

Meet Mahnaz Eshetu

Introduction by Connie Miller

Today I have the great pleasure of introducing our new Rotary Club member to you, Mahnaz Eshetu, classification Non-profit – Community Service.

Mahnaz's lifelong focus has been Community Development.

She is Persian and an immigrant to the US. She came here as a student at the end of 1977, just six months before the Revolution that ended true democracy in Iran.

Here she got her undergraduate degree in accounting and hospital administration and her MBA in economics and finance.

Her career trajectory prepared her perfectly for her current work. First, she developed tribal manufacturing programs in five states.

At WSU she was a business development counselor and with the City of Seattle she worked with small businesses being displaced by the new light rail system.

Next she became the Vice President of Lending at Key Bank, financing affordable housing projects. She served on several boards during those years, including the Refugee Women's Alliance, called REWA. After serving on that board for seven years she was recruited to become their Executive Director.

REWA is an award-winning, nationally recognized nonprofit that provides holistic services to help refugee and immigrant women and families thrive. Their offices and affordable housing complex are located on Martin Luther King Way.

There you will find a brightly colored hub of social service activity, including health, education, housing, child support and employment services, staffed with 130 employees and 500 volunteers.

When asked "Why Rotary?" she said Rotary is a place that is helping people here and all over the world make a difference, and this alignment with her values and that of REWA motivated her to join.

Thank you for joining us, Mahnaz and thank you to your proposers Trent Mummery and David Woodward.

