

Dear Potential Donor,

My name is Yahya Yussuf and I grew up in Salt Lake City as a child of two refugee parents who, in tandem with the local community, worked hard to ensure I had access to the resources necessary to become as academically successful as possible. They provided me with books, individualized tutoring, test preparation, and access to public libraries. In short, they worked to support me with academic advantages that many take for granted. I recently graduated from college and quickly became financially secure on my own. My community's focus on my K-12 education has translated into material benefit, but also built my confidence in pursuing my goals and navigating challenges.

Educational resources can make all the difference in a child's life. Due to a shortage of public funding, children from immigrant and refugee households often lack the reading skills necessary to build an adequate base of literacy. Poor literacy is linked to a number of lifelong challenges (financial instability, low self-esteem, etc). To address this issue, I incorporated the Kitab Foundation as a federally-recognized 501(c)3 non-profit organization in 2020.

The Kitab Foundation collaborates with public schools and national publishing entities to buy elementary-level books and literacy resources at reduced prices for students in kindergarten through third grade. Once purchased, the Foundation distributes these books to schools, refugee households, and community venues frequented by refugee and immigrant families. We operate locally, coordinating with the community and local school administrators to ensure that the resources we provide are distributed directly to the families and individuals who need them.

For a country founded on the notion of accepting immigrants regardless of their background, the United States does not provide adequate support for refugee and immigrant families, and often denies them essential resources. Although the Department of Education offers some aid, we owe our refugee students more resources and assistance. Your donation supports the Kitab Foundation in bridging this equity gap by providing refugee and immigrant children with the books, school supplies, and tutoring programs they deserve. Our operations are currently limited to Salt Lake County, but with your continued generosity, we hope to one day expand our efforts to refugee and immigrant communities across the nation.

Sincerely,

Yahya Abdirahman Yussuf

President and Founder of The Kitab Foundation