



2017 Annual Report



Letter from the Chairman



When 2017 began, Miles4Migrants was an organization with all of two-and-a-half months of existence under its belt. We'd flown just a single family to be reunited in safety, had made just a single agreement with a refugee assistance charity that then ran out of funding and closed, and had a bank account with a balance of \$121.80. What we did have, however, was a powerful grassroots idea: that people all around the world would give up their frequent flyer miles to reunite refugee families in safety. As the year wore on, more and more people and organizations rallied to support our charity and grow our mission. Because of this support we flew 93 people from 39 refugee families to safety in 2017. Our families were originally from twelve countries across the globe and relocated to five new countries where they can finally live with their loved ones again in peace. We also reunited at least three fathers with children they'd never before seen in person, as well as bringing another to the UK just in time to see his wife give birth to their first child.

Our successful family reunions this year are first and foremost a result of generous donations on the part of our donors. These individuals not only took a leap by working with a new nonprofit charity but also in many cases passed up their own vacations or other plans with their miles to instead bring a family back together. Overall, Miles4Migrants used over 1.9 million frequent flyer miles and credit card points from our donors during 2017.

We have also benefited greatly from our associations with our charity partners across the globe: Together Now in the UK, Caritas International in Belgium, Small Projects Istanbul in Turkey, Collateral Repair Project in Jordan, and No One Left Behind in the USA. Each of these organizations also took a leap and collaborated with us to reunite at least one family in 2017, working through the minutiae of visa applications, donor agreements and other logistics to reach that final goal we all wanted. Without these charity partnerships Miles4Migrants wouldn't have anyone to fly, as we do not take cases directly. Furthermore, our website and donations management is a result of a crucial partnership with TMMData, a world-renowned company providing data management solutions that has donated the use of their platform, Foundation, to our organization in order to help reunite refugee families.

We're also grateful to the multitude of donors, both individuals and businesses, who gave us cash to cover taxes and fees on our award flight bookings. Our "average" individual client in 2017 required around \$59 in cash to cover fees and taxes on their award ticket, and the individuals that gave to our charity made sure that all of these expenses were covered.

We are sincerely looking forward to expanding our reach in 2018: creating more partnerships, taking in more donations and, of course, reuniting even more families. We pledge to each and every one of our supporters that we will do everything we can to make sure that anything you donate to us, whether that is money, points, miles or expertise, will be used to get as many families back together in safety as we can possibly help.

Thanks!

Seth Stanton
Chairman and CEO
Miles4Migrants

How We Work



Miles4Migrants is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity and works through partnership with other charities working directly with refugees. We have general Master Agreements covering our respective roles in helping to bring refugee families to safety and reunion, as well as several forms to be filled out for individual cases. For examples please contact us at <http://miles4migrants.org/contact>.

In general, here's how it works (note that donations of Aeroplan, Starwood Preferred Guest, or American Express Membership Rewards points are much more simple and do not follow this outline).

- 1 A refugee family working with one of our partner charities requests financial aid to be reunited. Our partner vets the family for Miles4Migrants program suitability and, if the family qualifies, makes an application. We then receive paperwork signed and filled out by the refugee recipient and our partner charity.
- 2 Our donor completes a form formalizing his/her pledge.
- 3 Miles4Migrants sends the donor an encrypted email with the recipient information and booking instructions.
- 4 The donor then books the recipient family's travel with our assistance. How this is done varies depending on the type of points or miles used and the donor's comfort with flight booking. Miles4Migrants does have options for some frequent flyer and points programs where we can book the flights without time commitment from the donor.
- 5 Refugee family reunion ensues!

**To pledge miles or money and be a part
of our next reunion go to
<http://miles4migrants.org>**

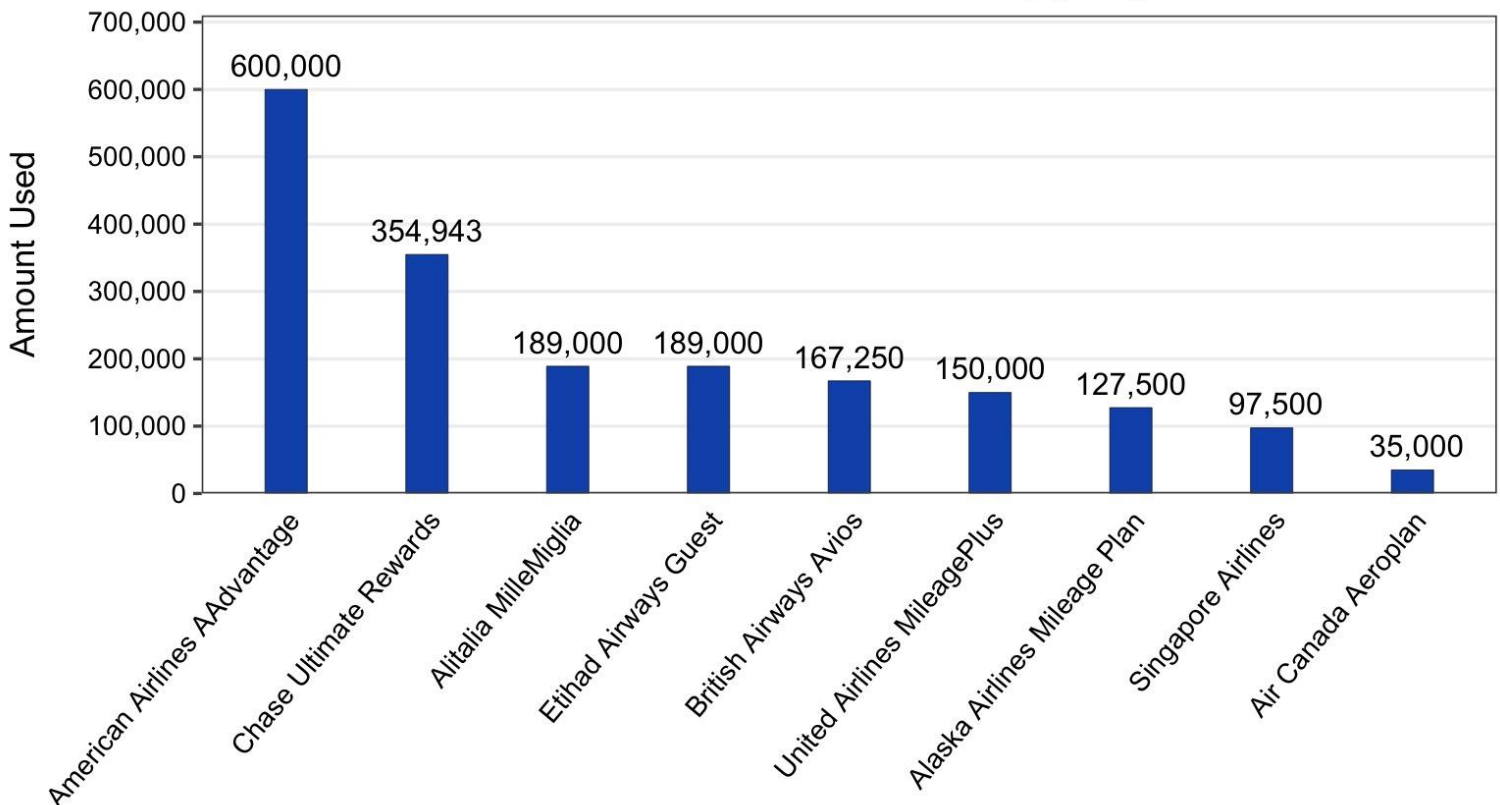
2017 Donation Usage



Miles4Migrants used a total of 1,910,193 miles in 2017. We also used \$5,491 to cover taxes and fees, of which \$2,396 was paid by our miles donors at the time of flight booking. This \$2,396 is not included in the financial statements seen later in this report as it was not ever within the accounts of Miles4Migrants and is not considered a donation per IRS rules.

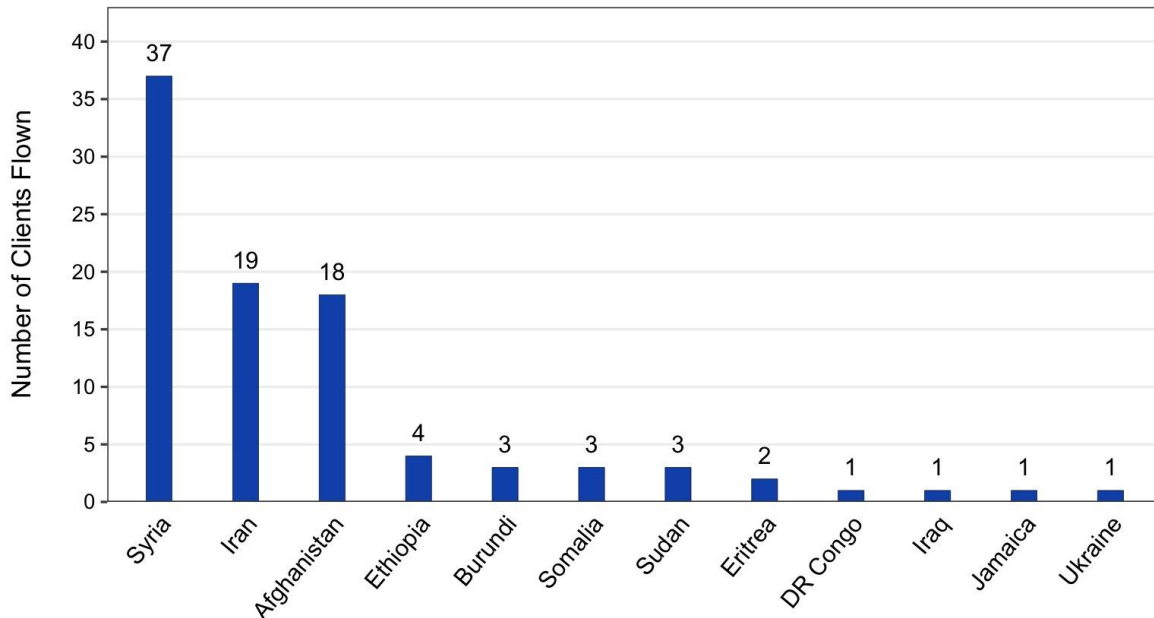
Total miles used	Total money used	Total cash value	Approximate value, cents per point used	Total people flown	Total families flown
1,910,193	\$5,490.87	\$48,719	2.263	93	39
Miles per person	Dollars per person	Cash value per person	Money paid by miles donors		
20,540	\$59.04	\$523.86	\$2,396.52		

Points/miles used in 2017, by program

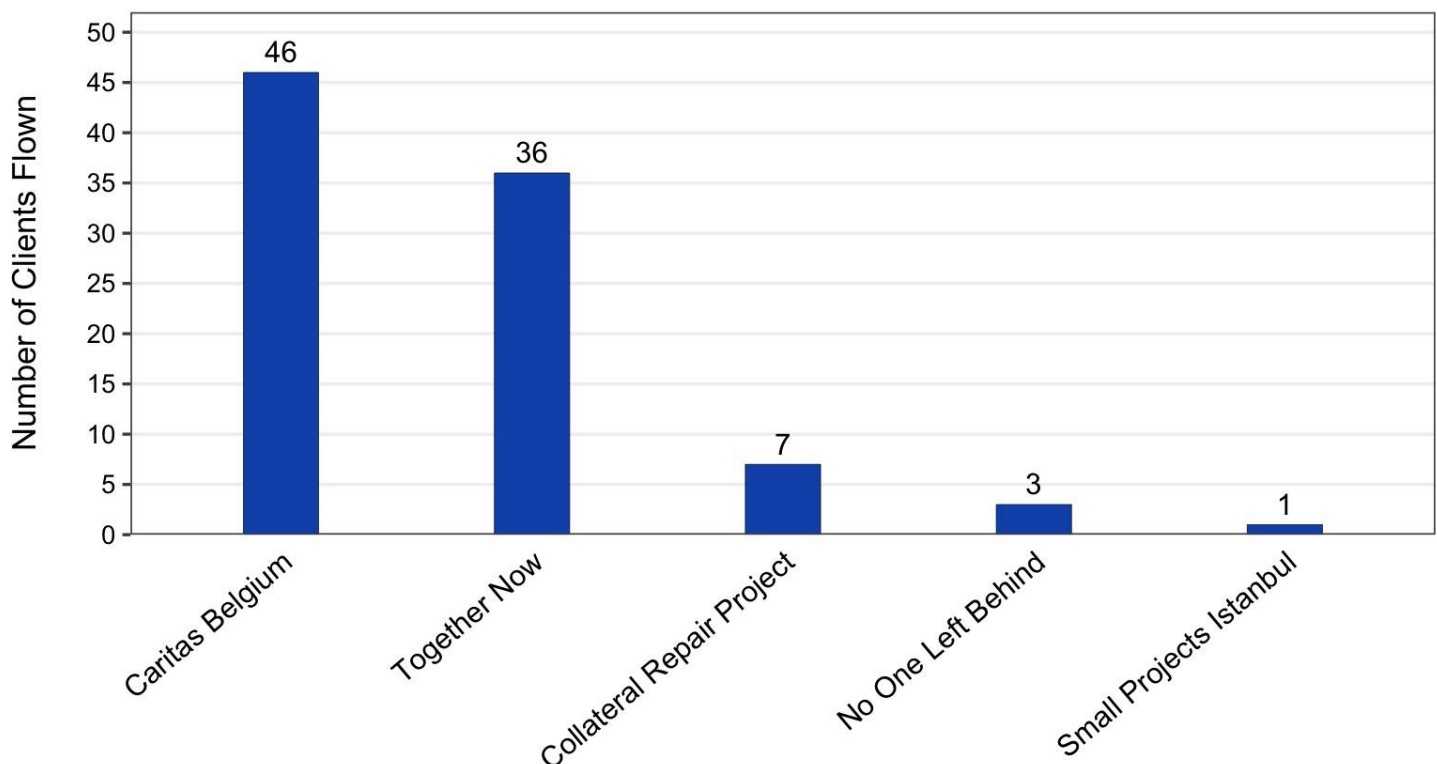


Clients flown, by country of origin and partner organization

Number of clients flown in 2017, by country of origin









Number of clients flown in 2017, by partner



The Miles4Migrants Team



	<p>Seth Stanton is an eye doctor in New Orleans, Louisiana, and the chairman/CEO of Miles4Migrants. An unabashed frequent flyer miles junkie, he has worked hard to create a charity that can fill an unmet need in the current worldwide refugee crisis.</p>
	<p>Ryan Booth owns three Mathnasium learning centers in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He is the treasurer of Miles4Migrants and has used his own miles to fly to the Middle East and see the migrant crisis firsthand, in addition to personally donating miles to reunite a refugee family separated by the war in Syria.</p>
	<p>Nicholas Ruiz is a researcher in Machine Translation and Natural Language Processing in New Providence, New Jersey. He is the secretary of Miles4Migrants and has used his own miles to arrange flights to reunite two Pakistani Christian refugee families who he was close with while he was living in Europe. After he reported the event on the /r/churning subreddit, the idea of Miles4Migrants was born.</p>
	<p>Andy Freedman works with early stage global technology companies. Most recently he was CMO at Riskified, a global fraud prevention platform with headquarters in Tel Aviv and New York. In his search to identify measurable ways he could support the refugee crisis, Andy stumbled upon the like-minded and fellow miles reward obsessed team at Miles4Migrants and is working to help drive the mission however possible.</p>
	<p>Salman Sheikh is a points and miles enthusiast with an immense passion for traveling and sports. He is a fan of all sports, especially basketball (team Durant), and football (NY Football Giants). As a young teenager he dreamed of playing in the NBA but when that dream slipped away he decided to become a pharmacist and currently practices in Brooklyn, New York.</p>
	<p>Angel Wang is a management consultant at A.T.Kearney, focusing on digital transformation and financial services. She has worked in Turkey, Spain and Greece, but one of her most cherished locations is with her family in Michigan. Her experiences serving in Kara Tepe Refugee Camp in Lesvos and her gratefulness for her parents' sacrifices as immigrants drove her to Miles4Migrants, where she is continuously inspired by the group's passion.</p>

Some stories from 2017

Miles4Migrants reunited some incredible families in 2017. These families suffered unbelievable hardships: the deaths of parents or siblings, the loss of their homes to war or persecution, forced flight leaving wives to give birth alone or raise children without their husbands, teenagers bearing the burden of bringing their entire families out of danger and back together again. And yet all of these families persevered. They deserve to live and thrive peacefully. We are so proud to have helped them along the way.

We would also like to note that we flew 39 families in 2017 but that we had 41 reunion cases; on two occasions families for which our donors obtained tickets were unable to fly. We would like to point this out for a few reasons. First, we would like to be as transparent as possible about our operations. Second, the logistics of our clients' flights is complex and subject to vastly different rules based on flight origin, country of destination, types of identification used, layover countries and their visa laws, etc. Third, our information, both coming and going from us to our charity partner to the recipient family, must be passed through multiple hands and usually is also translated to another language at least once along the way. None of this, of course, is an excuse for the fact that on two occasions our donors' miles did not go toward a family reunion, but on both occasions our system of flight bookings were completely revamped to ensure that those particular issues cannot happen again.

Several of our recipient families have pledged to use their own miles to "pay it forward" for a Miles4Migrants case once they are settled and prospering in their new, adopted countries. We at Miles4Migrants are ecstatic at this concept.

Many of our recipient families are unwilling to publicly tell their stories because of threats of harm against their family members back home. Miles4Migrants takes the privacy of our recipients and our donors very seriously, and will only publicly release story details and identifying information in cases where it is explicitly allowed. In most cases, but not all, our donors do find out some additional information about the family they are reuniting in addition to the basics necessary to book their reunion flights.

On the following pages are a few of the stories, told in their own words, of families reunited by Miles4Migrants donors. For more stories, or to learn how you can get involved, go to <http://miles4migrants.org>.

For an interactive map of all of our cases from 2017 [follow this link](#).



Assalah was flown using a donation (from her family's new hero, Amy) of Chase Ultimate Rewards points. She flew on an itinerary from Amman, Jordan to Brussels, Belgium, traveling on Aegean Air.

Hello, my name is Assalah, I am 19 years old and I come from Iraq. My father has disappeared in Iraq since more than 2 years now. Probably died... That's why my mother, sister and brother had to run away from the country.

Because the road to Europe is dangerous and expensive, I stayed alone in Iraq, at my mum's relatives that I didn't know before...

I was living there, alone, staying at home, not going to school, neither to town, because the city was unsafe... It was really hard. I felt like a stranger. Two years is a long period to live like this... I was tired, psychologically and physically, to live far away from my family and to not know when we could be reunited again...

In Belgium, where my family had asked for asylum, my mother and my sister got sick. Cancer. My mother is good now but my sister is still on chemo ... It was also very hard on my mother to feel she left me alone. Her relatives kept on asking her when I will leave, because I was a charge for them... It was time of insecurity ...

After two years of procedure, my family finally had their refugee status in Belgium. Because I had reached majority at that time, the family reunion was no longer possible so we introduced a humanitarian visa application. It is an uncertain issue, that generally receives a negative answer and that takes long time... So it was a period of stress again...

By chance, everything went fast! When I knew they would allow me the visa, I felt like a bird, to which someone had opened the cage. I told them, at the embassy, "I feel I'm born again."

Then, someone in your organization, Amy, gave me the miles. And in such few days, you've paid for me the plane ticket that would take me back to my family, to my new life.

When I arrived at the airport in Belgium & when I saw my mother and sister, I felt peace and hope. I feel my health and mood have changed directly... I have begun to eat again ...

Me and my family are really thankful to all the people who helped us and supported us and made that all these procedures go faster.

To all of you: really, really, a huge THANK YOU.

Assalah

Nazafarin's husband was flown on British Airways from Tehran to London using a donation of British Airways Avios.

I was a teacher in Iran and my husband was a mechanical engineer. I had opinions about women's freedom and unfortunately the government didn't like it so I left my country to avoid being in prison for the rest of my life.

When I left Iran I was one month pregnant and really scared of being alone in a new country with a different culture.

Thankfully British people were very good to me but I still felt lonely without my husband.

We tried to stay in touch via the internet but it wasn't enough and I was pregnant, with no one in a new country. Both of us suffered a lot because we wanted to plan for our baby but couldn't do anything via the internet. My husband couldn't even feel the movement of the baby.

My baby got bigger and I got permission to stay in the UK. When I was 36 weeks pregnant my husband got permission to join me but with the high cost of travel it was impossible for him to come.

Thankfully the Red Cross put me in contact with Together Now and it was like a dream because they sorted everything out in less than one week. I was anxious about my husband travelling because he doesn't know much English and I was 37 weeks pregnant so it was difficult to travel to London to meet him and bring him to my city. Together Now* were quick and helpful and even provided instructions with the coach booking so he didn't get confused.

Now he is with me and we are really happy because we are together and can share the experience of having our first baby.

In the future we are going to improve our English and develop our skills.

We want to be good citizens of the UK because they've helped us in very hard times. We appreciate the people that have helped Together Now help us.

Nazafarin

*Note from Amy at Together Now: This case was done with a flight donated by Miles4Migrants. Through this partnership we were able to have a flight for Nazafarin's husband booked the day after we first received the enquiry. After the original flight was cancelled due to poor weather conditions they were immediately looking into how to get him on the next one available. We'd like to thank their donor for making this possible.



The Alsuliman family was flown from Beirut to Dusseldorf using American Express Membership Rewards points, transferred to Alitalia for the flight booking.

My name is Tarek. I am from Syria and I used to live with my family in Aleppo. When life in Aleppo became very dangerous, I started a 12-day journey to Belgium, together with my uncle Youssef, who is the brother of my father. My family stayed behind in Aleppo, because it was too expensive to pay the smugglers for the whole family. It was very difficult to leave my family, but if I would succeed in applying for asylum in Belgium, I knew I could bring my family over in a safe and legal way. The scariest part of our journey was when we took the boat from Turkey to Greece. I was terrified and feared for my life. But luckily, thanks to God, we arrived safely in Belgium on the 2nd of August, 2015. We were on the road for 12 days, along with a lot of other Syrian people. At the time, I was only 13 years old.

My uncle and I went to the immigration office in Belgium to apply for asylum. Because there were a lot of people applying, I had my first interview in December 2015 after 4 months wait. The second, big interview, was 4 months after that. In May 2016, I was finally recognized as a refugee by the Belgian government. I finally got to leave the refugee camp along with my uncle and we rented an apartment in Ghent. Now, I could start with the procedure for the family reunification. I went to Caritas International so they could help me, because my family needed help with which documents they should collect and to make an appointment at the Belgian embassy in Beirut.

I had to wait again to have an appointment at Caritas, because of high demand. In July 2016, I met Marie, the social assistant, for the first time. She explained everything to us and so we could start. In October 2016, my family applied in Beirut for the family reunification visa. I was very happy, but also stressed, because I was afraid that they could be refused. In Belgium, the immigration office has 9 months the time to make a decision. After exactly 9 months we had a positive answer and my family went to Beirut to pick up the visa. I was over the moon and now I really couldn't wait any longer.

Marie already talked about Miles4Migrants, and because we are such a big family, all financial help was more than welcome, it was necessary! Once my family received their visa, she contacted Seth from Miles4Migrants to see if they could book tickets for us. It was very complicated, because they are 7 people, my parents and 5 siblings. Marie, Seth and Adham, a family friend, were communicating constantly during 4 days to find tickets that could get them all to Belgium. It was very stressful because their visa to stay in Lebanon was going to expire, so they would have to return to Syria if they didn't get flights within a few days. Finally, everything worked out and I could go with my uncle to pick up my mother and 3 siblings in Dusseldorf. A day later my father and two other siblings arrived. They had to travel in two groups because those were the only flights available. I was crying and I couldn't believe that they finally arrived. I am so happy that they are safe now.

My family and I would like to thank Kevin Ma, who donated his miles to get my family to Belgium. He changed our lives. Without his help, I do not know how we would have paid for the tickets. He is our hero!! I hope that a lot of other people will do the same as he did. Because a lot of other families need financial help. We were so lucky. Also a big thanks to Miles4Migrants and Caritas International for all the help!! Thank you !!!

Kind regards from the ALSULIMAN Family

Special thanks & Acknowledgements

The following people donated their time, services and expertise to help further our mission during the past year. Without their generosity and support, Miles4Migrants would have not been able to achieve the results we have to date.

Matthew McDaniel: website design, data handling

Camielle Green: strategic planning, agreement design

Vibhu Singh, CPA: preparation of financial statements

Donald W. Gillings, CAC: strategic planning

Amy Lythgoe: strategic planning

David Baghdassarian, K&L Gates, LLP: legal advice

Andrea Kahn: strategic planning

Samantha Lent: data visualization

Slack, Inc.: communications

Columbia University Design for America

The /r/churning subreddit

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF Activities
FYE 2017
MILES4MIGRANTS

	December 31	
	2017	2016
<u>CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS</u>		
<u>Revenues and Support</u>		
Donations	\$ 4,894	\$ 122
Other Revenue	\$ 1,128	\$ -
In-Kind Donations	\$ 150	
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 6,172	\$ 122
<u>Expenses</u>		
Program Services	\$ 3,094	\$ -
Fundraising Expenses	90	-
Management and General	84	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 3,268	\$ -
(DECREASE) INCREASE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	\$ 2,904	\$ 122

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES**MILES4MIGRANTS****Year Ended December 31, 2017**

	<u>Program Services</u>	<u>Supporting Services</u>		
	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Fundraising</u>	<u>Management and General</u>	<u>Total Expenses</u>
Salaries	-	-	-	-
Payroll taxes	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Airline Taxes and Fees	3,094	-	-	3,094
Software Services	-	-	60	60
Advertising Expenses	-	90		90
Bank Transaction Fees	-	-	24	24
	3,094	90	84	3,268
Depreciation and Amortization	-	-	-	-
	3,094	90	84	3,268

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
FYE 2017
MILES4MIGRANTS

		December 31	
		2017	2016
<hr/>			
ASSETS			
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>			
Cash and Cash Equivalents		\$ 3,026	\$ 122
	TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 3,026</u>	<u>\$ 122</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>			
Accounts Payable		\$ -	\$ -
Accrued Expenses		-	-
	TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
<u>NET ASSETS</u>			
Permanently Restricted		\$ -	\$ -
Temporarily Restricted		-	-
Unrestricted		3,026	122
	TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 3,026</u>	<u>\$ 122</u>

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CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
FYE 2017
MILES4MIGRANTS

	December 31	
	2017	2016
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Increase in net assets	\$ 2,904	\$ 122
Cash Donations	\$ (4,894)	\$ (122)
Other Cash Revenue	\$ (1,128)	\$ -
Adjustments to reconcile increase in net assets	(150)	-
NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	(6,172)	(122)
Program Expenses	3,094	
Fundraising Expenses	90	
Management and General	84	
NET CASH USED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	3,268	-
NET (INCREASE)/DECREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(2,904)	(122)
	-	-