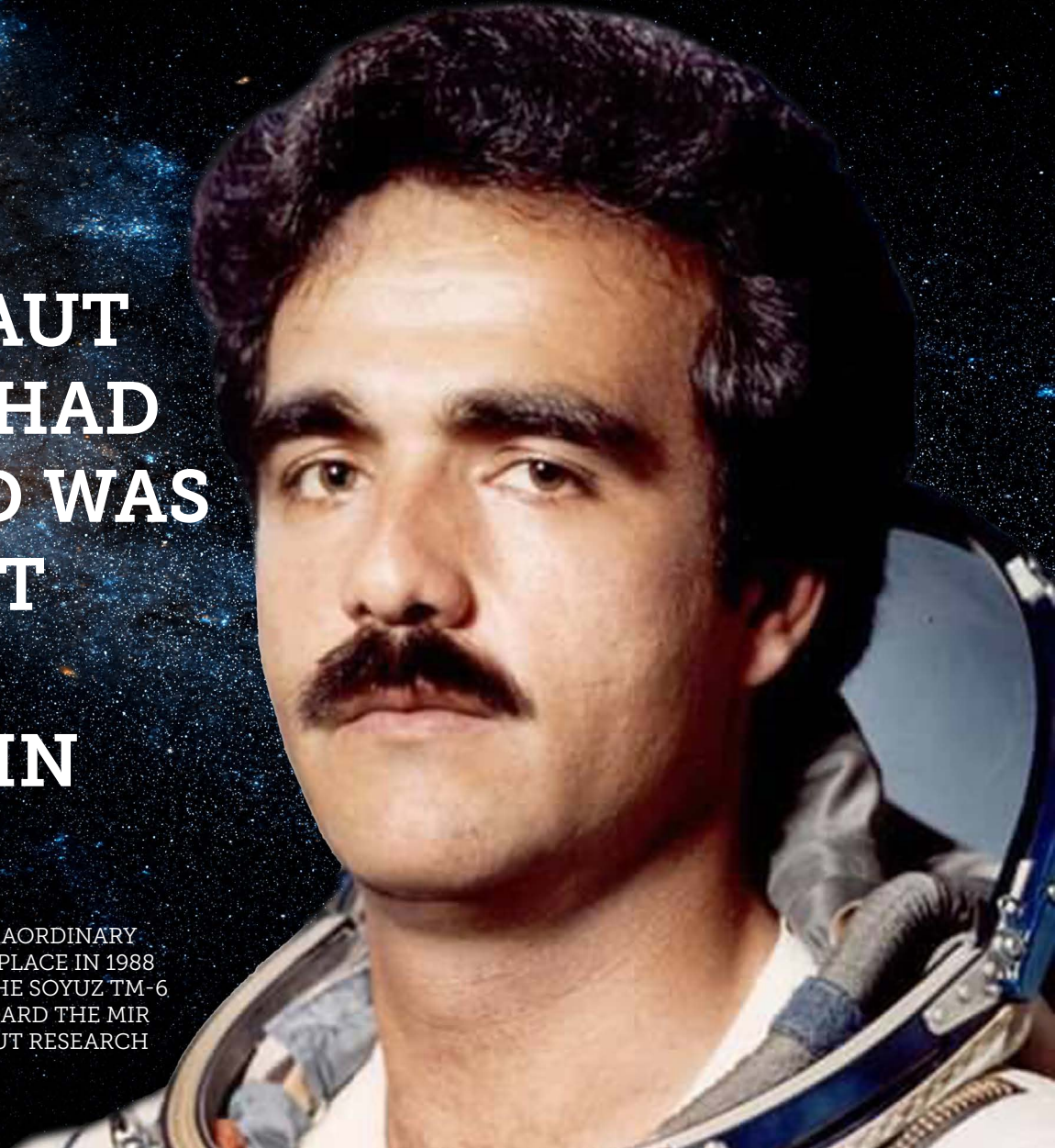
Rising majestically above the city of Saint Louis, Missouri, the Gateway Archstands as a towering symbol of American ingenuity and...

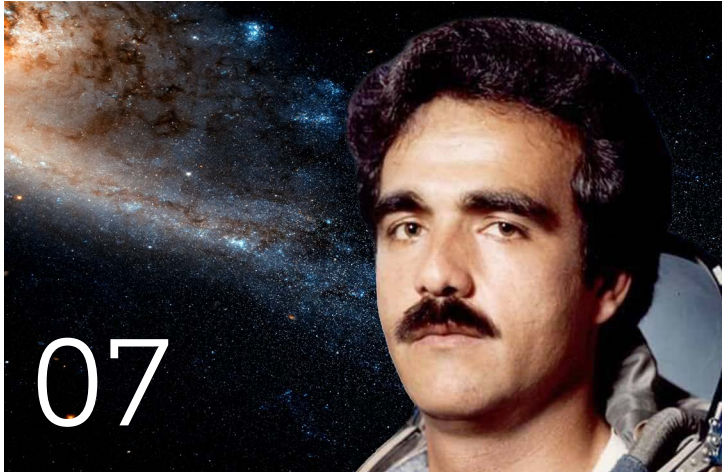
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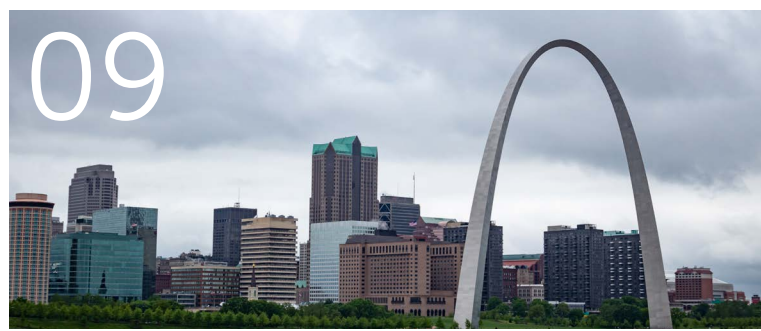
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**CAPTURING COUNTLESS TALES  
IN A SINGLE SNAPSHOT**



## AFGHAN COMMUNITY CENTER

The Afghan Community Center is a vibrant and inclusive space in Saint Louis that serves as a hub for the Afghan community and fosters connections with the broader community.

The Afghan Community Center seeks to develop a center that reflects the diverse needs, aspirations, and cultural heritage of the Afghan community in the United States. The ultimate goal is to create a welcoming environment that promotes social integration, empowerment, and mutual understanding.

The Afghan Community Center aspires to create a dynamic and inclusive space that celebrates Afghan culture, fosters social cohesion, and empowers individuals and families to thrive within the St. Louis community.

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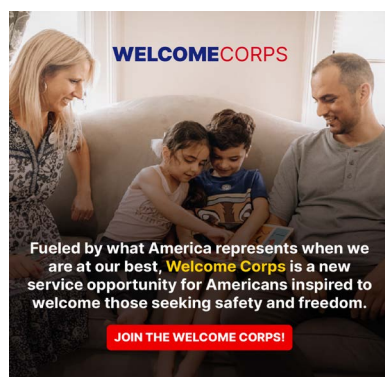
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# WELCOME CORPS: REIMAGINING REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN THE U.S.

The International Institute of St. Louis has been resettling refugees across our region for over a century, providing essential services for thousands of foreign-born people from more than 80 countries. The world today, however, looks different than when we opened our doors in 1919. Escalating conflicts are on the rise and there are more refugees in the world than ever before. For the past decade, the number of refugees has increased year-over-year, totaling 29.4 million by the end of 2022 (via [UNHCR](#)). It was recently announced by [Welcome Corps](#), a new and innovative refugee resettlement program, that the [International Institute of St. Louis](#) is along with eleven other organizations across the country would serve as Private Sponsorship Organizations, helping provide oversight and assistance for those looking to individually sponsor refugees here in the United States.

Welcome Corps builds on our community's incredible willingness to welcome by making it possible for everyday Americans to privately sponsor refugees from across the world. In the past couple years, we have seen an overwhelming response from the St. Louisans who have stepped up to first welcome our Afghan allies and then, less than six months later, Ukrainians displaced by war. People from other countries around the world, including Venezuela, Haiti, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nicaragua, continue to flee violence and oppression in their home countries. They are seeking the safety, freedom and refuge that our country and community have to offer.

This new program will allow groups of friends, coworkers, congregation members—anyone in the community—to form Private Sponsor



Groups, who help refugee families find and furnish their first apartment, get a job, improve their English skills, enroll their children in school, and connect with community services. The International Institute has been accepted as a Private Sponsor

## WELCOMECORPS

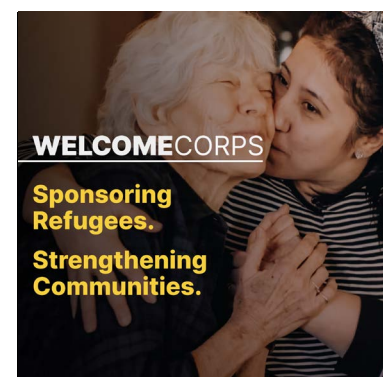
is the **boldest innovation in** refugee resettlement in the United States in more than **40 years**.

Through Welcome Corps more Americans can welcome refugee newcomers from around the world.

**Sponsoring Refugees.  
Strengthening Communities.  
Join me!**

Organization that will support these sponsor groups as they carry out their welcoming activities. As we have been resettling refugees in the community for more than a century, we will offer our expertise and guidance throughout the process. However, community members interested in participating in Welcome Corps already have the most important expertise—a knowledge of your community, including how to get to the library, where to purchase groceries and the best way to spend the weekend in St. Louis.

[Welcome Corps](#) will enable more St. Louisans and more welcoming communities around the country to provide a soft landing for arriving refugees. Sponsorship is the ultimate act of



welcome and, with the support of the International Institute, anyone can do it -- including you! Through this opportunity, we can provide hope and support to people building a new life in our community.



Betsy Cohen

Executive Director of the St. Louis Mosaic Project of the World Trade Center-STL, St. Louis

The St. Louis region has been positively impacted by the arrival of Afghan families to our community over the past two years. Organizations and individuals have reacted by helping Afghan families get started in their new American lives. This means assistance with everything from housing to education to work. Some of this work has been done by the [International Institute St. Louis](#) and other organizations including [Welcome Neighbor](#), [Bilingual International Assistance Services](#), and [Oasis Ministries](#). In addition, the St. Louis [Mosaic Project](#) has helped specifically with some of the job placement opportunities for the Afghan newcomers.

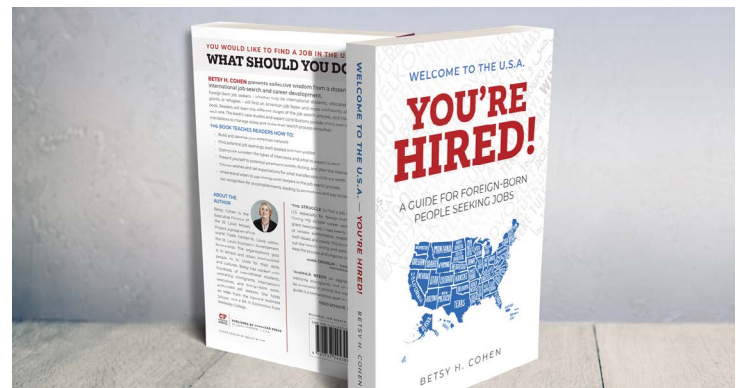
When new Afghan people come to the United States, the most important aspect of getting established and getting work will be the quality of the person's English language skills. For the Afghan arrivals, we have helped some of the Afghan people who had strong English skills to update their resumes and make workplace connections. What is most important is building relationships that will lead to jobs- building relationships takes skills in both English and conversational abilities.

One reason I wrote a book called "[Welcome to the U.S.A.-You're Hired!](#) A Guide for Foreign-Born People Seeking Jobs" is that our Afghan new job seekers need to understand the unique ways that Americans form relationships-what are the best topics to share, how to follow up with interviews, how to make a good impression for an interview online or in person? Beyond the tips in the book, programs like the St. Louis Mosaic Project's Professional Connector Program can help make career introductions that connect the Afghan person's skills

## BUILDING CAREERS AND BRIDGING COMMUNITIES

from Afghanistan that can translate to a job in America. We have helped those from Afghanistan make professional connections leading to jobs in accounting, finance, construction, technology, project management and communications.

If skills in English are not at a strong level to meet local people, complete online job applications or do in-person interviews, I highly recommend these ways to improve English skills. Through the Parkway School District, they have in-person and online English classes for adults, and there are other English language programs in the region as well. Working a job that is below your skill level, a "survival job", is often necessary as a first step, but it is also a place to use English as much as possible to get those skills increased. You can volunteer at a child's school, join a soccer team or volunteer at an animal shelter or other organization that has newcomers working side-by-side with local native Eng-



lish speakers. While it is hard to make time to volunteer when you may be already working one or more jobs, the English skills are key to your future job success at higher career skill and pay levels.

The Afghan people new to St. Louis are smart, hardworking and resilient. We have resources for your success and will work with you to fulfill the dreams you have for your family. We welcome you!



## EXPLORING THE RICHNESS OF AFGHANISTAN'S CULTURAL HERITAGE

Afghanistan, a country known for its turbulent history, has a cultural heritage that spans over thousands of years. Afghanistan boasts a remarkable richness in its cultural heritage, offering a glimpse into the country's fascinating past and diverse traditions. From ancient [archaeological](#) sites to traditional crafts and vibrant festivals, Afghanistan's cultural heritage is a testament to its enduring spirit and resilience.

One of the most notable aspects of Afghanistan's cultural heritage is its archaeological treasures. The country is home to numerous archaeological sites that date back to different periods, including the ancient civilizations of the Achaemenids, Mauryans, Greeks, and Kushans. Sites such as the [Bamiyan Valley](#), with its towering [Buddha statues](#) that tragically fell victim to destruction, and the ancient [city of Balkh](#), which was a center of learning and trade on the [Silk Road](#), offer glimpses into Afghanistan's glorious past. Afghanistan's cultural heritage is not limited to grand archaeological sites; it is also deeply rooted in its people's daily lives. Traditional crafts and arts play a significant role in Afghan culture, showcasing the skills and creativity of its artisans. Exquisite [hand-woven carpets](#), intricate jewelry, and delicate pottery are just a few examples of the crafts that have been passed down through gen-

erations. These crafts not only reflect the aesthetic sensibilities of Afghan culture but also serve as a source of income for many artisans, contributing to the preservation of cultural heritage.

Furthermore, Afghanistan's cultural heritage can be experienced through its vibrant festivals and celebrations. Afghan festivals, such as [Nawroz](#) (New Year) and [Eid al-Fitr](#) (the festival marking the end of Ramadan), are occasions of joy and communal harmony. These festivals bring people together, offering an opportunity to experience traditional music, dance, and cuisine. The colorful attire worn during these celebrations reflects the cultural diversity and traditions of different [ethnic groups in Afghanistan](#).

National and international organizations are working towards the conservation of archaeological sites and the revitalization of traditional crafts. Initiatives are underway to document and digitize Afghanistan's cultural artifacts, making them accessible to a wider audience. These endeavors aim to protect and promote Afghanistan's cultural heritage as a source of pride and identity for its people.

Moreover, the recognition of Afghanistan's cultural heritage by the international community plays a crucial role in its preservation. UNESCO has designated several sites in Afghanistan as

World Heritage sites, including the Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam and the Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley. Such recognition highlights the global significance of Afghanistan's cultural heritage and emphasizes the need for its safeguarding.

In conclusion, Afghanistan's cultural heritage is a testament to the country's rich history and diverse traditions. From ancient archaeological sites to vibrant festivals and traditional crafts, Afghanistan offers a glimpse into a heritage that spans thousands of years. Preserving and promoting this cultural richness not only safeguards the country's past but also contributes to its present and future, fostering a sense of pride and identity among its people. By exploring Afghanistan's cultural heritage, one can gain a deeper appreciation for the country's resilience and the enduring power of its traditions.

## AFGHAN ASTRONAUT ABDUL AHAD MOMAND WAS THE FIRST AFGHAN CITIZEN IN SPACE

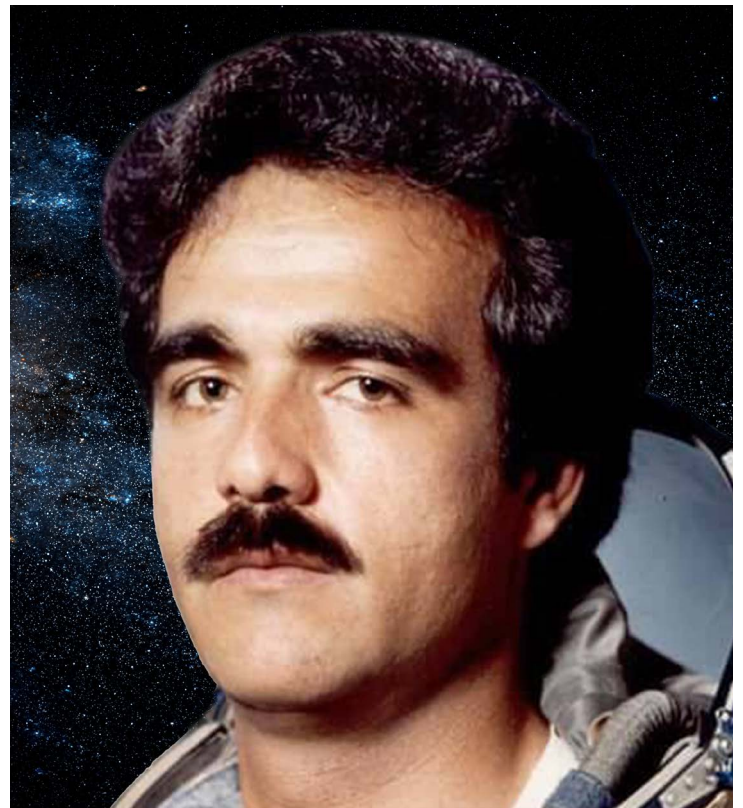
Abdul Ahad Momand, a former [Afghan Air Force](#) aviator, holds a unique place in history as the first and only Afghan citizen to venture into outer space. Born in 1959 in Band Sardeh, Andar District, Ghazni Province. In 1988, Momand achieved his extraordinary journey to outer space by becoming a member of the [Soyuz TM-6](#) crew. He spent nine days aboard the [Mir](#) space station as a [Intercosmos](#) Research Cosmonaut. This remarkable feat made him an iconic figure and a record-holder in the field of Afghan space exploration. Notably, Momand made history during his mission by becoming the first cosmonaut to speak the Pashto language. He accomplished this by making a telephone call to Afghanistan, officially making Pashto the fourth language spoken in space. This outstanding achievement added to his distinction as the first Afghan citizen and the [fourth Muslim](#) to visit outer space, following in the footsteps of Sultan bin Salman Al Saud, Muhammed Faris, and Musa Manarov.

Momand's journey to space was the result of a lifelong dedication to aviation and military service. After completing his initial schooling, he pursued higher education at [Kabul Polytechnic University](#) in 1976 and graduated a year later before being drafted into the military. Momand then received pilot training in the Soviet Union, studying at the prestigious Krasnodar Higher Air Force School and the Kiev Higher Air Force Engineering School.

Returning to Afghanistan in 1981, he excelled in his military career and eventually reached the rank of chief navigator.

In 1984, Momand went back to the USSR for training at the renowned Gagarin Air Force Academy. After his graduation in 1987, he was chosen as a cosmonaut candidate for the Cosmonaut project. Mohammad Dawran, a Tajik [MiG-21](#) pilot, was initially selected for the primary crew. However, due to Dawran's appendicitis, Momand became the ideal choice, with Dawran joining the backup crew for Momand's mission. Alongside Commander Vladimir Lyakhov and Flight Engineer Valery Polyakov, Momand embarked on his historic journey on August 29, 1988, at 04:23 GMT.

During his nine-day stay on the Mir space station, Momand conducted various experiments in astrophysics, medicine, and biology. He also had the opportunity to speak to President Mohammed Najibullah and even brewed Afghan tea for the crew, sharing a touch of Afghan culture. Additionally, at the request of the Afghan Government, Momand recited the Quran in space while another crew member held his legs outside the cam-



era frame to prevent him from floating away.

On September 6, Momand, alongside Lyakhov, returned to Earth aboard Soyuz TM-5. The landing, initially scheduled for that day, was delayed due to mechanical complications on the Mir. However, both cosmonauts remained in touch with Mission Control and were in good health, despite the inconvenience of lacking proper sanitation facilities during the delay. The retro-fire was successful the following day, and at 00:50 GMT, Soyuz TM-5 landed near [Dzhezkazgan](#).

Upon his return, Abdul Ahad Momand was appointed as the deputy minister of civil aviation in Afghanistan. However, his tenure in this position was cut short by the challenges posed by the Mujahideen's takeover and the subsequent failure of Soviet forces.



## AFGHAN PROVERBS AND HUMOR

In Afghanistan, the beauty and wisdom of proverbs hold a special place in the hearts of its people, permeating their daily conversations and public discourse. The rich tapestry of Afghan culture finds expression through these timeless expressions, which are valued and utilized more frequently than in Western societies, leaving a profound impact on listeners. [1]

Among the diverse linguistic landscape of Afghanistan, the most extensive collections of proverbs can be found in Pashto and Dari, the country's official languages. These linguistic gems are woven into the fabric of Afghan society, serving as a testament to the depth of their cultural heritage and linguistic prowess. Proverbs not only reflect the wisdom and experiences of generations past but also serve as valuable tools for communication and imparting moral lessons.

"Even on a mountain, there is still a road" Meaning there is a solution for every problem.

"The wound of the sword/gun will heal, but not that of the tongue" Meaning Thoughtless words can wound as deeply as any sword, but wisely spoken words can heal.

"If you plan to keep elephants/

camels, make your door high" If you are planning big to achieve great things you need to be patient and sober.

"An intelligent enemy is better than a foolish friend" Meaning chose your friends wisely

"With too many butchers, the cow dies without being ceremonially slaughtered correctly" Meaning spoil the broth.

"laughter is the best medicine" is a popular expression that highlights the positive effects of laughter on overall well-being. Laughing can have physical effects on the body, such as reducing stress hormones, increasing oxygen intake, stimulating the heart and lungs, and boosting the immune system. Afghans, like people from many cultures around the world, have a strong inclination towards humor and making jokes. It's important to note that humor varies among individuals, and not all Afghans may engage in joke-telling to the same extent. Additionally, humor can differ across regions and social contexts within Afghanistan. Nevertheless, the prevalence of jokes in Afghan culture reflects the enduring spirit, resilience, and creativity of its people.

### Mulla Nasruddin

One day Mullah Nasruddin entered his favorite teahouse and declared, "The moon is more useful than the sun". An old man asked, "Why Mullah?" Mullah Nasruddin replied, "Because we need the light more during the night than during the day".

Standing by his word

A friend asked Mullah Nasruddin how old he was. "Forty", replied the Mullah. The friend said, "but you said the same thing two years ago!". "Yes", replied the Mullah, "I always stand by what I have said".

A greeting card

Mulla Nasrudin was looking over greeting cards. the salesman said, "here's a nice one – "to the only girl i ever loved." "wonderful," said nasrudin. "i will take six."







## AN ARCHITECTURAL MARVEL

Rising majestically above the [city of Saint Louis](#), Missouri, the [Gateway Arch](#) stands as a towering symbol of American ingenuity and pioneering spirit. As an iconic landmark and a testament to human innovation, this extraordinary structure has captured the imagination of millions of visitors from around the world. The Saint Louis Gateway Arch is not merely a magnificent monument; it is an architectural marvel that holds historical significance and offers unparalleled views of the city and beyond.

### Architecture:

At first glance, the Gateway Arch appears deceptively simple—an elegant, curved stainless steel ribbon soaring 630 feet (192 meters) into the sky. However, beneath its sleek exterior lies a meticulously engineered framework that ensures its stability and endurance. The arch's unique shape, reminiscent of a parabolic curve, was achieved using triangular sections joined together to form a graceful, upward-reaching arc. Construction of the Gateway Arch began in February 1963 and was completed in October 1965, with the final stainless-steel segment being put in place. The visionary mind

behind its creation was the renowned architect [Eero Saarinen](#), whose aim was to capture the essence of progress and openness that defined the American spirit.

### Symbolism:

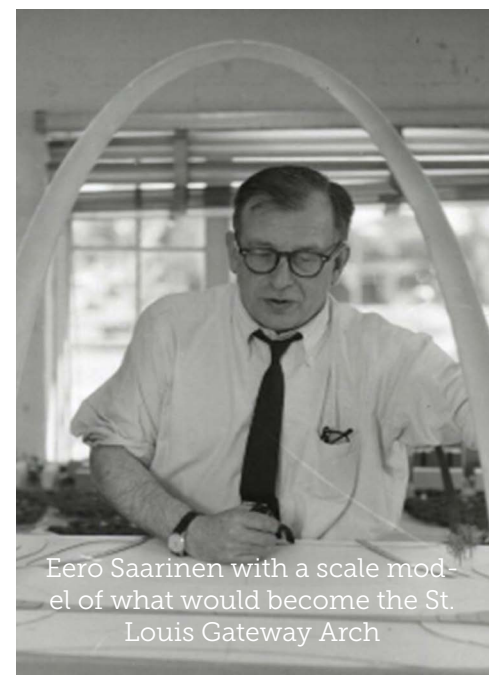
Beyond its aesthetic and technical achievements, the Gateway Arch holds profound symbolism. As its name suggests, it serves as a welcoming gateway to the American West, evoking the spirit of exploration and adventure that characterized the nation's expansion. It stands as a tribute to the countless pioneers, explorers, and settlers who journeyed through Saint Louis in search of new horizons, pushing the boundaries of what was possible.

### Visitors' Experience:

Ascending the Gateway Arch via a unique tram system is an experience unlike any other. As [visitors journey](#) to the top, they are treated to breathtaking panoramic views of the city, the Mississippi River, and the vast expanse of the surrounding landscape. The observation deck atop the arch offers an unparalleled vantage point, allowing visitors to appreciate the magnitude of the arch's design while immersing themselves

in the rich history and natural beauty that surrounds it.

The Saint Louis Gateway Arch is an innovative design to its historical significance, this architectural masterpiece has earned its place as one of the most recognizable landmarks in the United States. Whether you visit to marvel at its engineering marvel or to soak in the breathtaking views, the Gateway Arch promises an unforgettable experience that embodies the spirit of exploration and progress.



Eero Saarinen with a scale model of what would become the St. Louis Gateway Arch

## BAND-E-AMIR NATIONAL PARK, AFGHANISTAN'S NATURAL JEWEL

Nestled amid the rugged mountains of Afghanistan lies a hidden gem of natural beauty and tranquility - [Band-e-Amir National Park](#). Known for its breathtaking turquoise lakes, towering cliffs, and pristine landscapes, this national park has captivated visitors with its awe-inspiring scenery and rich biodiversity. Despite the country's turbulent past, Band-e-Amir remains a symbol of hope and resilience, showcasing the resilience of nature and the enduring spirit of Afghanistan.

Band-e-Amir is a geological wonder, boasting a series of six stunning lakes formed by the natural damming of the Band-e-Amir River. The lakes, with their vibrant blue and green hues, are the park's most iconic feature. Fed by natural springs and rainwater, these mineral-rich lakes offer a surreal sight, especially against the backdrop of the surrounding arid landscape. Each lake possesses its own distinct character, creating a diverse and picturesque setting.

The first and largest lake, Band-e-Haibat, welcomes visitors with its sparkling blue waters and serves as a popular spot for swimming and boating. Next

in line is Band-e-Gholaman, which translates to "Slave's Dam," named after a legend that adds a touch of mystique to the park. Further exploration leads to Band-e-Panj, Band-e-Zulfiqar, Band-e-Pudina, and Band-e-Kambar, each offering unique vistas and a sense of tranquility. These pristine lakes provide opportunities for leisurely walks, picnics, and unforgettable photography sessions.

Band-e-Amir is home to a remarkable array of flora and fauna, adapting to the challenging high-altitude terrain. The park's vegetation ranges from grasslands and shrubs to scattered trees, providing habitats for a diverse range of wildlife. Visitors may encounter foxes, wolves, ibex, and a variety of bird species as they explore the park. The park's isolation and relatively undisturbed environment have helped preserve its unique ecosystems, making it a vital conservation area for Afghanistan's biodiversity.

Beyond its natural splendor, Band-e-Amir holds immense cultural and historical significance. The lakes and surrounding areas have been revered for centuries and are considered sacred by many lo-

cal. The region's cultural heritage is intertwined with legends and tales that have been passed down through generations. Visitors can witness the remnants of ancient settlements and historical sites, providing glimpses into Afghanistan's rich past.

Efforts have been made to promote Band-e-Amir National Park as a tourist destination. The park's unique beauty has attracted both domestic and international visitors, offering an opportunity for economic growth and job creation for local communities. [Tourism](#) initiatives have also played a role in raising awareness about the importance of conserving the park's delicate ecosystems, promoting sustainable practices, and protecting the wildlife that calls Band-e-Amir home.

Band-e-Amir stands as a testament to the [natural wonders](#) that Afghanistan has to offer. Its stunning turquoise lakes, dramatic cliffs, and rich biodiversity create a captivating experience for visitors.



**WE ARE ALL NEEDED: AWARD CEREMONY CELEBRATES WELCOMING COMMUNITY MEMBERS**



The St. Louis community has a history of welcoming newcomers. For several months, we have shared and showcased Community Partner organizations who are working directly with the International Institute and our refugee clients. However, there is more work and more impact that happens beyond these four walls and beyond the refugee resettlement process. We were fortunate enough to honor strong community supporters at the annual [World Refugee Day](#) celebration hosted on Saturday, June 17.

We awarded four awards at the event in the following cate-

gories: Global Bridge Builder Award, Youth Community Champion Award, New Horizons Achievement Award, and Community Advocacy Award.

**Global Bridge Builder Award: Jack & Claudia Wright**

The Global Bridge Builder Award recognizes the exceptional dedication and tireless efforts of individuals in fostering a sense of belonging and empowerment among immigrants and refugees. The recipient demonstrates remarkable compassion, empathy, and a commitment to bridging cultures, helping newcomers integrate into their new communities, and creating a more inclusive society for all. Their selfless contributions have positively impacted the lives of countless individuals and have exemplified the spirit of unity and understanding.

When Afghanistan fell in 2021 and the tsunami of donations hit the International Institute Jack and Claudia appeared

out of nowhere to begin organizing the items that at one point filled the gym floor, attic, stage and multiple warehouse rooms. Donated items support apartment set-ups for newly arriving families. Not only that, Jack and Claudia have since set up online wishlists through Target and Walmart so donations can be streamlined for the most-needed items.

**Youth Community Champion Award: Sahar Hussainni**



*Continued on page 12*

The Youth Community Champion Award honors the outstanding achievements and remarkable impact of a young individual who has made a significant difference in their community. This recipient has demonstrated exceptional leadership, dedication, and a passion for creating positive change. Through their innovative initiatives, tireless efforts, and ability to mobilize others, they have tackled pressing community issues, improved the lives of community members, and inspired others to take action. Their unwavering commitment to making a difference serves as an inspiration to their peers and highlights the transformative power of youth engagement in building stronger and more vibrant communities.

Sahar is a student at Saint Louis University. She also serves as a member of the National Youth Leadership Council for Refugees and Newcomers Pilot initiative. As a refugee herself from Afghanistan, she is an active member of the Afghan community, though just moving to the United States three years ago. Aside from her studies and community work, Sahar is an artist who enjoys reading novels and poems.

**New Horizons Achievement Award: Little Angels Foundation**



The New Horizons Achievement Award celebrates the remarkable achievements and significant impact of a business or organization founded by a first-generation immigrant or refugee OR one that demonstrates exceptional commitment to serving immigrants and refugees. This award acknowledges the visionary leadership, entrepreneurial spirit, and dedication to breaking barriers and creating opportunities for individuals from diverse backgrounds.

The recipient has demonstrated outstanding innovation, resilience, and a deep understanding of the unique challenges faced by immigrants and refugees. Through their transformative efforts, they have opened new doors, empowered communities, and provided invaluable support to newcomers on their journey to success and integration. Their pioneering work exemplifies the power of diversity, inclusivity, and the limitless possibilities that arise when different cultures come together.

**Little Angels Foundation**, founded in 2013, had a vision to help children in resource-scarce communities with food and school supplies. Since 2018, Little Angels Foundation has served more than 151,000 meals to people experiencing homelessness, migrants, children and refugees. Little Angels Foundation is part of the vision to create communities that are hunger-free and resilient.

**Community Advocacy Award: Susan Gobo**

The Community Advocacy Award recognizes the exceptional dedication and impactful advocacy efforts of individuals who tirelessly work as community advocates for the



immigrant and refugee population. This award honors those who have shown unwavering commitment, compassion, and a deep understanding of the unique challenges faced by immigrants and refugees. These advocates have been instrumental in building bridges, fostering understanding, and promoting the rights and well-being of newcomers in their communities. Their tireless efforts in raising awareness, providing support, and advocating for inclusive policies have created a more welcoming and inclusive society. Through their advocacy, they have empowered individuals, strengthened communities, and helped bridge the gaps between cultures.

Originally from Brazil, Susan Gobo is passionate about learning about different cultures and connecting people. Susan has co-founded three separate organizations and networking groups in St. Louis to ensure that newcomers feel welcome and have available resources and support; St. Louis International Spouses/Expat Women Group, St. Louis International Mentoring Program, and Professional Women Network Group. She has also contributed to several books, and serves on various boards and steering committees focusing on diversity, equity, and inclusion. By loving The Lou, she wants everyone who moves to the city to have this same feeling.

# IMPORT MOTORS

IMPORT MOTORS, YOUR ROAD TO GREAT DEALS



Import Motors is a thriving Afghan-owned and operated business that has become a trusted name in the used car industry in St. Louis. Since its establishment in 2016, this family-owned business has built a strong reputation for reliability and customer satisfaction. What began as a small jewelry business inside a mall has evolved into a flourishing enterprise specializing in offering high-quality used vehicles. The success of Import Motors St. Louis can be attributed to the unwavering dedication and passion of its Afghan owners, who have consistently delivered top-notch service to their valued customers.

**CarEurus®**

**TOP RATED DEALER**



**RECOGNIZING EXCEPTIONAL CUSTOMER SERVICE**

**BEST VALUE**



**At Import Motors, we offer competitive prices without compromising on quality. We believe in honesty and transparency, so we ensure that all our vehicles undergo rigorous inspections. We want you to have peace of mind when you drive off our lot, knowing that you've made a great investment.**



Our mission is to make quality used vehicles accessible to all, which is why we offer competitive prices right here in South St. Louis. We understand the importance of embracing technology, and we have integrated it into our operations to cater to the diverse needs of our customers. Whether you prefer to shop online or visit our physical location, we provide a seamless experience.

We take pride in helping our customers overcome language barriers, navigate the complexities of registrations and driver's license processes, and find affordable vehicles that meet their unique requirements.



# AFGHAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP GRANT COMPETITION ROUND 3

APPLY BY JULY 30TH, 2023



[www.iistl.org/afghan-entrepreneurship-fund/](http://www.iistl.org/afghan-entrepreneurship-fund/)

APPLY TODAY!

## AFGHAN COMMUNITY ENTREPRENEURSHIP GRANT COMPETITION ROUND 3

The fund will assist refugees and immigrants from Afghanistan to start, strengthen and expand their businesses. It's a grant allocated to Afghan community development, this fund is available to financially support new arrival Afghan entrepreneurs to develop businesses and create employment for new refugees, immigrants and community.



### Eligibility

- Afghan refugee, immigrant, asylee, green card holders and parolee
- Moved to the US after August 2021
- Either start-up OR business expansion
- Business must be in Saint Louis City or County

### Requirements

- Business license, Business entity & EIN
- Detailed business plan including financial statements
- Submit detailed over all business budget
- Submit comprehensive budget of how the grant will be utilized

### Grant Funding

- \$15,000 grant
- 10 grants available
- Goal to develop Afghan businesses
- Funded by Afghan Support Program

APPLY BY JULY 30TH, 2023


[www.iistl.org/afghan-entrepreneurship-fund](http://www.iistl.org/afghan-entrepreneurship-fund)





Afghan Journal is thrilled to announce that our newspaper is now open to submissions from talented local authors. Share your captivating stories with us and let your voice be heard. Send us your articles today!

 3611 South Grand, Suite 105, St. Louis, Missouri

 +1 314 827 1821

 Hamdardh@iistl.org

 Afghan-cc.org