

MILES4MIGRANTS 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

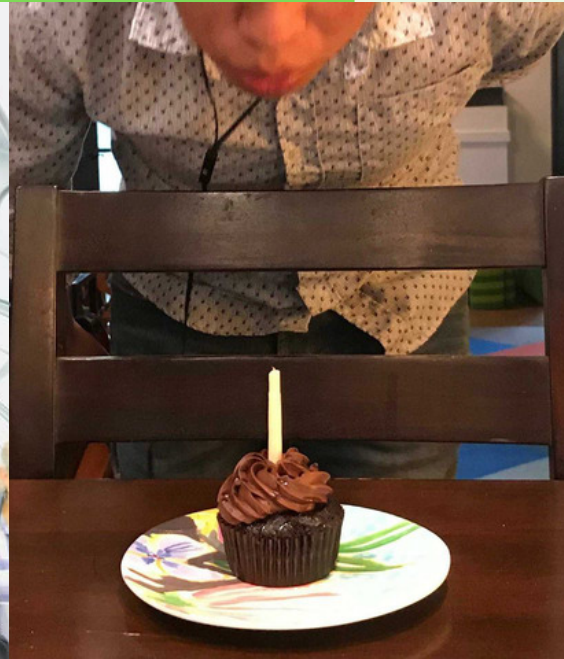


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LETTER FROM THE BOARD

In 2016, the co-founders of Miles4Migrants discovered a simple, yet effective way to offer aid in the growing refugee crisis: reuniting families by providing flights paid for with donated miles and points. We personally tested the idea and our lives were touched as we learned more about the families that we reunited. By the Fall of 2016, we made the movement official and started Miles4Migrants.

The following year, we introduced Miles4Migrants to our fellow travel enthusiasts and were pleased at their response. Here was a generous group of individuals willing to offer their award miles and points to help reunite families - families not too different from our own - desiring to live together in a place of safety and opportunity. We formed our first partnerships with forward-thinking refugee aid organizations already working on the ground, donating flights to help them reunite families in need. By the end of 2017, we had flown nearly 100 people using 1.2 million donated miles. While 2017 proved that there was a role for Miles4Migrants in supporting refugees, 2018 showed us just how big an impact we could make.

Although happy with our successes in Europe, we were challenged by how to help families in the United States, due to growing restrictions on the number of refugees and asylum seekers allowed to enter the country. However, in the wake of the immigration detention crisis in August 2018, we heard a public outcry to reunite separated families. We began reaching out to domestic resettlement offices and legal groups committed to bringing together the families that were being separated at the Southwestern border. At the same time, a viral tweet from Michigan law professor Beth Wilensky led to an avalanche of global media coverage from the New York Times, CNN, ABC, and BBC. Miles4Migrants received over 40 million miles in pledges, and we parlayed that into a host of new partnerships with Catholic Charities, Immigrant Families Together, World Relief and others. As we brought more partners onboard, our flight numbers swelled from an average of 10 people a month, to an average of 100, allowing us to close 2018 with a total of 417 people flown to reunite with their loved ones.

While the press attention and donations we received allowed us to dramatically increase our impact, our success would not have been possible without the interest of a passionate group of volunteers who eagerly jumped onboard to help take Miles4Migrants to the next level. Every newsletter sent, every call to a donor, every social media update, every flight booked is made possible by this dedicated group of more than 20 volunteers who have joined our family. We are blessed to have them.

As we enter 2019, we are excited to welcome two major new partnerships to our network: LIRS (Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service) and HIAS. As our partner base increases, we'll come into contact with even more families with incredible stories. We'll continue need your help as volunteers, miles donors, and financial supporters to bring all of those families together.

Thank you for helping make our vision a reality in the lives of so many families.

Your friends at Miles4Migrants,
Seth, Andy, and Nick





ABOUT US

OUR MISSION

Miles4Migrants is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charity, dedicated to using donated frequent flyer miles, points and money for the relocation of those displaced by war, persecution, politics and more, to start a new beginning in a new home. Our goal is to help families join their loved ones as quickly as possible, and without undue financial hardship.

We are committed to identifying refugees, asylum seekers, and their immediate family members in need.

We do this by establishing strategic relationships with other 501(c)(3) non-profit groups, or groups operating under similar nonprofit laws in other countries, who serve the exploding population of refugees around the world. The individuals and families that Miles4Migrants commits to serving are those that have been legally approved by the receiving country's government to travel for migration and/or family reunification purposes, but have financial needs that prevent them from purchasing airfare themselves.

Miles4Migrants is strictly non-profit

All contributions to Miles4Migrants are used solely to help refugees and immigrants. The directors and staff of Miles4Migrants are all unsalaried and contribute their time as volunteers. No funding or contributions are used to cover any personal costs of staff, and under no circumstance is any donated money used for political activism or lobbying.

We can't do this alone

Miles4Migrants fosters relationships with other nonprofits that are 'on the ground' serving refugees directly. Our partner nonprofits submit requests for flight assistance to Miles4Migrants. We do not have the time or manpower to vet refugee finances, nor do we specialize in doing government legwork to make a refugee or their family 'legal' for travel, so we depend on these "partners." We cannot help in individual cases without another organization acting as an intermediary.

OUR BEGINNINGS

Miles4Migrants began with one man's inspiration to use airline miles to reunite a refugee family. He shared his idea with other online reward point enthusiasts, and a movement was born. In less than three years, through a combination of altruism, happenstance, and hard work, that movement grew into a large-scale program to help refugees all over the world be reunited with their families.

Co-founded by four members who connected online through a shared vision - Seth Stanton, Andy Freedman, Nicholas Ruiz, and Ryan Booth - Miles4Migrants was organized as a 501(c)(3) in the fall of 2016. In 2016, Miles4Migrants was still a fledgling program. In our first year, we reunited a single refugee family. In 2017, our efforts expanded, and we reunited 93 refugee family members in countries around the world.

But a viral tweet in August of 2018 shoved the throttle forward, and within four months, we received more than 40 million donated airline miles and thousands of dollars in cash.



The Tweet Heard 'Round the World

On August 6, 2018, a University of Michigan law professor tweeted to her followers about a program she'd discovered that used donated airline miles to reunite immigrant families who had been separated - either by governments, or by circumstance. Within hours, the Tweet had gone viral, and the miles poured in - to date, more than 40 million of them.

As the donations grew, so did we. We added volunteers, and we added partners. These additional resources made it possible for us to book over 400 flights, reuniting 163 families in six countries in 2018, enabling us to better fulfill our mission of identifying refugees, asylum seekers and their immediate family members in need, and flying them to safe havens.

OUR GROWTH IN 2018

MEDIA COVERAGE

That tweet was the catalyst for our growth, raising the profile of our organization and bringing our work to the attention of the world. Stories about Miles4Migrants appeared on television, and in newspapers and magazines - from small weekly newspapers, to CNN and The New York Times. The ensuing publicity introduced us to more partners, significantly increasing the number of flight requests for family reunifications.

These articles are just a small part of 2018's media coverage.

- Toronto Star Newspaper, October 16: "There were a lot of tears"
- The Points Guy, August 21: "Meet the People Using Air Miles to Reunite Migrant Families"
- New York Times, August 16: "Millions of Frequent Flier Miles Are Donated to Reunite Families Separated at Border"
- CNN, August 10: "People are Donating their Frequent Flyer Miles to Reunite Families Separated at the US-Mexico Border"
- Telemundo, August 10: "Se viraliza donación de millas para la reunificación familiar"
- BuzzFeed News, August 9: "People are Donating Millions of Frequent Flyer Miles to Reunite Immigrant Families"
- Bustle, August 8: "How to Help Refugees & Immigrants with Your Frequent Flyer Miles (Yes, Really)"



Here's one way to help refugee families that won't cost you a

PARTNERSHIPS

We thank every one of our partner non-profit organizations for bringing us cases to support last year. We have hyperlinked the websites for each partner in the text below each logo.



Catholic Charities USA
139 People



Immigrant Families Together
111 People



St. Bartholomew's Church
7 People



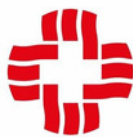
Steunpunt Asiel & Migratie /
Sociaal Huis Mechelen
41 People



World Relief Seattle
7 People



Together Now
12 People



Caritas Belgium
65 People



Secular Rescue
1 Person



No One Left Behind
3 People



Collateral Repair Project
15 People



Families Belong Together
4 People



La Posada Providencia
8 People

*Note: The numbers shown under each partner reflect 413 people flown. We have one partner who does not wish to be named, who flew 4 people with us in 2018, for a total of 417 people flown in 2018.

SPONSORS

Through their generous financial and in-kind contributions, our growing community of corporate partners and sponsors enables us to continue to operate Miles4Migrants as a 100% volunteer-run organization.



WHAT LIES AHEAD

While we wish for a time when there will be no need for our services, a brief look around the world tells us that there is much to be done in 2019 and beyond. War, famine, political instability, poverty and discrimination will no doubt combine to keep us far busier than we would ever hope to be. Fortunately, we have developed new partnerships to help us meet those challenges, and facilitate the movement of refugees, out of danger and into places of safety. And that's not all we have in store for the coming year. A few highlights to share:

HIAS and LIRS

HIAS and LIRS (Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service) are two of our newest partners. HIAS and LIRS have more than 200 years of combined experience improving the lives of the dispossessed. Through these two agencies, we will have the opportunity to reach hundreds more families and individuals in need.

M4M Summit in New Orleans March 29-31

Miles4Migrants will host our first-ever 'M4M Summit' in New Orleans the weekend of March 29-31, bringing together our incredible volunteer staff from across the country. The agenda includes deep-dive sessions on how to best serve our clients, reach new partners, streamline our flight reservation process, improve our marketing and internal operations, and boost our fundraising. No donated funds or airline miles are being used for this conference.

Expanded Fundraising Focus

Miles4Migrants conducts ongoing fundraising efforts in order to cover the fees and taxes associated with redeeming airline miles, as well as making enhancements to our operations technology. Historically, our primary source of funds has been individual donations. In 2018, we received the generous support of TripAdvisor as our first corporate sponsor. As we enter 2019, we are looking to expand our individual and corporate fundraising efforts, as well as explore grants to help us cover the costs of Miles4Migrants' life-changing work. If you have ideas for fundraising, we would like to hear from you. To donate directly, please visit <https://www.miles4migrants.org/donate.php>.

Volunteers Needed

We are always looking for passionate and committed volunteers who share our vision and are seeking tangible ways to help make an impact in the lives of separated families. If you would like to be part of an organization that reunites families across borders and oceans, please contact us at [miles4migrants.org](https://www.miles4migrants.org).

HOW WE WORK

THE BOOKING PROCESS

Miles4Migrants partners 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. If you are interested in partnering with Miles4Migrants and would like to view our Agreements and other forms, please contact us at <http://miles4migrants.org/contact>.



PLEDGE

A person (you?) pledges points/miles to Miles4Migrants via a form on our website.



MATCH

A refugee family working with one of our partner charities requests financial aid to be reunited. Our partner vets the family and, if the family qualifies, makes an application. We then receive the paperwork, signed and filled out by both the refugee, recipient and our partner charity. One of our flight-bookers finds a donor's pledge that matches the family's need.



BOOK

Miles4Migrants sends that donor an encrypted email with the recipient information and booking instructions OR the donor gives Miles4Migrants temporary access to their miles account and our flight-bookers make the reservation.



REUNITE

Family reunion ensues!

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

THE STATS

2018 DONATION USAGE

6.7

MILLION

MILES USED
IN 2018

208K

DOLLARS

CASH VALUE OF
THE FLIGHTS
BOOKED

24K

DOLLARS

MONEY USED TO
COVER TAXES
AND FEES

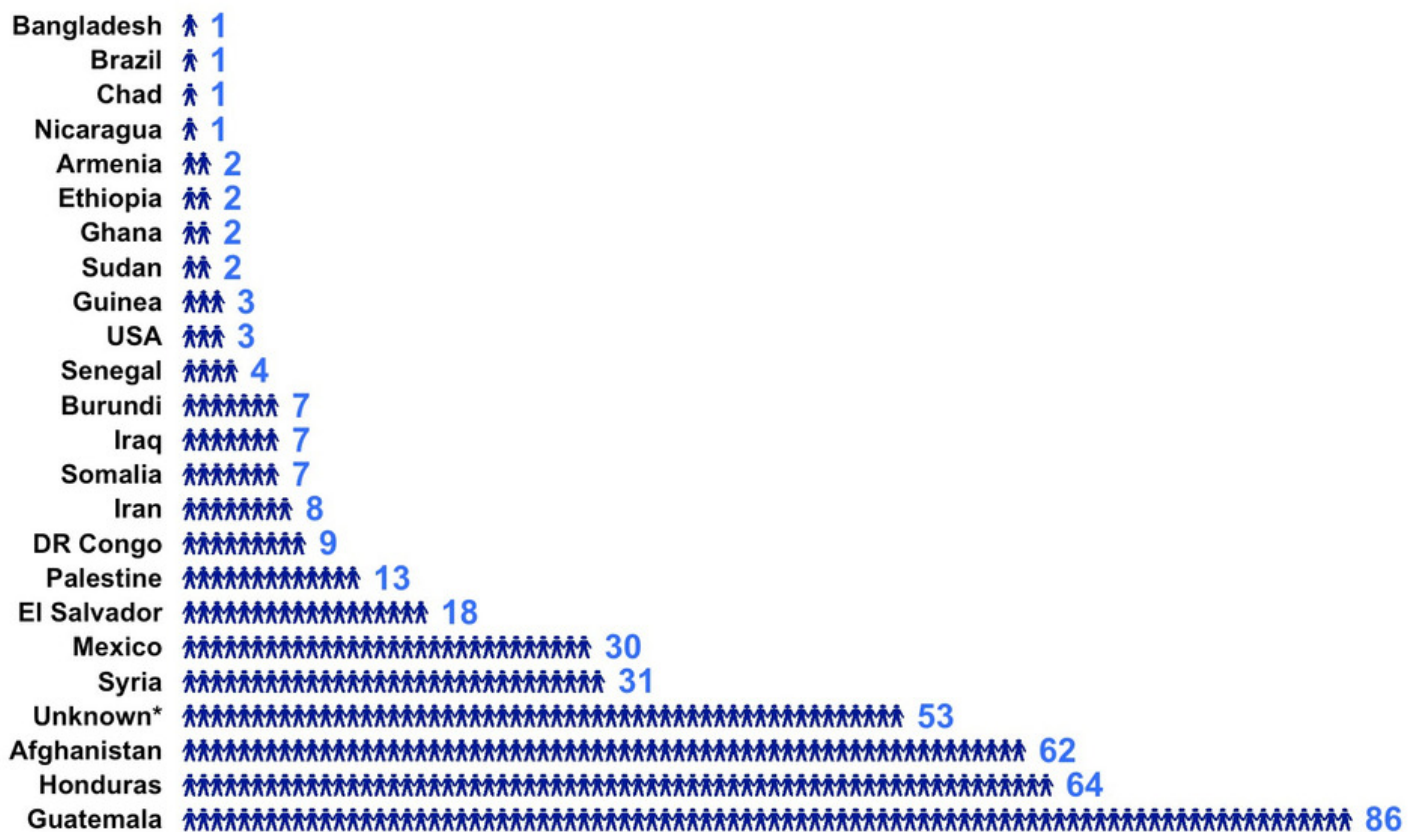
417

PEOPLE

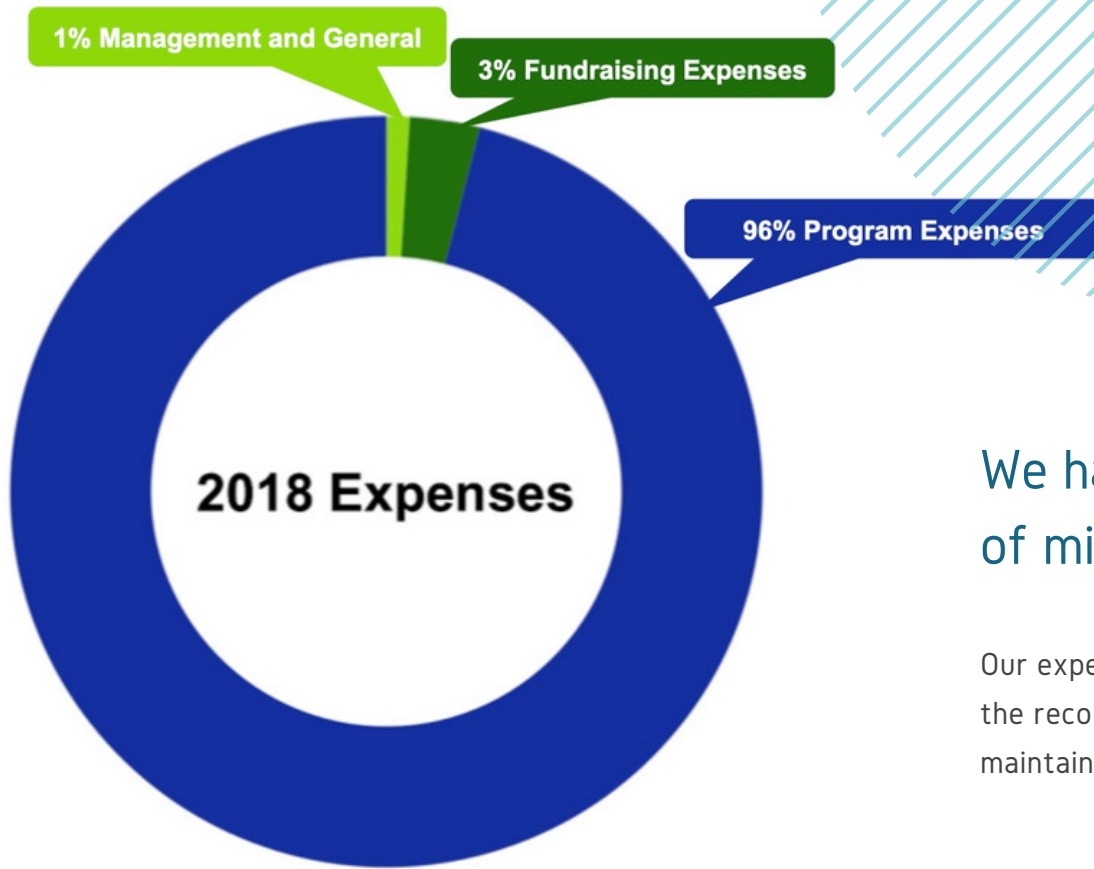
FLOWN ACROSS
163 FAMILIES

BY THE NUMBERS

Individuals flown in 2018, by country of origin

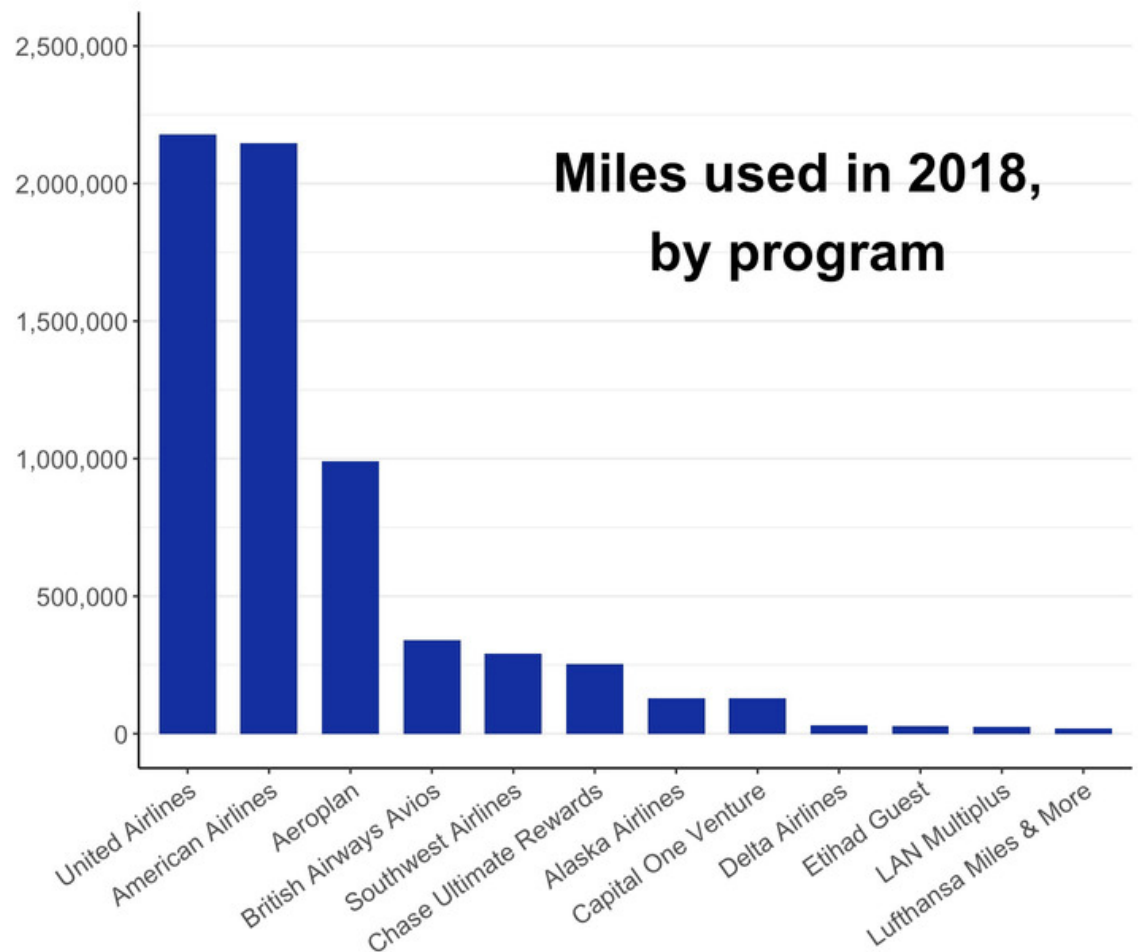


* ICE release with incomplete documentation from Honduras, Guatemala, or El Salvador



We had a record year of miles used

Our expenses are very lean. Even with the record mileage usage, we maintained low operating expenses.



THE TEAM

Leadership



Seth Stanton
New Orleans, LA

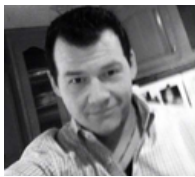


Andy Freedman
Boston, MA



Nick Ruiz
New Providence, NJ

Volunteer Staff



Matt McDaniel
State College, PA



Salman Sheikh
New York City, NY



Ryan Booth,
Baton Rouge, LA



Dan Moore
London, UK



Jason Gauthier
New Orleans, LA



Amy Yu
Los Angeles, CA



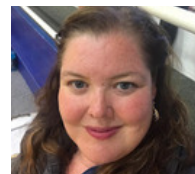
Jen Schroeder
Chicago, IL



Annette Ross
St. Petersburg, FL



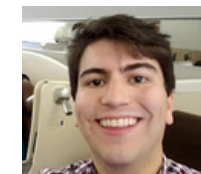
Frank Fairbanks
New Orleans, LA



Heather Monte
Caro, MI



Erika Vazquez
Chicago, IL



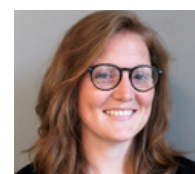
Frank Musella
Falls Church, VA



Mark Ayoub
San Francisco, CA



Mitch Coleman
Montague, MI



Sam Lent
Chicago, IL



Angel Wang
Austin, TX

Family Reunion Stories

Once again this year, we were humbled and impressed by the courage and resilience of the families we reunited. Human beings have an amazing ability to endure incredible hardship and still triumph over tyranny, poverty and injustice. We were proud to have played a role in helping our clients on their journey to a new life. In 2018, we flew a total of 417 individuals. In this report, we've included that number broken down by partner. Four of those individuals were referred by a partner who wishes to remain anonymous.

While all of these families deserve to have their story told, in the interest of preserving their privacy and safety, we are limited in what we can share. On the following pages are just a few of their stories, told in their own words. To read more, or to learn how you can get involved with Miles4Migrants, go to <http://miles4migrants.org>.

For an animated map of all of our cases from 2018, follow [this link](#)





Juan and Diego's Story

Juan and Diego are migrants from Honduras. As Diego has palsy and is unable to walk or speak, Juan carried his young son over 1500 miles to the US.

Diego has been seen by an occupational therapist in Tucson, who determined that he's a very intelligent and curious little boy--as his dad already knew. They seem to have a language of their own, and it is amazing to witness a father's love for his child, for whom he would do anything. Juan and Diego are reuniting with family in Atlanta, where they hope to continue getting the support they need.



Halima & Ahmed's Story

Childhood sweethearts Ahmed and Halima were apart for five years after they were married. They met in a small village in the east of their country. In their own words: "We were both in school. She was wearing Muslim garb in blue. Her eyes were beautiful and my heart beat rose. Then I said to myself 'that's the one'.

It was especially difficult being apart as we were newly married and needed to get to know each other. I was worried about how Halima was going to manage to change planes on the journey as she'd never left her mom's house before. It was amazing for her to enter a plane for the first time and she enjoyed it.

It was a dream come true seeing each other at the airport. When we got home she said 'Ahmed pinch me, I want to know if I'm dreaming.' We both want to study and go to university - then I believe inshallah we are going to have a bright future."

HOMAYOON'S STORY



My name is Homayoon. I'm 16 years old and come from Afghanistan. I arrived in Belgium when I was 13 years old. I fled from my town because I had a lot of troubles there.

When I arrived here I didn't know where my family was, because they fled with me, but on our way I lost them. I succeeded in tracing them, they lived in extreme poverty in Kaboul. With the help of Caritas we succeeded in getting all the papers for a visit to Europe.

But then remained the problem of the cost of our flight to Belgium. Caritas told me of the M4M organisation. We were so happy to hear that you could help us paying our ticket for the flight. My mother, my brothers, my sister and myself want to thank you for this marvellous gift. We also want to thank Caritas for helping us all the way long. They arrived safely this morning in Zaventem and we are very happy that we are all together now and can begin to start a new life.

Thanks again.
Yours faithfully,
Homayoon.



Special Thanks and Acknowledgements

The following people and organizations 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. We are grateful to have them be a part of the Miles4Migrants family

Vibhu Singh, CPA: preparation of financial statements

Donald W. Gillings, CAC: strategic counsel

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

Slack, Inc.: communications

The /r/churning subreddit

Tali Golan, TripAdvisor: strategic counsel

Ed Shapiro, The Shapiro Foundation: strategic counsel

Ben Hermel: brand design



<https://miles4migrants.org/>

501(c)(3)