



2024

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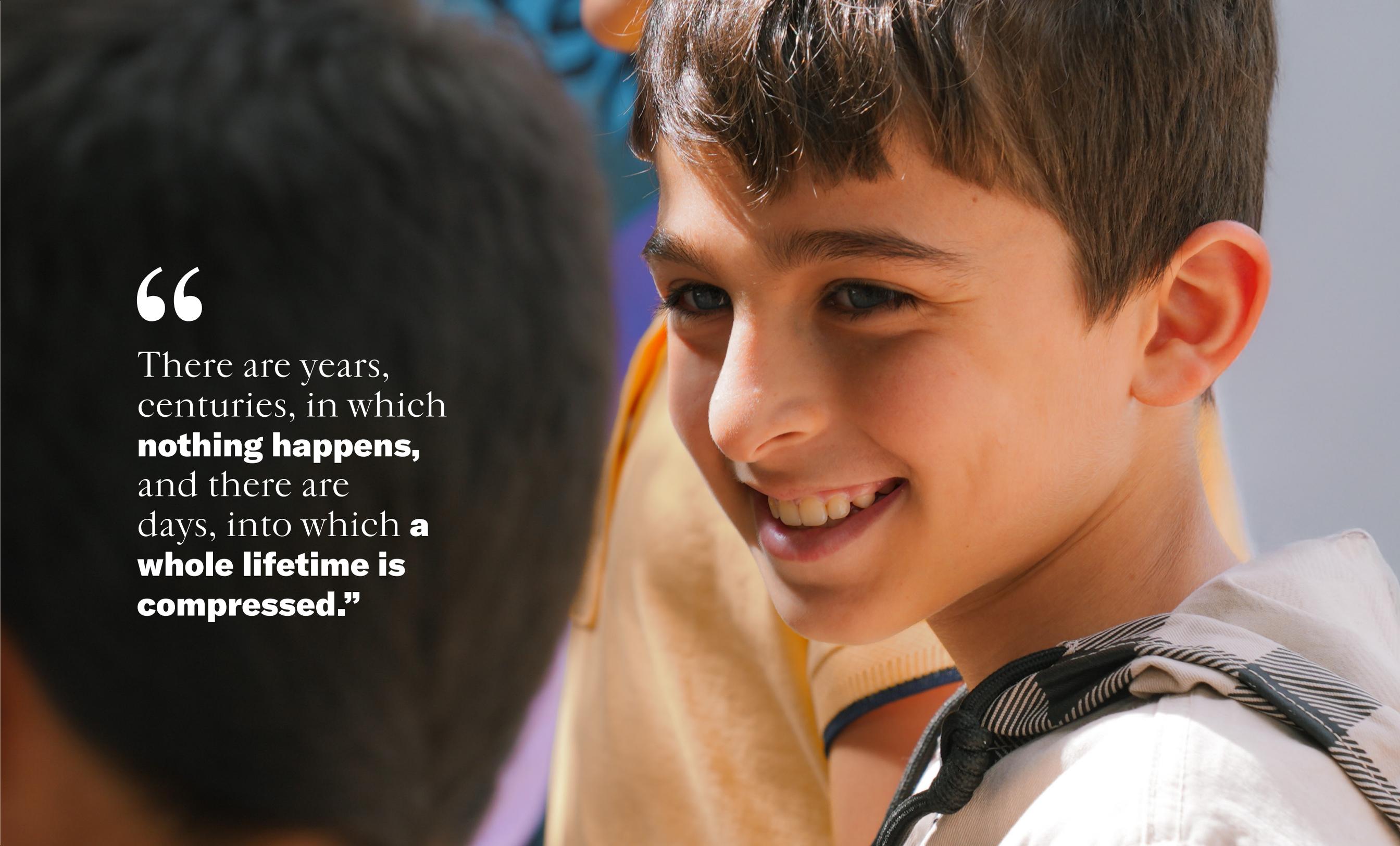
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“

There are years,
centuries, in which
nothing happens,
and there are
days, into which **a
whole lifetime is
compressed.”**



A Letter from our Founder

Sayings like this often sound cliché, but 2024 truly embodied this one. Writing an annual report a few months into the new year is always a challenge, looking back without the full context of the present. This year, that task feels especially difficult because the world changed for Syria on December 8, 2024, and in the eleven short, historic days that preceded it. It's easy to lose sight of the months before, **but that's precisely why we must remember them.**

At Karam, 2024 brought a strange sense of stability—something we hadn't experienced since the beginning of the pandemic. Refugee communities in Turkiye were in a painful standstill. Like many displaced populations across the globe, they were increasingly unwelcome, with nowhere to go. That “stability” often felt like stagnation. And we felt it.

Yet our programs remained strong in both reach and impact. As you'll see in this report, Karam Families, Studios, and Scholars continued to expand: reaching more people, graduating more students, and extending our work beyond Karam House into refugee camps. A personal highlight for me: we now have a verified leader count (page 35). Six years after setting the goal of building 10,000 leaders, we have built the tools to evaluate our progress. We can count every leader by name. This progress is essential to reach our goal and build a community of Karam leaders.

Our programs continued to push the boundaries of innovation. This was especially true in the Hilal camps outside Antakya, where dozens of refugee teens who'd lost their home in the 2023 earthquakes were able to attend Karam Studios. They invented apps, used AI for storytelling, and built robots, all in the harshest conditions. Their brilliant projects proved to us once more that Karam works.

At the same time, we found ourselves asking hard questions: What's next for these refugee communities, now in Turkiye for over 12 years? Many of the youth we serve have grown up in exile, yet can't envision a future in Turkiye.



How do we help a university student find work when he can't get a permit? How can a family achieve financial stability when opportunity is so scarce? When we asked our go-to Karam question— What do you need?—The answer, too often, was: *help us leave*.

In many ways, 2024 tested our limits—and the limits of our imagination. On November 12, I stood on the edge of Turkiye's southern border, looking across at Syria, just steps away. It had become a ritual a few times a year to look out to the rolling hills of olive trees and think: It's okay. I've made peace with the fact that this is the closest I'll ever get to home. This was the closest I would be to Aleppo in my lifetime.

Sixteen days later, I was proven wrong. Twenty-seven days later, Syria was free. On December 8, 2024, fifty-four years of oppression came to an end. The decades of suffering endured by my grandparents, my parents, my generation, and the two that followed—over. Decades, compressed into a single day. Unthinkable. Unimaginable. And yet, real.

2024 was a year of shattering loss that demanded deep acceptance. But it was also a year of profound blessings that filled us with overwhelming gratitude. The sacrifices of those we lost on the road to revolution weigh heavily. Syria's freedom belongs to the men and women who resisted tyranny with unwavering belief. They never lost hope.





Now comes the dream: Syrians returning by the millions. Rebuilding. Creating a nation worthy of those who never gave up. Now we have an answer to what the people want. Now we can help people go back home.

Karam has been building toward this moment for 14 years, and you have been instrumental in helping us get here. Your generosity buoyed us the entire time, and I'm eternally grateful.

We are ready to continue developing future leaders, supporting families on the journey home, and shaping the Syria we've always dreamed of: a Syria rooted in dignity and freedom.

It may not be customary to end an annual report letter on a cliffhanger, but what was normal about 2024, or the times we're living in? So keep following the journey to see what unfolds in 2025.

Spoiler alert: There is so much hope for the future. And yes, I went back home.

With love and gratitude,
Lina

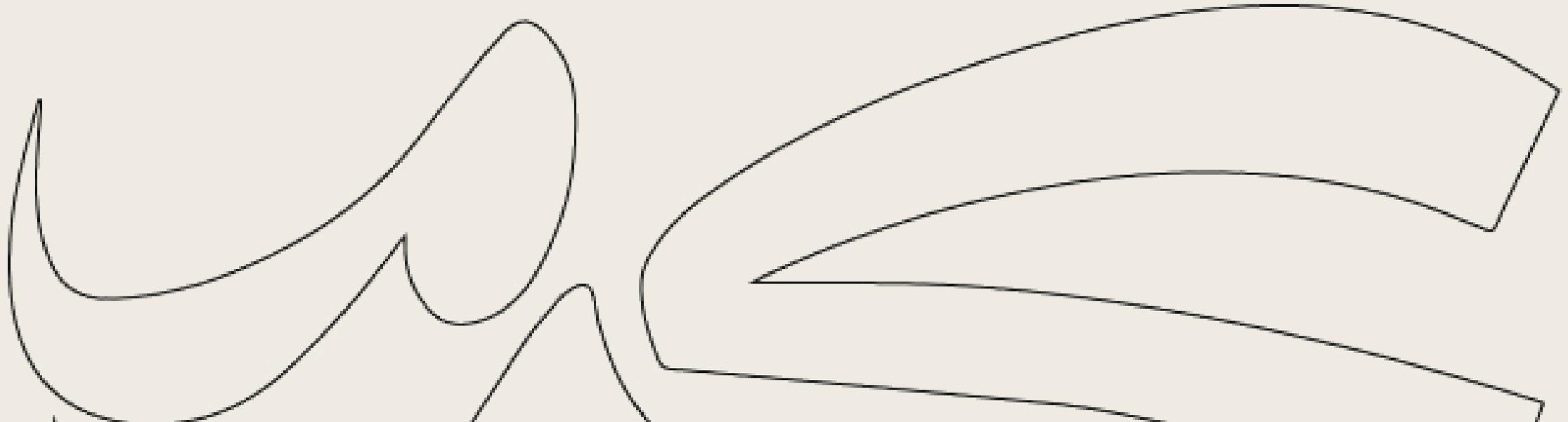


Our Mission

Karam means **generosity** in Arabic.

We are creating a generation of Syrian leaders capable of transforming the future of their families and communities, wherever they are and wherever they may go.

This mission has guided us through years of displacement and uncertainty. Now, as the door to freedom in Syria begins to open, our work takes on new meaning. The future we've long prepared for is beginning to take shape, and our commitment to building leaders for that future is stronger than ever.



2024 Rewind



January

Launched the Zeytndalı Project inside Syria, delivering nourishment and hope in the harshest conditions.



March

Raised over \$1 million to support Syrian refugee mothers and families with Iftar events, grocery gift cards, and food baskets across Turkiye and northern Syria.

Marked one year since the Turkiye-Syria earthquakes. We honored survivors by doubling down on recovery, meeting urgent needs while helping families rebuild their futures.



February

Visiting Mentors led hands-on studios at Karam House Reyhanli, sparking creativity and career curiosity among Syrian youth.



April





May

Partnered with the Korkor Foundation's Five Fifty Five Run/Walk for Mental Health, hosting a local race in Reyhanli to raise awareness and promote wellness through movement.

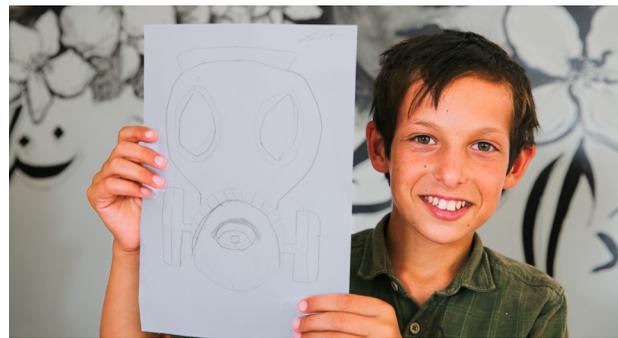


July

Hosted soccer camps and wellness activities at Karam House, promoting movement, teamwork, and healthy summer fun.

(World Refugee Month)

Partnered with the Migration Summit 2024 to spotlight pathways for dignified work and co-create solutions that unlock the talent and potential of displaced and migrant communities.



June

Equipped Syrian refugee children in Turkiye and Jordan with supplies and transportation support, to return to school with dignity, confidence, and the tools they need for success.



August





September

Celebrated the graduation of the Karam Studios Class of 2024, a generation of Syrian refugees who are now stepping forward as designers, thinkers, and future Leaders.



November

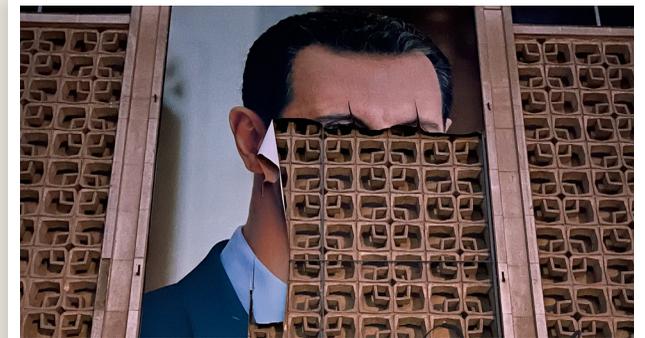
Raised over \$200,000 to deliver food, healthcare, and winter support to displaced Syrians in Lebanon and Turkiye.

Gathered in Lake Forest, Illinois for our annual team retreat where we refined our mission, vision, and 5-year strategy.



October

Witnessed a historic moment as Syria was liberated, marking a turning point for our work and our community and opening new possibilities for return, rebuilding, and reconnection.



December



Programmatic Impact



Karam Families

Karam Families supports Syrian refugee families through monthly cash stipends, emergency loans, and holistic workshops. Our aim is to meet urgent needs while helping families build lasting stability through education, mental health support, and economic resilience.



Al-Daher Family



2024 Impact:

Families supported



184

95 Reyhanli
89 Istanbul

Children supported



490

266 Reyhanli
224 Istanbul

Total family members served



791



52 Single-parent households



174 Orphaned children supported



295

New family members added

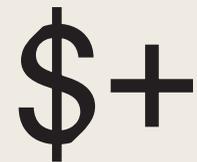


26 High school graduates



15 Teens enrolled in university

Emergency loans issued



36

30 Reyhanli
6 Istanbul

107 Children referred to after-school tutoring

163 Families referred to Turkish language courses

Grants issued



11 for education, housing, and medical needs





Karam Families Annual Trip

Every summer, just before the school year begins, the Karam Families team hosts a joyful, much-anticipated trip for families enrolled in the program. For many, it's their only opportunity all year to enjoy a day out together.



In 2024, the trip brought together 155 families—81 in Reyhanli (489 people) and 74 in Istanbul (390 people)—for a day of laughter, bonding, and shared meals. The event created space for children to play freely and for parents to connect with one another, away from the daily pressures of displacement.

Staff and volunteers from our other programs played an active role in organizing and supporting the event, reinforcing the spirit of community that defines our work.

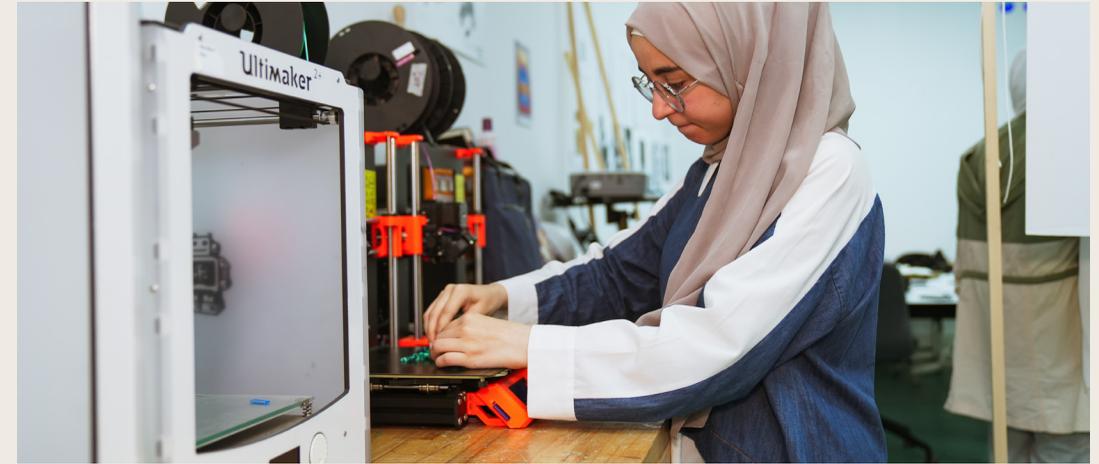


Karam Studios



Hands-on, studio-based learning program, co-developed with NuVu Studio, for Syrian refugee youth across Turkiye. Grounded in creativity, critical thinking, and real-world application, the program offers 6-week project-based Studios, where students explore disciplines like technology, media, design, architecture, health, and social impact.

In 2024, Karam Studios expanded significantly, particularly in response to the aftermath of the 2023 earthquakes. We deepened programming at Karam House and launched a full studio unit inside Zaytindali Camp, including two operational makerspace units serving displaced refugee youth.



We also introduced new pathways like Open Innovation (for standout student-led projects), a formal Teaching Assistants program, and Parental Info Sessions to strengthen family engagement. Whether in a fully equipped studio or a temporary camp unit, Karam Studios remained a place where refugee youth found purpose, skills, and a sense of belonging.



2024 Impact:

Students Enrolled:



1,097

857

Reyhanli

240

Istanbul

Graduates:



58

47

Reyhanli

11

Istanbul

Unique Studio sessions conducted



126

Total Teaching Hours:

2,424

Reyhanli

960

Istanbul

Studio Completion Rate:

87.8%

Reyhanli

90.9%

Istanbul

Students Enrolled in the camp:



521

Studio Completion Rate in the camp:



77.9%

Teaching Hours in the camp:



1,116



Celebrating the Class of 2024: A Generation of Changemakers

This year, Karam Studios proudly celebrates the graduation of **58 incredible students—47 in Reyhanlı and 11 in Istanbul**—marking a powerful milestone for our community of Syrian refugee youth. These graduates have spent years navigating displacement, uncertainty, and challenges, but through their time at Karam House, they have transformed those experiences into resilience, creativity, and vision. They left Karam House not only with skills but with purpose. They are now designers, thinkers, and leaders ready to rebuild their communities and shape a better future.





“

I was lost, but
coming back
to **Karam
House** pulled
me out of the
dark.”

—Eman,
Karam House Graduate



Eman Finding Her Voice, Then Lifting Others

Eman was born in exile and raised between borders, never setting foot in Syria, yet carrying its weight in every step. Displaced first from Jordan, then to Turkiye, she often felt like she belonged nowhere—too Syrian in one place, too foreign in another.

At thirteen, she walked into Karam House and everything shifted.

She joined Genius Camp and immediately found what she didn't know she was missing: a space that saw her, challenged her, and gave her the tools to lead. Her favorite project? A sensory maze designed for blind and sighted kids to play together. It was empathy made tangible. Through every studio, she learned to collaborate, to listen, and to lead with intention.

Years later, during a period of deep personal hardship and isolation, she returned. This time as a volunteer.

By the end of 2024, Eman's journey reached a new chapter: she was accepted into a Japanese language program in Japan, a leap across the world, but not a leap into the unknown.

"I'm not starting from zero," she says. "Karam helped me build a foundation. Now, I want to be that for someone else."



Karam Scholars

Karam Scholars is a leadership pipeline for Syrian refugee youth. Through tuition support, academic mentorship, professional development, and volunteer opportunities, the program empowers refugee students in Turkiye and Jordan to access higher education and thrive within it.

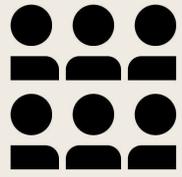


Maram, Karam Leader



2024 Impact:

Students supported



184

177

Turkiye

7

Jordan

New scholars enrolled



75

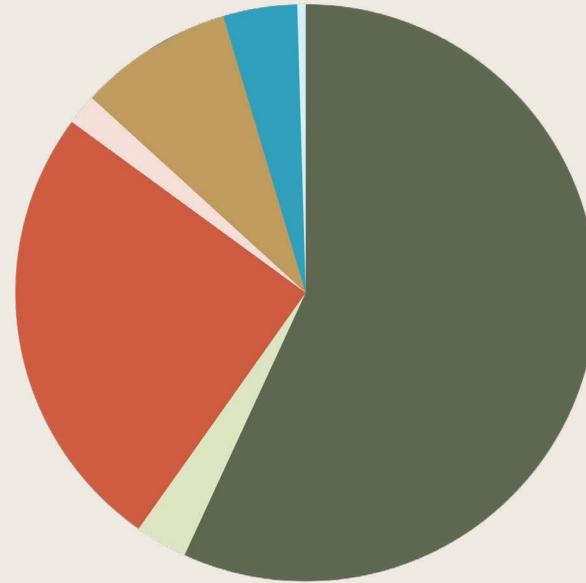
36

Males

39

Females

Field Breakdown:



- Medical Sciences **(99 students)**
- Engineering **(44 students)**
- Social Sciences **(15 students)**
- Creative Arts **(7 students)**
- Business **(5 students)**
- Math & Science **(3 students)**

Total graduates



40

21

Males

19

Females

17 in medical fields
 13 in engineering
 4 in social sciences
 3 in business
 3 in math/science

72%

**of the total cohort
are female students**



Expanded Financial Support

- 4 students supported during personal crises through an Extraordinary Needs Scholarship.
- 16 high school students received qualifying exam costs support (14 girls, 2 boys)

Academic & Professional Development

- 10 professional workshops offered, with sessions on:
 - Academic writing
 - Freelancing
 - Project management
 - Studying abroad (USA & Germany)
 - AI tools
 - Job interviews and CV reviews

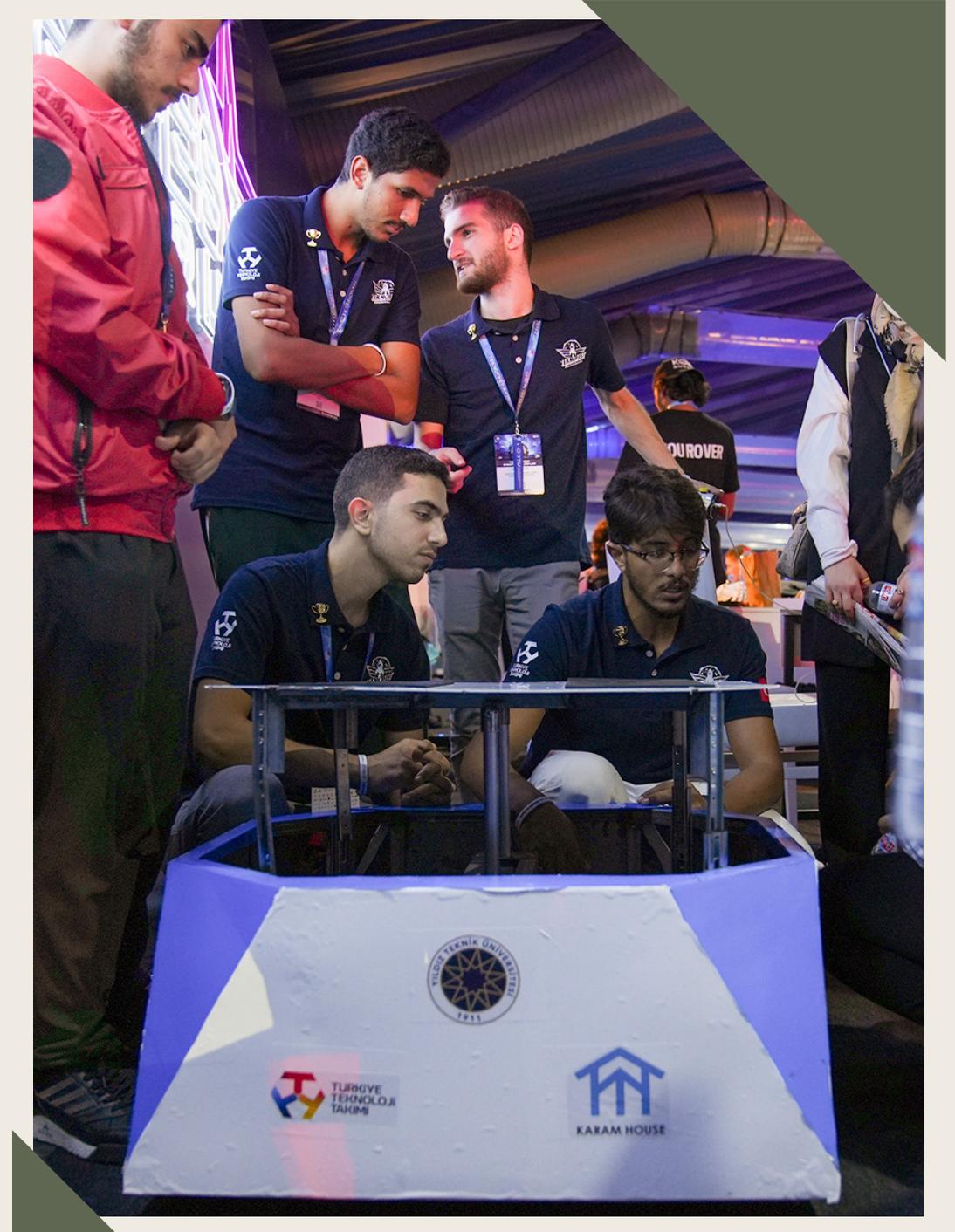
Community, Clubs & Student-Led Initiatives

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Student Clubs Launched: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Programming Club (21 members) ○ Medical Club (44 members) ○ Manarah Blog Initiative (13 student writers) ○ English Speaking Club (weekly sessions) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Volunteer Work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Orphanage event in Gaziantep ○ Volunteers supported Karam Families annual trips ○ Summer workshops led by scholars for younger Karam participants |
|---|---|



The Spirit of Giving Back

- Marwa Alaliwi helped organize the Third National Alumni Conference, attended by nearly 1,000 Syrians
- Emir Kerküti, a nursing student, won 2nd place in a national tennis competition and was honored by the Turkish Ministry of Sports
- Majd Aldeen built an industrial-assist robot and placed 3rd at TEKNOFEST 2024
- Ravad Nadam became a top finalist for an EU-backed digital integration solution
- Nur Hannura accepted into a competitive AI training program led by Huawei, TUBITAK, and Baykar



The Karam Community



Our Team

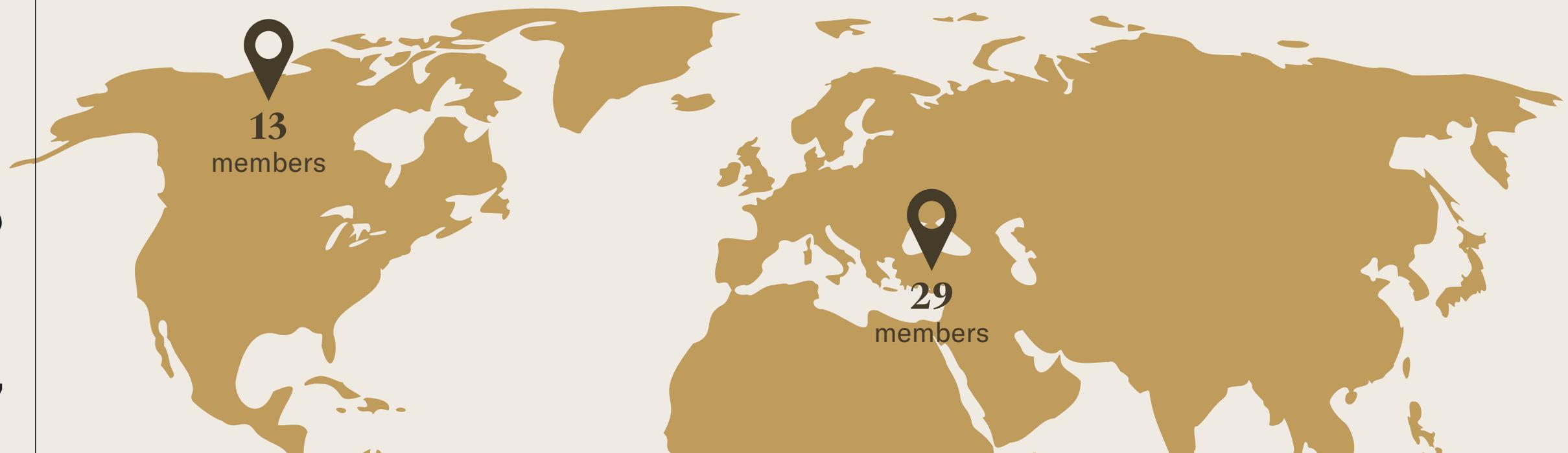
Our dedicated team of **42 members**, 66% of whom are refugees, works tirelessly across five countries and eight states to support our mission. Our team’s resilience and commitment were instrumental in navigating the challenges of 2024 and expanding our impact.

Our Board

Rasha Mansouri, *Chair*
Lina Sergie Attar, *CEO & Founder*
Mamak Shabazi, *Vice Chair*
Razan Massarani, *Director*
Anna Nolan, *Director*

Heba Al Ayouby, *Director*
Omar Salem, *Director*
Sarah Rahman, *Director*
Sharad Samy, *Director*

Maya Khater, *Emeritus Board*
John O’Farrell, *Emeritus Board*
Mohamad Ojjeh, *Emeritus Board*
Aya Samman, *Emeritus Board*



Annual Retreat

In October 2024, the Karam Foundation team gathered in Lake Forest, IL for a three-day retreat rooted in reflection, alignment, and bold visioning for the future. This retreat provided space to pause, reconnect with our mission, and recommit to the values that drive our work.

From our opening session where each team member mapped their personal Hero's Journey to budget planning for the year ahead, the retreat centered on one core question:

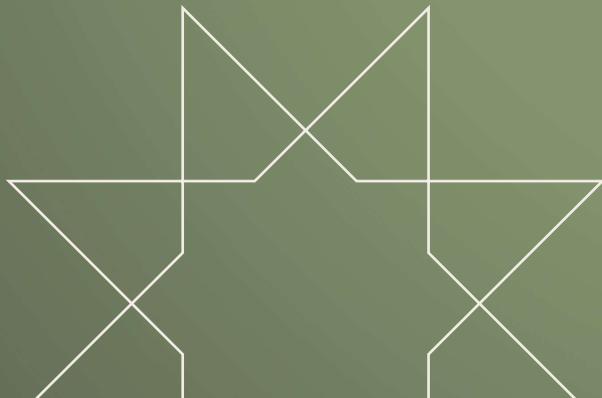
What does it take to build a bold, values-aligned organization in a time of profound global uncertainty?

We reflected on our purpose, the communities we serve, and the unique responsibility we hold as a Syrian-led team working across borders.

We left the retreat with strategy, renewed clarity, and as always at Karam, with deep gratitude for the people alongside us on this journey.



Financials & Fundraising



Fundraising

We are incredibly grateful for the support and kindness of our donors, which has enabled us to continue our essential work. Thanks to our fundraising campaigns and the dedication of our donor engagement efforts, we've been able to gather the necessary resources for our programs and initiatives.



Total raised
\$2,898,570.34

Average gift size in 2024
\$850

Total donors in 2024
1,114

Total Number of Gifts
5,628

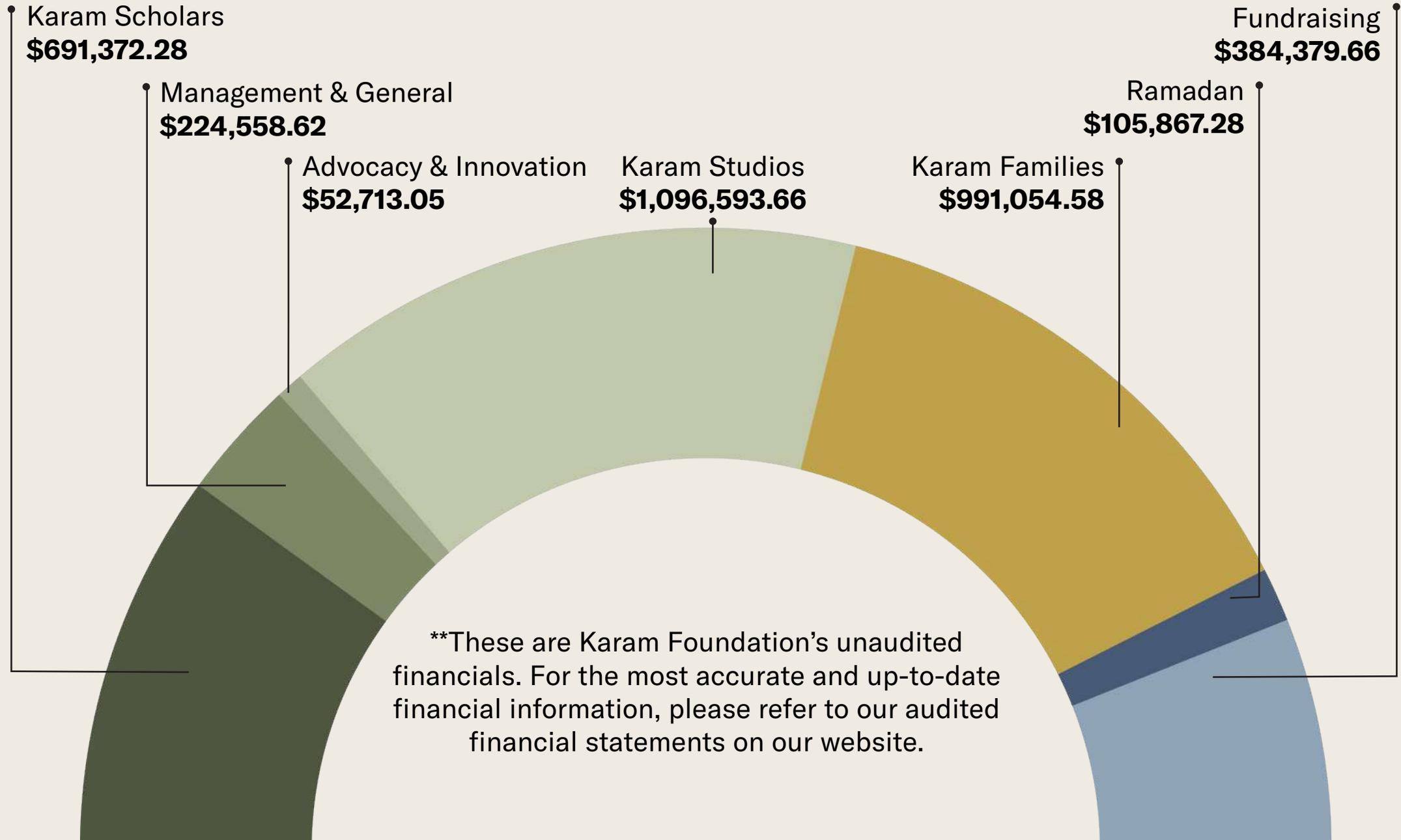
Gift Range	Number of Gifts
\$100,000+	9
\$10,000 - \$99,999+	31
\$5,000- \$9,999	25
\$2,500 - \$4,999	23
\$1000 - \$2,499	105
\$500 - \$999	99
\$250 - \$499	121
\$1 - \$249	3,219





Expenses

Spending in 2024 includes funds carried over from previous years, including multi-year grants and emergency relief funding. This rollover allowed us to sustain ongoing programs, scale our impact, and respond to urgent community needs.



**These are Karam Foundation's unaudited financials. For the most accurate and up-to-date financial information, please refer to our audited financial statements on our website.

Partners & Grants



Grants

In 2024, we secured \$889,442.68 in grant funding from our committed partners whose support helped us sustain core programs, reach new geographies, and meet the evolving needs of displaced Syrian communities. Our partners backed both urgent relief and long-term growth. Their generosity made it possible to deliver:

- Educational stipends, workshops, and scholarships that kept youth learning
- Essential supplies and emergency cash aid for families facing multiple displacements.
- Mental health support and mentorship to help youth and mothers navigate deep emotional challenges
- Gap learning and leadership studios that expanded access to opportunity

We're grateful to both new and long-standing partners for believing in our mission. These grants helped us move through uncertainty with purpose and resilience.

Ajram Family Foundation

Atassi Foundation

Choose Love

Evanston Lighthouse Rotary Club

Ghazi and Badrieh Foundation

Horizon Line / Lucid Foundation

Silicon Valley Community Foundation

Sobecki Family Foundation

The Asfari Foundation

The Schooner Foundation

Granting Partners:

In 2024, Karam awarded \$124,617 to organizations that advance education and mental health services and opportunities for Syrian refugees and displaced people in over a dozen countries. The following organizations reached over 2500 individuals last year.





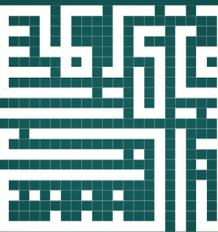
Paper Airplanes

Paper Airplanes supports individuals whose education has been disrupted by conflict, focusing on language and tech education. In 2024, Paper Airplanes assisted 4,154 students, primarily Syrian refugees, in improving their skills and preparing for higher education and career opportunities.



Reaching Across Borders (RAB)

Reaching Across Borders provides emotional resilience and mental health services to refugees and disenfranchised people in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley. This year, Reaching Across Borders reached 2,292 beneficiaries through its comprehensive mental health programs, achieving high satisfaction rates and significant improvements in mental health.



Syrian Youth Empowerment (SYE)

The Syrian Youth Empowerment (SYE) Initiative helps students from conflict zones—especially Syria and Iraq—access higher education through mentorship, academic prep, and financial aid. Since 2015, SYE has supported over 300 students in earning \$ 40M+ in scholarships to top universities worldwide.



Jordan Bus Project

Launched in September 2023, this initiative reflects Karam's commitment to funding daily bus transportation for children living in an informal camp in Mafraq. These children travel nearly 35 kilometers each day to attend Zamlat Prince Ghazi School for Syrians. Since 2017, Karam has granted nearly \$3.3 million to other organizations to provide vital aid and services to 345,000 people.

Since 2017, Karam has granted nearly \$3.3 million to other organizations to provide vital aid and services to 345,000 people.

2,183

and counting



Leaders for the Future of Syria

Through your support, we've continued on our mission to empower refugee youth, families, and scholars on the journey to leadership. In 2024, 2183 leaders are on this pathway.



Thank you: A New Chapter





As we close out 2024, we are filled with deep gratitude for all of you who have supported our mission and made our work possible. The end of the year marked a turning point we have long hoped for: the freedom of Syria.

We celebrated the liberation of a homeland, and with it, the quiet, radical transformation of identity.

“I’m not a refugee anymore. **I’m just Syrian.**”

—Sarah Hunaidi

This quote changes everything.

It changes how we see ourselves, how we tell our stories, and how we build what’s next. Starting now, Karam is leaving behind the label of “refugee.” We’re stepping into a new era rooted in dignity, strength, and homecoming.

But our mission isn’t finished. it’s just beginning.

You helped us uplift young leaders and keep hope alive through years of displacement. And now, as the door to return slowly begins to open, we step into a new era.

Thank you for walking with us. For believing in the power of return, of youth, of resilience, and of home.

Now, let’s rebuild. Together.





www.karamfoundation.org

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GIVING SINCE 2007