

A Night to Remember: Upwardly Global's 25th Anniversary Gala Celebrates Community and Impact

Last week, Upwardly Global hosted its Brighter Futures Together Gala, gathering supporters, partners, and alumni to celebrate 25 years of building brighter futures for immigrant professionals across the U.S.

It was a night to remember. We celebrated a quarter century of Upwardly Global's impact with inspiring storytelling and tributes. Honorees **Mariana van Zeller**, award-winning investigative journalist, and acclaimed filmmaker **Marco Calvani** reminded us all about the importance of uplifting immigrant voices in today's media landscape.

"[Upwardly Global's mission is] to help us all invest in people, in humanity, and in something we all already know to be true: that immigrants are what make this country great," shared **van Zeller**. "I'm proud to stand with you, and with every immigrant and refugee whose story is still unfolding. Let's help them write the next chapter."

We were proud to celebrate our 25th anniversary alongside the people who made the work possible, including founder **Jane Leu** and former President and CEO **Nikki Cicerani**, alumni who embody resilience and have achieved great success in the U.S., and key partners who supported us throughout the journey.

The evening also featured a special performance from musician **Lollise** and a lively auction led by **Tiwana Kenney**, which garnered generous donations to help fuel our mission for the next chapter.

[Visit our website for a full recap of the event and photos from this milestone celebration.](#)

Level Up With UpGlo: 25 Job Search Tips for Immigrant Professionals



Make the most of the September surge — the time of year when hiring picks up — by refreshing your job search strategy. Upwardly Global is here to guide you with **25**

[expert tips](#) tailored for immigrant professionals, from resume improvements to networking strategies.

Partner Spotlight Hopelink — Creating Hope Through Opportunity in Washington State



In partnership with Hopelink, Upwardly Global is expanding career pathways for immigrant and refugee professionals across North and East King County. By combining Hopelink's English for Work program with UpGlo's career tools and skilling resources, students are gaining the confidence, vocabulary, and job readiness needed to reenter their fields in the U.S. workforce.

"They don't need to start over," said Kelli Graham, Senior Manager of English Language Programs at Hopelink. "They just need to refresh their skills, and UpGlo makes that possible."

[Read more about our partnership with Hopelink.](#)

Upwardly Global Community Stories



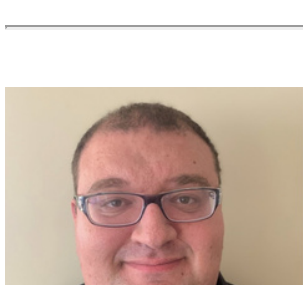
Kahlil Bagatsing, Alum and Upwardly Global's Community Engagement Manager: *"It was humbling. I thought with my background, I'd get a job easily. I didn't even have a resume."*

After 15 years of balancing corporate life with community service in the Philippines, Kahlil suddenly found himself facing the uncertainty of starting over abroad. But through Upwardly Global, he found both employment and purpose. [Read his story.](#)



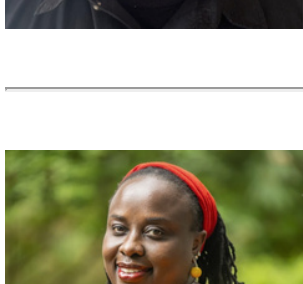
Mohammad Sediq Hazratzai, Alum and Board Member: *"This organization gives you a voice and puts you at the highest level. What's unique is that everyone, at every level, is deeply mission-driven. They truly believe in the work."*

Mohammad arrived in the U.S. with a Master of Public Health, but restarting his career as a refugee was harder than he imagined — until he connected with Upwardly Global. Today, he leads one of California's largest refugee-serving organizations and joined Upwardly Global's Board of Directors. [Read his story.](#)



Aaron Brotman, Volunteer: *"I'm privileged and lucky that my career hasn't been interrupted by conflict and war or the need to leave my home. I'm excited to help others who aren't as fortunate in that regard."*

Software engineer Aaron Brotman knows how tough technical interviews can be. That's why he volunteers for Upwardly Global, sharing his expertise, offering mock interviews, and helping immigrant professionals reenter the tech industry with confidence. [Read his story.](#)



Caroline Luzze, Alum and Leadership Council Member: *"My experience as an Upwardly Global alum has been very empowering. I literally took everything I learned from Upwardly Global ... and I use them to guide others."*

Caroline knows how it feels to restart one's career. With Upwardly Global's guidance, she went from a survival job to a skill-aligned job, and now — as part of the National Leadership Council — she uses the job-readiness skills she developed to help other newcomers. [Read her story.](#)

Join Our Team

Join us and help impact the lives of professional immigrants and their families. Upwardly Global is currently offering the following opportunities:

- [Instructional Designer - Full Time](#)
- [Employment Services Advisor - Full Time](#)

[Donate Today](#)

