

## World Refugee Day Business Resource Guide

**We stand in solidarity with refugees June 20 and every day.**

Many refugees, after coming to the US, start businesses that contribute enormously to their communities. Some of them, in turn, hire newly arrived refugees. In other cases, enterprises founded by native-born Americans decide to hire and otherwise support refugees.

This resource highlights some of their contributions and offers you the chance to support their diverse and vibrant businesses.

*A business' presence on this list does not constitute a JRS/USA endorsement.  
Our goal is to inform readers about some of the many refugee-owned and refugee-supporting enterprises in the US.*





## EMMA'S TORCH

**Emma's Torch** was founded in 2016 by **Kerry Brodie**. It's a non-profit social enterprise that empowers refugees, asylees, and survivors of human trafficking through culinary education. Emma's Torch also has cafe locations and catering services.

## East



Photo credit:  
emmastorch.org

### Visit Emma's Torch

2212 Rhode Island Avenue NE,  
Washington, DC, and 345 Smith  
Street, Brooklyn, NY

## Midwest



**Furahi: a taste of home** is a Congolese culinary business in Cleveland, OH, founded in 2020 by **Esther Ngemba**.

Esther and her family arrived in Ohio in 2011 seeking refuge from the war in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Today, Esther's business encompasses catering, private chef services, & cooking classes. Gift cards are available, too!



Photo credit:  
Furahi

### Take a look at Furahi here

# Midwest



**Warda Bayda Artisans** is owned by **Huda Alalawi**, an Iraqi refugee living in Madison, WI, since 2015.

Huda and her business partner, **Rukaya Qadour**, sell hand-crafted accessories and decor. Profits go to resettled women and their families.



Photo credit:  
The Spectrum News

**Look at Warda Bayda Artisans**  
**here** or contact them at  
[wardabaydaartists@gmail.com](mailto:wardabaydaartists@gmail.com)



**Afghan Kabul Cuisine** is in Madison, WI. **Chef Bakht Mohammad** dishes up traditional recipes and flavors from his hometown of Kabul as a caterer and takes orders for pickup from [FEED Kitchens](#) on select days.

Chef Bakht and his family left Afghanistan in 2021. He had worked with the US Army for 10 years. He previously owned a restaurant in Kunar province.



Photo credit:  
The Cap Times

**Check out Afghan Kabul Cuisine**  
**here** or contact the business at  
608-722-0566 or  
[AfghanCuisineMadison@gmail.com](mailto:AfghanCuisineMadison@gmail.com)



# Midwest

## TAVOLO

**Tavolo** is an AI-based analytics platform that provides automated marketing for restaurants. **Salman Elmi**, founder, is an entrepreneur and former refugee from Somalia living in Minneapolis.

[Check out Tavolo here](#)



Photo credit:  
Minnesota Department  
of Human Services

***“We contribute by starting businesses and having that grit and hustle. We’ve always had a chip on our shoulders that inspires us to seek excellence in whatever we want to do.”***

**Salman Elmi**

## KRAMARCZUK'S

**Kramarczuk's Deli** in Minneapolis was founded in 1954 by Ukrainian immigrants and has made the decision to hire many Ukrainian refugees since the outbreak of the war with Russia.

Kramarczuk's won a James Beard award in 2013. You can also enjoy their sausages at the Minnesota Twins games at Target Field.



Photo credit: Kramarczuk's

**Take a look at Kramarczuk's here** or visit at 215 E. Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, MN



**Jubilee**  
COFFEE  
& CHAI **Hall**

**Jubilee Hall** is a non-profit coffee shop in Portland, OR, with the mission to create a safe space for refugees and immigrants, build bridges to the broader community, and provide both English and job skills training in a real-world setting.



Photo credit:  
Adbursh.com

**Check out Jubilee Hall here** or  
visit them at 12175 E Burnside  
St, Portland, OR



**Refugee Artisan Initiative** is a non-profit located in Seattle, WA, that partners with refugee and immigrant women to foster an inclusive, prosperous transition into the US through artisan skills training and micro business development. The online store sells bags and totes, jewelry, home items, pet products, and more,



Photo credit:  
Facebook

**Look at Refugee Artisan  
Initiative here**

## West



Photo credit:  
Sugar Bowl Bakery

**Look at SugarBowl Bakery here**

***“You come here, you work hard, you stay humble, you are kind, you keep improving. Then you can make it in America.”***

**Andrew Ly**



Photo credit:  
Yelp

**Mariam Aryan** is the owner of **Syrian Kitchen** in Salem, OR. The restaurant features Syrian dishes including Shawarma, Baba Ganoush, Falafel, Hummus, & homemade baklava.

Mariam & her family came to the US in 2016, having fled the war in Syria.

**Check out Syrian Kitchen**

Order online or visit  
Mon.-Sat., 440 State St, Salem, OR