This year marked a moment in time that was unlike any other in our history. As we transitioned to the “new normal” of post-quarantine life, Stitch Buffalo experienced exponential growth. Many factors played into this increased demand:

- Revised immigration policies allowed us to welcome more new refugees to the City of Buffalo.
- Mask sewing and quarantine during the pandemic sparked renewed popular interest in textile crafts and sewing.
- Growing awareness of the fashion/textile industry’s environmental impact increased public desire for sustainably sourced home goods, clothing, and textile art supplies.

During this time, Stitch Buffalo staff, board members, and volunteers worked diligently to finalize a five-year strategic plan aimed at expanding our capacity to serve the needs of refugee women and our community as a whole.

We have big things in the works for 2023 and look forward to sharing some exciting announcements about our future over the course of the coming year.

On the following pages, you will see some of our milestone moments of 2022, along with the individuals and organizations that supported us in attaining these goals.

Your support is integral to the success of Stitch Buffalo and we are grateful to everyone who continues to help us build forward momentum.
Operations

- Completed a Five-Year Strategic Plan process. (funding: Rich Family Foundation)
- Transitioned to our own online shopping site. (funding: ASI Give for Greatness)
- Hired a new part-time employee to manage our Second Stitch program.
- Expanded to full-time the position of Development and Communications Manager. (funding: Evans-Devereaux Memorial Fund)
- Established new consignor agreements with translations in major refugee languages. (funding: WNY Foundation: Capacity Building Grant)

Our Mission

Stitch Buffalo is a textile art center committed to empowering refugee and immigrant women through the sale of their handcrafted goods, inspiring creativity and inclusion through community education, and stewarding the environment through the re-use of textile supplies.

Our Values

Community Building: Bringing people together through the textile arts.
Empowerment: Maintaining a welcoming environment that fosters fair and equitable opportunity and self expression.
Trust: Forging an inclusive and trustworthy space where each individual's cultural traditions and lived experiences can be expressed and preserved.
Passion: Working, learning and celebrating together in pursuit of innovation and personal expression.
Environmental Stewardship: Reducing waste by keeping useful materials out of landfills and in the hands of creative people.
Programs

Social Justice Stitched Stories. This exhibit was displayed at the Burchfield Penney Art Center (funding: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation) and the Springville Arts Center.

Creative Journeys: Celebrating the Art of Refugee Women in Western New York.
Our largest ever exhibit launched at the Buffalo History Museum. (funding: Buffalo History Museum; NY State Council on the Arts; Arts Services, Inc.; Erie County Cultural Funding; Sisters of St. Francis; M&T Bank; Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation)

Launch of Youth Summer Camp Program. We welcomed our first three classes of students to explore the textile arts in week-long summer sessions. With help from an anonymous matching grant, our Facebook followers raised enough money to sponsor scholarships for a full class of students from the African American Cultural Center.

Hands-On Youth/All-Ages Workshops. Stitch Buffalo staff, volunteers and artisans led workshops at: Buffalo History Museum; African American Community Center; and WNY Fiber Arts Festival (funding: Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation). We also taught classes at: Providence Farm Collective; West Side Community Services; Say Yes Saturday Academy at Lafayette High School; St. Mary’s
High School; Urban Teachers Academy (a Buffalo State College and McKinley High School collaboration); Assembly House; WIT; Burchfield Penney Art Center; Play/Ground Art Festival; Buffalo Urban League/Links; and Buffalo Community Health Center, and to Girl Scout troops.

Afghan Refugee Sewing Machine Drive and Classes. The WNY community pitched in with dozens of sewing machine donations, which were cleaned and tuned-up by Stitch Buffalo staff and volunteers (special thanks to Walter Rogers, George Ames of A & S Sew-Vac, and Mike Kuettel). Through funding from Five Star Bank and the Vogt Family Foundation, these machines were provided to Afghan refugees at no cost, along with the supplies and training needed to start sewing at home.

Young Learners Textile-Art Curriculum Development. Responding to a community need for youth textile-arts education, Stitch Buffalo enlisted professional arts educators to design a culturally informed curriculum that will allow us to teach more youth workshops and train teachers to lead their own classes. (funding: Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo Competitive Grant)

Custom Work Program Continued to Thrive. Custom orders and small-batch manufacturing are an important source of income for Stitch Buffalo artisans. This year, we were pleased to complete jobs for many local/regional businesses, including: Water Buffalo Club 716, BreadHive, International Institute of Buffalo, Providence Farm Collective, Ingram Micro, Slow Roll Buffalo, ComfyComfy Pillows, D’Youville University, and MoonLeap Meditation.
Launch of Nest/Etsy. Stitch Buffalo partnered with Etsy and Nest to train, equip, and prepare entrepreneurial artisans to open and manage their very own Etsy shops as part of the Afghan Refugee Collective within the Etsy Uplift Makers Initiative.

Weaving Wellness Program. With support from the Josephine Goodyear Foundation, professionals from the arts and artists-in-residence program at Oishei Children’s Hospital worked alongside Stitch Buffalo founder Dawne Hoeg to engage adolescents from OCH’s outpatient behavioral health clinic in textile arts programming. This project helps foster creativity, mindfulness, health, and well-being.

Support for Artists and Arts Educators. Stitch Buffalo was happy to provide low- or no-cost supplies for many local arts educators as well for organizations like the Peruvian Outreach Project. This group was created by WNY resident Cristian Johnston after his visit to Aldea orphanage—his home before his adoption in 2000. The group has recently established a new sewing workshop at the orphanage, located in Tarapoto, Peru. To complement their new equipment, Stitch Buffalo sent them a selection of sewing tools, fabrics, and supplies.

Top Left—Stitch Buffalo partnered with Oishei Children’s Hospital to work with adolescents in their outpatient behavioral health clinic.

Center and Bottom Left—Women at an orphanage in Tarapoto, Peru, work on setting up a new sewing workshop with supplies from Stitch Buffalo.
**Awards and Honors**

**ATHENA Awards.** Stitch Buffalo founder and executive director Dawne Hoeg was a finalist for the 2022 ATHENA Awards, presented by the Buffalo Niagara Partnership. A generous supporter purchased a table for the luncheon, allowing several of the refugee women to join us at the award ceremony.

**Pitch 10 Competition.** Stitch Buffalo was selected as a finalist and received the opportunity to compete in United Way of Buffalo and Erie County's Next Generation United Pitch10 event.

**Stitch Buffalo Day.** May 3, 2022, was officially Stitch Buffalo Day in the city of Buffalo, NY! Thanks to council member Joel Feroleto for inviting us to talk to the City of Buffalo Common Council.

**New York State Senate 2022 Empire Award.** In an event at the Buffalo History Museum, Senator Sean Ryan met with staff and board members of Stitch Buffalo to present us with this award—and a $10,000 grant.

**Top Right**—Stitch Buffalo staff, board, and members of the Refugee Women's Workshop at the ATHENA Awards luncheon.

**Bottom Right**—Presentation of the New York State Senate Empire Award by Senator Sean Ryan.
IMPACT

200+ refugee women and families received sewing tools and training

1,000+ people participated in hands-on textile-art classes

15,000+ pounds of supplies rescued for reuse

40% increase in sales & payouts to refugee artisans

6,000+ volunteer hours contributed
Thank you! The generosity and support we have received over the past year has allowed us not only to continue serving our community but also to develop our vision for a bright and diverse future. We extend our deepest thanks to each member of our Stitch Buffalo community. In countless ways, large and small, you are what makes it all possible.

Businesses, Foundations, and Other Organizations

The following organizations have provided valuable financial and in-kind support.

Amazon Smile  
Arts Services, Inc.  
Buffalo History Museum  
City of Buffalo Common Council and Council Members Joel Feroleto and David Rivera  
Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo  
Conable Family Foundation  
Eileen Fisher  
Erie County Cultural Funding  
Evans-Devereux Memorial Fund  
FilzFelt  
First Niagara Foundation  
Five Star Bank  
Forest Productions and Photography, Inc.  
Ingram Micro  
Josephine Goodyear Foundation  
Margaret L. Wendt Foundation  
M&T Bank  
Nest/Etsy  
New York State Council on the Arts  
New York State Senate and Senator Sean Ryan  
Orchard Park Friends Meeting  
Oxford Pennant  
Partnership for the Public Good  
Providence Fund (Sisters of St. Francis)  
Raft of Sanity  
Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation  
Rhea Anna Photos + Motion  
Rich Family Foundation  
Rich Products  
Spinneybeck  
Stephenson Accounting Solutions  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo  
United Way of Buffalo and Erie County  
Vogt Family Foundation  
Walmart  
Wegmans  
WNY Foundation
Individual Supporters

Year after year, we are proud to be supported by so many generous individuals in our own community and beyond Western New York. Thank you, also, to our supporters who elected to remain anonymous. Apologies to anyone who may have inadvertently been omitted.

Dee Adams
Mindy Airhart
Richelle Allen
& Scott King
Drs. Amy & Julio Alvarez
Amanda Anderson
Robert Andler
Monica Angle
Karen Arnold
Diane Arnone
Risa Asaro
Kathie Aspaas
Barbara Ball
Diane Baron
Melissa Bartlett
Bronwyn Battaglia
Kim Baum
Laura Beauregard
Mary Beavers
Cassidy Beeman
Ronald Biersbach
Karen Bohannon
Ann Bonte
Elizabeth Bowen
Sarah Bowker
Elizabeth Boyle
Lisa Brenner
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Jonatha Caspian
Christine Hentz
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Gayle Coots
Cynthia Cox
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Julia Damico
Sherri Darrow
Tonya Davis
Denise & John D. Cotter
Vivian Delbello
Theresa Dempster
Chirag Desai
George Detitta
Rachel DiDomizio
Theresa DiMuro-Wilber
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Marie & Stephen Hassett
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Patricia Herweg
Darcy Hettrich
Sharon Hewner
Alicia Higgins-Kinane
Jens Hoeg
Lisa Hoffman
Bernhard Huber
Derek & Susan Huer
Linda Hunter
Lynn Hyatt
Sara Hyatt
Judith Jackson
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Sally & Daniel Johnnes
Laurie Jones
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Bonnie Klatt
Susan Klute
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Emilee Koss
Kathy Kren
Robert Krum
Karen Krutchick
Martha Kryszczuk
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Denise Williams
Pat & Garet Williams
Ann Williams
Rebecca Woodruff
Kimberly Young
Jeani Young
Tina Zamora
Freda Zecher-Tropp
Elizabeth Zeiner
Judy Zitzka
Rahdne Zola
Catherine Zweig
Volunteers

In 2022, our volunteers contributed over 6000 hours of work to the mission of Stitch Buffalo. Nothing we do would be possible without their generous gift of time and skill.

Mindy Airhart
Christine Alsford
Amy Alvarez
Diane Arnone
Donna Ball
Jess Brutsman
Ann Clark
Claire Collie
Sherri Darrow
Joan Fedyszyn
Marcia Gutfeld

Marie Hasset
Rolf Hoeg
Fran Holmes
Nancy Hutchinson
Lillie Klaiman
Shira Klaiman
Emilee Koss
Holly Koss
Karen Krutchick
Andrea Kuettel
Liz Mahoney

Jen Marceaux
Martje McCausland
Steve Mesmer
Kathy Moriarty
Suzanne Morrow
Margaret Nielsen
Gretchen Oubre
Maria Pacheco
Amy Rowland
Carol Sabatino
Ann Sessions

Jean Sinopoli
Mary Skrip
Patricia Spasiano
Bridget Spitler
Cheryl Thompson
Naomi Thompson
Marjorie Tritto
Lien Truong
Nancy Vaccare
Amy VanDerwater
Celeste Zachritz

We were also assisted by volunteer teams from:
M&T Bank, University at Buffalo, Buffalo State College
Board

**Eve Everette**  
*President*  
Elmwood Village Charter School

**Elizabeth Reynolds**  
*Treasurer*  
SonicWall

**Molly Worth**  
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The Factory Buffalo

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University at Buffalo, Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

**Andrea Kuettel**  
*At large*  
Of Counsel, Ocotillo Law

**Yan Liu**  
Executive Director, Bridges from Borders

**Elizabeth Lovria**  
Development Coordinator, Westminster Economic Development Initiative (WEDI)

**Candace Morrison**  
Associate Attorney, Creighton, Johnsen & Giroux

**Kara Oliver**  
Tapestry Charter School; YMCA (Board member); consultant for Agents for Advocacy

**Sarah Richards-Desai**  
University at Buffalo, School of Social Work

**Melanie Sage**  
*At large*  
University at Buffalo, School of Social Work

**Tashi Fabian Sherpa**  
International Institute of Buffalo (IIB)

**Munawara Sultana**  
Refugee Women’s Workshop at Stitch Buffalo

**Naomi Thompson**  
University at Buffalo, School of Education

**Joann Tomasulo**  
Community Liaison, Office of NY State Senator Sean Ryan

**Patricia Watson**  
Erie County DSS (ret.); Hearts and Hands (Board Chair); Schofield Care (Board member)
Below—Stitch Buffalo Executive Director Dawne Hoeg with members of the Refugee Women’s Workshop and their children. Photo by Michael Mandolfo.

STORt/STUDIO
1215 Niagara Street, Buffalo, NY, 14213

HOURS
Monday, Friday, Saturday—10:00am–4:00pm
Wednesday—10:00am–6:00pm

Below—Stitch Buffalo Executive Director Dawne Hoeg with members of the Refugee Women’s Workshop and their children. Photo by Michael Mandolfo.

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Stitch Buffalo is a 501c3 nonprofit organization.