



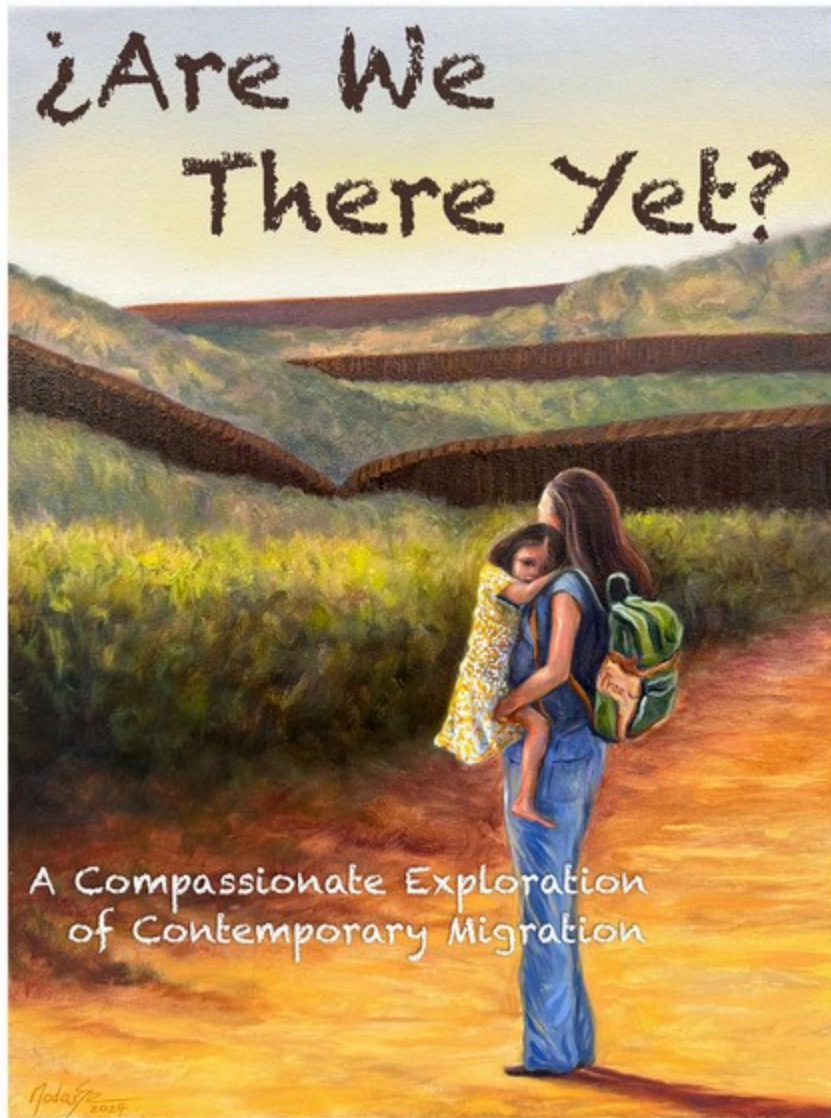
## The Origins of the Refugee Scholars in Ithaca Program: A Conversation with IWR Partner Ariela Asllani



In 2023, Cornell student Ariela Asllani collaborated with IWR to initiate a program called Refugee Scholars in Ithaca, with the aim to provide support to refugee high school students in Ithaca preparing for college. Following a successful start, the program has been funded to run for a second year. We caught up with Ariela to learn about her motivation and vision for this work, and how the partnership has come together. Read the story [here](#).

---

### Film Screening




# ¿Are We There Yet?





A Compassionate Exploration of Contemporary Migration

*Thomas Hoebbel 2024*

A New Documentary by Thomas Hoebbel

[www.TH-Photo.com/are-we-there-yet](http://www.TH-Photo.com/are-we-there-yet)

 [are\\_we\\_there\\_yet\\_movie](https://www.instagram.com/are_we_there_yet_movie)

Made possible with financial support from Cornell University and an SOG grant from the Community Arts Partnership of Tompkins County

We are pleased to share news of a new documentary film titled *¿Are We There Yet?: A Compassionate Exploration of Contemporary Immigration* to be screened at a [premiere event](#) at Cinemapolis in downtown Ithaca organized by local Producer/Director Thomas Hoebbel. The film takes a compassionate look at migration and facilitates immigrants telling their own stories: of their journeys to the United States, hardships they experienced along the way and the challenges they have faced in the US. The film contrasts these personal narratives with the rhetoric being espoused by national figures proclaiming an immigration crisis or an “invasion” of our country. A number of residents of Tompkins County contributed to the film and feature in it.

The screening event will take place this Wednesday, October 23 at 6pm.

---

## Current Needs

We are immensely grateful to everyone who has donated items to newly arrived individuals and families we have been helping to set up home in Ithaca over the past 3 months. It has been a busy period and the community response to our requests has been crucial to meeting different people’s needs as they have come up. A shout-out also goes out to our wonderful Welcome Home volunteers for their tireless work finding housing, and organizing donation collections and moves!

If you have a gently used **laptop** that you no longer need, this would be gratefully received.

We also encourage donations of gently used **children's clothing and baby items** to Mama Goose, where store credit can be added to IWR's account for refugees to use.

For the most up to date information on needs, check the [Current Needs](#) on the IWR website or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [X](#).

Please direct all queries about donations to Leigh Bacher, IWR Programs Coordinator, at [leighb@ithacawelcomesrefugees.org](mailto:leighb@ithacawelcomesrefugees.org).

---

## First Presbyterian Church Donates Concert Proceeds to IWR

A special thank you to the First Presbyterian Church for kindly donating \$296.50 of the proceeds from a concert with Bobby Jo Valentine held last month to IWR. We are so grateful for your support!

---

### Reminder: Fall Crisis Fund Appeal

Last month we launched an appeal to raise \$5,000 to support a bereaved family from Afghanistan with legal costs as they pursue justice for the loss of one family member in a traffic accident in Ithaca last year. Thank you to everyone who has generously contributed! With two weeks left of the appeal, we have raised \$2,038. We would love to raise the full cost of the fees. Please consider donating if you can. You can [read the full story](#) on our website and [donate](#) on the appeal page or send a check to Ithaca Welcomes Refugees at 315 N. Cayuga St., Ithaca, N.Y., 14850, noting 'Crisis Fund' in the memo.

---

### Last Chance to Donate Jewelry for November Fundraiser

Anyone who wishes to donate gently used jewelry for the upcoming IWR fundraiser jewelry sale may do so until Thursday October 31st. The sale is being organized by two IWR supporters and will take place on Saturday November 30 from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. in the community room at the First Baptist Church of Ithaca. If you have gently used jewelry to give, see [more information here](#) and contact Yvonne Fogarty at 607-592-2799 or Debbie Benzer at 607-279-7174 before the end of October.

---

*Copyright © 2024 Ithaca Welcomes Refugees, All rights reserved.*

If you know someone who might be interested in this newsletter, please send it on to them. If you received this newsletter as a forward and would like to subscribe, please click [here](#).

Want to change how you receive these emails? You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).



*Copyright © 2024 Ithaca Welcomes Refugees, All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.

