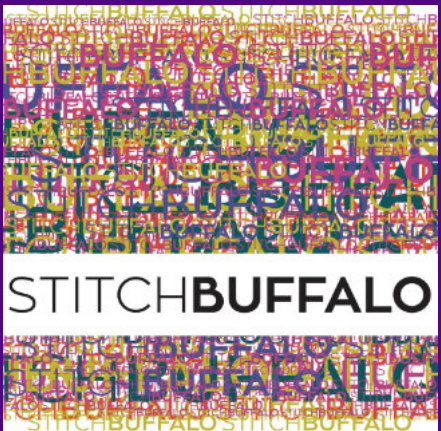


# 2022 Annual Report





**Previous page**—Hkawng Lung, originally from Burma, works in the Stitch Buffalo studio. **Above**—Stitch Buffalo Executive Director Dawne Hoeg in the studio with members of the Refugee Women’s Workshop and their children. Photos by Michael Mandolfo.

**T**his 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.



# MILESTONES

## 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.



**Left**—Social Justice Stitched Stories at Burchfield Penney. **Right**—Creative Journeys at the Buffalo History Museum.



**Left**—Youth summer camp at Stitch Buffalo. **Right**—Hands-on activities during Stitch Buffalo Family Day at the Buffalo History Museum.

# 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.



**Above**—An Afghan couple picks up a sewing machine donated by the community and refurbished by Stitch Buffalo.



**Above**—Our deluxe hats for Water Buffalo Club 716 made a big splash around WNY this fall and winter.



**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 Feroletto 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.

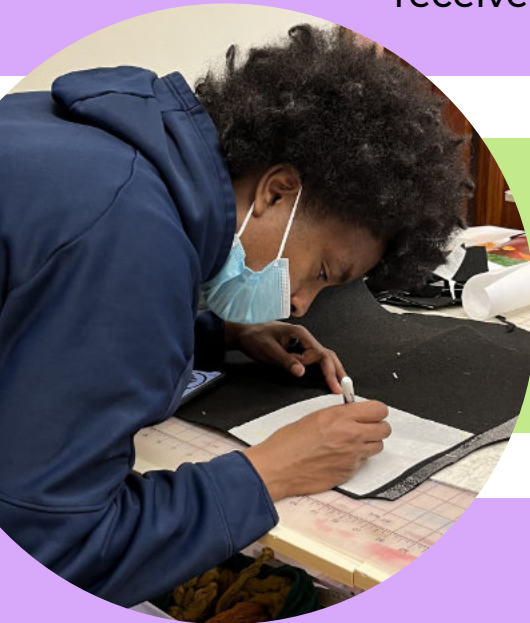
**Bottom Right**—Presentation of the New York State Senate Empire Award by Senator Sean Ryan.



# 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





# SUPPORTERS

**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  
Member Joel Feroletto  
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  
Rachel Bridges  
Andrea Burke-Harris  
Laura Burton  
Diane Bush  
George Carrick III  
Jonatha Caspian  
Christine Hentz

Kathryn Cieslica  
Karen Cincotti  
Gayle Coots  
Cynthia Cox  
Theresa Cross  
Nancy Crowley  
Gerardo D'Amelio  
Julia Damico  
Sherri Darrow  
Tonya Davis  
Denise & John D.  
Cotter  
Vivian Delbello  
Theresa Dempster  
Chirag Desai  
George Detitta  
Rachel DiDomizio  
Theresa DiMuro-  
Wilber  
Susan Doherty  
Berle Driscoll  
Dana Epstein  
Cara Ercolano  
Karen Ercolano  
Eve Everette  
Leo Fedor  
Joan Fedyszyn  
Sharon Feeley  
Patricia Ferrito  
Jill Fettes  
Patrick Finan  
Judith Frizien  
Jody Galvin  
Sabree Gamel  
Marion Garver



Lee Gath  
Cheryl Gelder  
Linda Gellman  
Karen Goddard  
Ellen Goldstein  
Jen Goode  
Holly Graham  
Monics Grecco  
Melanie Green  
Janet Greenlee  
Laura Grunart  
Frank Guido  
Marcia Gutfeld  
Susan Hadden  
Peter Hall  
Coleen Hanna  
Jane Hartney  
Marie Hasselback-  
Costa  
Marie & Stephen  
Hassett

Rebecca Hatcher  
Ed & Karen Healy  
Rose Hendricks  
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  
Ann Jacobson  
Mary Jean Jecklin  
Sally & Daniel  
Johnnes  
Laurie Jones

Erin Kelly  
Bonnie Klatt  
Susan Klute  
Meg Knowles  
Emilee Koss  
Kathy Kren  
Robert Krum  
Karen Krutchick  
Martha Kryszczuk  
Andrea Kuettel  
Kathryn Lalley  
Carol Laub  
Mary Lou Lemkuil  
Christina Leonard  
Karen Levy  
Rachel Lombardo  
Katherine Luciano  
Margaret Luther  
Jane MacDonald  
Constance Malach  
Kathleen Malmborg  
Suzanne Manning  
Jessica Marquart  
Gigi Matthews  
Brad Mazon &  
Thomas Coates  
Martje & Bruce  
McCausland  
Cynthia McCloskey  
Kathleen Mecca  
Mirtaghi & Susan  
Medghalchi  
Misty Meise

Sarah Metzger  
Connie Miller  
Ann Monroe  
Anna Moreland  
Rebecca Morris-  
Chatta  
Nicole Morris-  
McLaughlin  
Bonnie Morrisey  
Candace Morrison  
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Ani Moyer  
William & Mary Joy  
Murphy  
Kelly Nagel  
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Margaret Neilsen  
Barbara Nelson  
Kathryn Nemmer  
Peter Neville  
Roberta Nickelsen  
Suzanne O'Brien  
Laurel Oliver  
Kara Oliver  
Cynthia Olow  
Jean Ott  
Jo Page  
Elizabeth Parke  
Jaclyn Patnella  
Monica Pearson  
Elizabeth Penepent  
Judith Phillips  
Emma Pierick

Ted Pietrzak &  
Marlene  
Longdon  
Nancie Plumb  
Clare Poth  
Heather & Jay  
Quaintance  
Elizabeth Reynolds  
Marlana Rice  
Colleen Richards  
Sarah Rieth  
Janice Robinson  
Joan Rockenbrock  
Anne Rodier  
Monica Roland  
Jane Rosenfeld  
Mollie Ross  
Colleen Ross  
Elizabeth Sanchez  
Megan Scherer  
Samantha Schmitt  
Kelsey Schork  
Wendy Schwenker  
Crystal Selk  
Ann Sessions  
Judith Shatzky  
Amy Sheehan  
Arlesa Shephard  
Tashi Sherpa  
Leonard Skrill  
Nancy Smith  
Edwin Smith  
Margaret Smith  
Gerry Soffer  
Geraldyn Spiesz  
Elizabeth Stanton  
Kelly Stephenson  
Suzanne Stewart  
Joan Stoltman  
Kevin Sven  
Renee Szarowicz  
Anne Taylor

Elizabeth TenHave  
Charles & Cheryl  
Thompson  
Laura Thorne  
Lynne Thornton  
Joann Tomasulo  
Roselyn Tomasulo  
Carol Townsend  
Patricia Tracy  
Heidi Travagline  
Marjorie Tritto  
Emily Tucker  
Pam Turner  
JuliVan Woert  
Bradley Vespa  
Julia & Therese Victor  
Joyce Wagner  
Amalia Wagner  
Maria Walker  
Patricia Watson  
Rebecca Webb  
Samantha Webster  
Allan Weiser  
Jean West  
Samantha White  
Amy White  
Timeca Whitehead  
Jennifer Wiegand  
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



# OUR TEAM

## Staff

### Dawne Hoeg

Executive Director

### Michelle Perkins

Development and Communications  
Manager

### Cheri Vogelbaum

Retail and Consignment Manager

### Becky Jean Mesmer

Second Stitch Manager



## 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 Alford

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

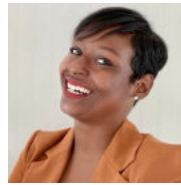
# Board



**Eve Everett**

*President*

Elmwood Village Charter School



**Kara Oliver**

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



**Elizabeth Reynolds**

*Treasurer*

SonicWall



**Sarah Richards-Desai**

University at Buffalo, School of Social Work



**Molly Worth**

*Secretary*

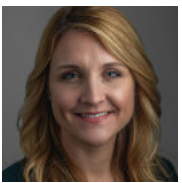
The Factory Buffalo



**Melanie Sage**

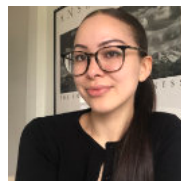
*At large*

University at Buffalo, School of Social Work



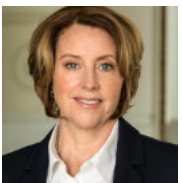
**Christine Fontaneda**

University at Buffalo, Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences



**Tashi Fabian Sherpa**

International Institute of Buffalo (IIB)



**Andrea Kuettel**

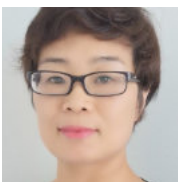
*At large*

Of Counsel, Ocotillo Law



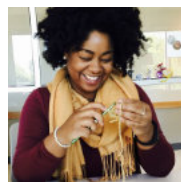
**Munawara Sultana**

Refugee Women's Workshop at Stitch Buffalo



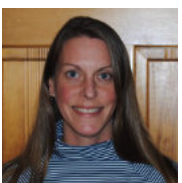
**Yan Liu**

Executive Director, Bridges from Borders



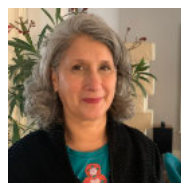
**Naomi Thompson**

University at Buffalo, School of Education



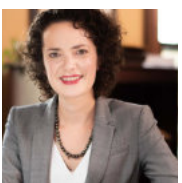
**Elizabeth Lovria**

Development Coordinator, Westminster Economic Development Initiative (WEDI)



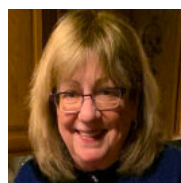
**Joann Tomasulo**

Community Liaison, Office of NY State Senator Sean Ryan



**Candace Morrison**

Associate Attorney, Creighton, Johnsen & Giroux



**Patricia Watson**

Erie County DSS (ret.); Hearts and Hands (Board Chair); Schofield Care (Board member)

# Stitching Communities Together

## STORE/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.

## CONTACT

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Facebook.com/stitchbuffalo  
Instagram.com/stitchbuffalo  
Youtube.com/@stitchbuffalo

*Stitch Buffalo is a 501c3 nonprofit organization.*

