EBENEZER HEALTHCARE ACCESS



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From Starting Over to Helping Others Find Their Way: Soumia's Immigrant Journey

When Soumia first came to the United States as an immigrant, she had to navigate the experience of starting over in a new country, learning a new environment, building relationships, and finding her place in a new community. Today, that experience has become an important part of who she is and how she serves others through her work at Ebenezer Healthcare Access (EHA).

As a Community Health Worker at EHA, Soumia draws on her own journey to connect with immigrants and newcomers who may be facing some of the same challenges she once experienced. Her personal experience has helped shape her understanding of how important it is for people to feel welcomed, heard, respected, and supported as they build a new life.

That perspective was especially visible when Soumia represented EHA at Welcome Dayton, a community event celebrating cultural diversity and connection. Throughout the evening, she welcomed visitors to her table and shared her experience as an Algerian immigrant, her culture, languages, and her work with EHA. She also introduced attendees to the diverse communities EHA serves and the importance of culturally responsive support.One conversation that stood out was with a veteran who had previously spent time in Morocco. Their shared appreciation for North African culture, food, and traditions created an immediate connection. For Soumia, moments like this



supporting immigrants involves more than connecting them to services. It also means listening to their stories, understanding their experiences, building trust, and helping them feel that they belong.

"Sometimes a simple conversation can create a connection," Soumia said. "Sharing our stories can help people understand one another and feel that they belong."

Through EHA, Soumia has turned her own experience as an immigrant into an opportunity to serve others. Her journey demonstrates the impact that personal experience can have when combined with compassion, cultural understanding, and a commitment to community health.

For EHA, Soumia's story reflects the organization's broader mission of reaching diverse communities and helping people access health and community resources in ways that are respectful, culturally responsive, and meaningful. Her experience allows her to see the community not only as a health worker, but also as someone who understands what it means to start over.

demonstrate how cultural experiences can bring people from different backgrounds together.

Her journey has also influenced the way she understands her role at EHA. Having experienced the process of building a life in a new country herself, Soumia understands that

From being a newcomer finding her own path to becoming a Community Health Worker helping others navigate theirs, Soumia's journey illustrates how lived experience can become a powerful source of connection, trust, and service.

Impact Report



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Cincinnati, OH 45237
937-430-8053

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