

Dear Friends,

We are delighted to share with you some of our undertakings and our major impacts in 2022. We are pleased that our advocacy, education, and service in the past year enjoyed significant growth and strengthening while our response to the emerging needs in the community has been enhanced. Our response to the complex global humanitarian crisis —particularly what stemmed from Myanmar (Burma), Afghanistan, and Ukraine —has been sustained. Notable progress has also been made in undertaking major initiatives to increase the organization's operational capacity and development.

Highlighted in the following are some of the outcomes and major impacts in 2022.

In 2022 alone, we assisted 4042 (595 increase from last year's number of 3447) individuals with Citizenship and English language training, naturalization applications, and other immigration requirements, as well as provided support in gaining employment and training, mentorship and scholarships, and college & university admissions. This made a total of over 20,000 individuals served since 2011. Similarly, we continued providing technical assistance to a number of start-up organizations including those that are faith-based, which is an important part of the overall successful integration into the community.

The Upward College Program (UCP) for high school students continued to maintain 100% admissions to postsecondary institutions for the students who completed this BACI program. Furthermore, we helped over 50% of current college students who were previously enrolled in the UCP to receive scholarships. This past year also saw the college going rate among the Burmese recent high school graduates increase to 93% from 43% in 2014.

In response to the emerging needs in the community, especially in light of COVID-19 impact, we have been able to enhance our basic needs assistance and mental health related service provision while also joining the resettlement community in the US to welcome the Burmese, Afghan, and Ukrainian humanitarian parolees reflecting the Hoosiers' hospitality and the American leadership.

Guided by our 2021-2026 strategic plan, the Capital Campaign Feasibility study conducted by our consultant concluded that sufficient philosophical and financial support exists in the community to move forward with the Community Center vision in CREATING A HOME FOR ALL, a campus to serve the community in more impactful ways.

Moving forward, we will be strengthening, enhancing, and expanding our programs and services inclusively and in innovative ways while materializing the vision of the community center in phases through mutually beneficial collaborative partnerships. With renewed commitment, we hope you will continue to stand with us as we continue to put all the effort towards helping newcomers and members of our shared community in becoming economically self-sufficient, integrated, and productive citizens of our global society.

A very Happy New Year 2023!

The Burmese American Community Institute

January 1, 2023 | BACI Newsletter

New Year Message

Highlights of service, outcomes, major impacts in 2022

BACI Main Programs and Services Updates, Community Integration Service Provisions & Impact

Advocacy, College and Career Readiness, Career Pathways and Professional Development, Research, Policy and Innovation, English and Citizenship, Employment and Small Business Development, Economic Self-Sufficiency

COVID-19 Response, Resettlement Programs, Basic Needs Assistance, Community Health

Afghan Placement and Assistance Program (APA), Burmese refugees/parolees, Ukrainian refugees and parolees. Housing, Nutritional Food, Mental Health

Cultural Engagement, Myanmar Initiative and Global Advocacy

Union Day, Spring Flowers International Conference on Myanmar, support for peaceful, democratic, and prosperous Myanmar, Center for Research, Policy, and Innovation, the National University of the Union of Myanmar (NUUM), and the Myanmar Scholars and Leaders Program (MSLP)



<u>Video New Year message</u> for our community from Chair of BACI Board of Directors **Dr. Ro Ding**

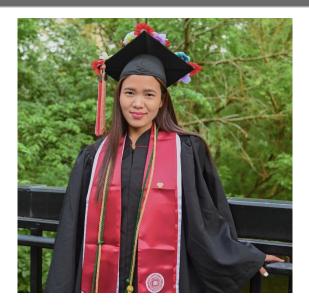


<u>Video New Year message</u> for our community from Vice Chair of BACI Board of Directors **Pu San Hlei Thang**



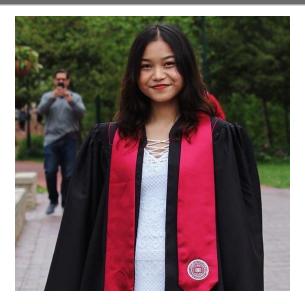
Happy New Year 2023 Message and BACI Major Impact Updates from Executive Director Elaisa Vahnie. Full text...

Congratulations!



Congratulations **Cang Hing** (Rosy) on earning her B.S. degree in Community Health with a minor in Religious Studies from Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) in May 2022.

Rosy has been working full-time as a Mentor for high school students in the BACI Upward College Program where she started as a high school student participant. Her passion to serve and give back to the community is exemplary. Beginning this year, Rosy will be assuming a coordinator role combining UCP and the Community Health & Wellness Program. We are so proud of Rosy for her accomplishments and grateful to have her in our team.



Congratulations **Temple Mawii** (Mawite) on receiving Bachelors of Science (B.S.) Human Biology from Indiana University Bloomington.

As a manager of the BACI Basic Needs Assistance Program, Mawite was voted as the BACI Staff of the Year in Client Service category for her excellent customer services and care for members of the community. We are incredibly proud of Mawite's continued success and grateful to have her in our team.

Upward College Program for High School Students

Of the 244 students enrolled in the BACI Upward College Program for the 2021-2022 academic year, over 30 seniors graduated from their high school in the summer of 2022 while 100% were admitted to colleges and universities with full or partial scholarships. We continue to be pleased with the overall accomplishments of the program. A total of **651** (626 high school students and 27 middle school students) and their parents were served during 2022.



Upward College Program Continues to Grow with Innovations

The Upward College Program is a comprehensive year-long program that assists students with their college academic readiness and success. The program is unique and rigorous with several components: tutoring, STEM and life-skills training, leadership and public speaking, a Summer Scholars research program, and college preparatory classes – including standardized test prep, individualized college and scholarship application assistance, and extracurricular opportunities, including engagement with volunteer and community service.



Photo (above): Participants in the Upward College Program held an election session for the Student Government Body for the academic year 2022-2023.

Mini Olympic Games and Tournaments Held - Upward College Program









The Upward College Program hosted the Mini Olympic Games and Tournaments in November. Congratulations to all those who won the prizes! Congratulations also to all those who enthusiastically participated to make the event this year so lively and a success!



Community and Volunteer Service is an integral part of the Upward College Program design. In photo: students engaging in a day of volunteer service at Indy Urban Acre Farm, a project of Indy Parks and Recreation



Participating students in the Upward College Program celebrated Halloween in 2022. We are grateful as we are able to host the event this year in person at our new home: BACI new campus.

Upward College Program 2022-2023 Celebrates Students' Successes

The BACI Upward College Program Fall semester concluded successfully by celebrating the success of the participating students.

Congratulations to each of the students for successfully completing the Fall Session! We are incredibly proud of you and look forward to working even more closely in Spring and beyond as as you all prepare yourselves for future endless success!



60 students are honored for their academic excellence for achieving high GPAs while 6 students were recognized with the Exemplary Youth Award. Many students were also recognized and appreciated for their efforts and active participation in group sessions, especially in Volunteer and Community Service Projects throughout the semester.



We also thank and command members of the Student Government Body for their leadership and dedication.



The Upward College Program mentors and mentees spent time together sharing and exchanging gifts with fun factors during the Christmas and Holiday season of 2022.

Summer Programs and Community Service Fair

11th Annual College and Youth Summit

The 11th Annual College and Youth Summit was organized combined with the Community Super Service Fair with the motto of **Creating & Fostering a College Going Culture Since 2010**, where representatives from our partner Universities presented information about the schools, departments and scholarships, as well as other special opportunities they have to offer.



We were thrilled to be able to host the second BACI Community Super Service Fair on June 18, 2022. The Community Comprehensive Service Fair included a College & Scholarship Fair, a Job Fair, a Health and a Basic Needs Assistance Fair, a Citizenship Fair, and a Sports Fair. Over 300 community members participated in the event.

Summer Scholars Program – PAR Policy & Action Solution Oriented Research

Another highly successful Summer Scholars Program, which provides the youth the opportunity to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills to lead and succeed through a scientific method, was implemented for the 10th year in 2022. **Our 35 Youth Scholars** engaged in an intensive 10weeks of research and leadership development activities to solve some of the most pressing social issues facing the community/society through scientific inquiry, data driven policy recommendation, and with a solution oriented approach -one that develops capacity, produces knowledge, and effects change. This unique and rigorous program primarily utilizes the Participatory Action Research (PAR) model through a comprehensive program design.

Upward College Program in the News!

The success of our program was covered in 2022 by Local, National and International News outlets including the Indy Star, the Associated Press (AP), <u>the U.S.</u> <u>News and World</u> <u>Report, the Daily</u> <u>Herald Chicago</u>, etc.

Thanks to the Indy Star for initially capturing the success of the Upward College Program in a unique way: <u>'You're</u> <u>truly not alone':</u> <u>Mentees become</u> <u>mentors in the college</u> <u>prep program for</u> Burmese refugees.

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Main Findings of the BACI Study 2022

tact: info@baci-indy.org | Tel: 317-731-5537 |

College going rate among Burmese-Americans has increased to 93.3 percent this year from 85 percent in 2017, while the population has maintained 93 percent college persistence in the past several years.

The study also shows that as of June 30, 2022, 182,329 Burmese refugees have been admitted to the United States since 2000. While over 40,000 Burmese individuals are residing in Indiana, nearly 27,000 of them are calling Indianapolis their new home. The overall Burmese population in the U.S. is estimated to be over 317,000.



College Going Rate among Burmese-Americans Maintained at ...

INDIANAPOLIS, Aug. 2, 2022-A study released by the Burmese American Community Institute (BACI) yesterday at its 11th Annual Research Presentation confirms the college going rate among Burmese-Americans has increased to 93.3 percent this year from ...

Read more thebaci.org

Congratulations to Young Scholars!

35 youths successfully completed the Upward College Summer Scholars Program 2022, supported by 10 college and graduate students and 4 faculty members from our partner Universities while a total of 98 students participated in both UCSSP and the College Prep and Leadership Development Program.





Photo above: Young Scholars and lead researchers at the Upward College Summer Scholars Program - Summer 2022



Our interns and summer staff - Summer 2022

Career Pathways & Professional Development



In 2022 we enjoyed another successful summer of programs with an increased number of participation in both the Career Pathways and Professional Development Program (CPPD). These individuals assist various programs and service provisions within the BACI as interns, case workers, instructors and researchers as well as in the College Prep and Leadership Development Program. Participating youths in CPPD took part in team building activities during the training week of summer 2022.



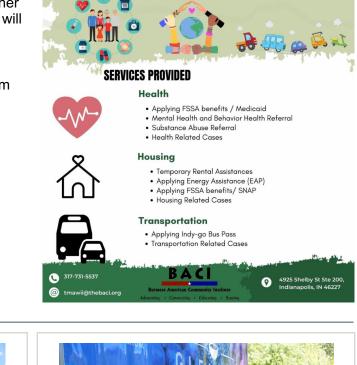
Education and Leadership Field Trip to Chicago - Summer 2022

Visit our website to learn more about our Summer Programs at: www.thebaci.org

Basic Need Assistance & Community Health

In response to emerging needs in the community, especially in light of COVID-19 and its impact, and in partnership and support of the United Way of Central Indiana (UWCI), we have expanded our services to the areas of basic need assistance which allow us to serve families with their housing needs, healthy food and nutrition, and physical, mental & behavioral health services. Our volunteers, staff, and our partner, the UWCI, also assisted members and families of the community with their energy assistance applications. We are particularly pleased that BACI became an accredited partner of the UWCI in 2021 as such coming together will undoubtedly bring a greater impact on our shared community.

We served **462** individuals through the program in 2022.





Photos above: our staff and student volunteers in collaborative effort with our partners, distributed nutritional food to 176 families and more than 100 individuals of diverse backgrounds and delivered Flu and COVID vaccines at a single event. Thanks our partners: Gleaners and ICBC and all the volunteers for their impactful work.

In addition to the key programs and services, with the recognition of the responsibility to step in to respond to the crisis, we've also been working with our partners assisting Afghan refugees/parolees through the Afghan Placement and Assistance Program (APA), Burmese refugees/parolees, as well as Ukrainian refugees/parolees.

Mental Health First Aid Training Conducted



Responding to the increasing needs and to effectively help address Mental Health problems in the community & the country, especially in light of COVID-19 impact, the BACI successfully conducted Mental Health First Aid Training (MHFA) and Psychological First Aid Training in 2022. Over 20 trainees including faith leaders, educators, health professionals, social workers etc. completed the trainings.

This initiative and training was made possible through a collaborative partnership between the Burmese American Community Institute (BACI), United Way of Central Indiana, Indiana Department of Health, National Council of Behavioral Health, and the Office of Refugee Resettlement/DHHS.

Employment and Microenterprise Development



The EMEDP, which assists newcomers in becoming economically self-sufficient and allows them to give back to their communities and contribute to economic growth -streamlined since 2018 -- continues to grow. Channeled through the <u>Center for</u> <u>Integration and Community Development</u> (<u>CICD</u>) in an effort to be more effective and inclusive, but also to be more strategic in our approaches, the program also successfully conducted a major intake for home-based childcare licensure for women in our community in 2022.



In 2022, 16 women in our community participated in the orientation for child care licensure training to become home-based childcare service providers whereby they not only become self-sufficient economically but also help the community in many ways culturally and economically to make our shared community a more vibrant place to live.

English, Citizenship and Integration

The BACI's Civic and **Cultural Education** Program empowers new Americans with security in their rights and liberties by holding immigration information sessions in partnership with United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), providing individualized assistance with various immigration needs, such as Green Card and Citizenship applications, implementing English and Citizenship instruction (ECI), and by encouraging the community members to be active and engaged citizens.



In 2022 we were able to sustain the expanded Citizenship and English classes offered to newcomers through BACI's Civic and Cultural Education Program. Working with our partners and stakeholders, we will be strengthening the programs in 2023 and beyond by increasing our program and service locations across Indiana as well as nationally.

Congratulations to the ECI Graduates and New Citizens!

Congratulations to our community members who have just graduated from their English and Citizenship Class in 2022! ECI teaches English simultaneously with civics covering topics including the U.S. Constitution, U.S. Government, and U.S. History in order to prepare students to ensure they are ready to become the U.S. Citizens – holders of U.S. Citizenship. Photos (below): some of the 2022 ECI graduates as they get a step closer to becoming US citizens so that they can fully exercise their rights and responsibilities in freedom!

In 2022, we served **1,446** individuals through BACI CCEP which was mainly comprised of N-400, Application for Naturalization and N-600, Application for Certificate of Citizenship.



December 2022 ECI graduates who successfully completed 40+ hours of English and Civic education.



Another group of ECI graduates in June 2022. Nearly 200 members of the community graduated from this class last year.

Celebrate Diversity, Participate and Engage with the Community



Celebrate Diversity, Participate and Engage with the Community

With the appreciation of the need to engage and contribute to our shared community as we continue to be a welcoming and inclusive place that welcomes and celebrates diversity, BACI fully recognizes the importance of newcomers becoming integrated citizens of a cohesive society. As such, we are grateful to participate in a number of cultural events around the city every year, such as the International Festival where we have the opportunity to engage, learn from one another, and promote a greater understanding among different groups.



Myanmar Initiative

Center for Research, Policy and Innovation (CRPI)

Researchers and scholars at the BACI successfully designed and executed 22 topics of research, policy solutions and service oriented projects through <u>the Center for Research, Policy and</u> <u>Innovation (CRPI)</u> in collaboration with higher education institutions in 2022. The topics are primarily aimed at informing the stakeholders substantively in support of democracy in Myanmar and helping address some of the most pressing issues. While the findings and recommendations of the study have been widely shared with the stakeholders, the executive summary will be published soon.

The CRPI is designed to promote collaborative research, policy solution and action projects with local researchers, Burmese scholars, international colleagues, and stakeholders engaged in work related to the Burmese American community, Asian Americans, Myanmar, Southeast Asia, and the diaspora communities. The goal of the CRPI is to further innovative research activities, policy, and development-oriented projects that align with BACI's vision and mission for advocacy, education, and service.





CRPI 2022

In 2022 summer the following 22 research topics and projects were successfully designed and executed.1. A Study of Online Teaching and Learning on Students at the High School Level in Myanmar

Read more thebaci.org

The National University of the Union of Myanmar (NUUM) - Global Campus Website Launched

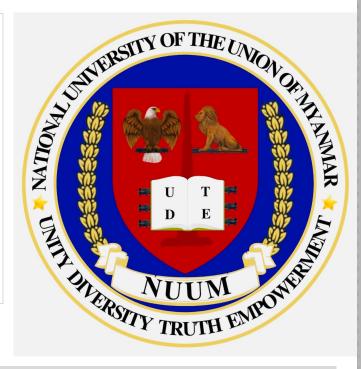
A collaborative initiative of people from diverse academic, ethnic and professional backgrounds, including faculty of universities in Myanmar, members of civil society organizations (CSOs), and others, joined by members of the Myanmar diaspora as well as friends of Myanmar from the United States and around the world, NUUM currently offers <u>12 certificate programs</u> and <u>various programs</u> taught and implemented by over <u>90 teaching fellows, professors, and administrators</u>.

In its effort to increase learning, teaching and research opportunities, NUUM also operates various centers and programs, including the <u>Teaching Fellowship and Higher Education Leadership</u> <u>Program</u>, <u>Mentorship Program</u>, Capstone Project, the <u>Center for Holistic International Human</u> <u>Rights Law Praxis</u>, and the Center for Research, Policy and Innovation.

NUUM Launches Its Website

"The website will bring us closer to realizing the vision of NUUM of a welleducated society in a peaceful, democratic, and prosperous Myanmar in which all members have the opportunity to contribute to and benefit from civic and economic...

Read more nuumedu.org





First NUUM Graduation Ceremony Held 28 students Graduated from Their Certificate Programs

Welcome Speech Delivered by Elaisa Vahnie at the 1st Commencement Ceremony of the National University of the Union of Myanmar – Global Campus August 27, 2022 Full Text of Speech

We are aimed at strengthening existing programs and expanding academic, training, research and democracy projects in 2023.

Myanmar Scholars and Leaders Program



The BACI released the application for the Myanmar Scholars and Leaders Program (MSLP), which was created and designed to train and support the next generation of leaders and scholars in Myanmar.

The MSLP aims to recruit and train diverse and promising individuals from Myanmar, in top U.S. graduate programs—in both Master's and Ph.D.

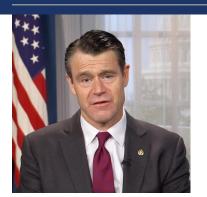
degree programs—to develop strong technical expertise, analytical skills, and leadership skills needed to assume inclusive leadership responsibilities in various ministries, departments, and sectors in Myanmar and beyond.

"The challenges that Myanmar is facing are also the challenges of South East Asia and the world. We will support Myanmar by sharing all the experiences we have from the U.S. and Vietnam," said Dr. Anh Tran, Director of the Vietnam Initiative and Professor at Indiana University's O'Neil School, a top ranked Public Affairs School in the US. Tran also serves as an Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister of Vietnam. Read more...

Spring Flowers International Conference on Myanmar Held with a Celebration of the Union Day of Myanmar 2022



In an effort to support peace and democracy in Myanmar, we hosted the unprecedented Spring Flowers International Conference on Myanmar in February which brought together local, national, and international actors from diverse backgrounds around the globe. Governor Eric J. Holcomb, Senator Todd Young, Mayor Joe Hogsett, Congressman Andre Carson, Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Kritenbrink, among others, delivered remarks in support of the people of Myanmar and their struggles for democracy.



U.S. Senator Todd Young



U.S. Congressman Andre Carson



Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett

Keynote speakers included Acting President of the National Unity Government of Myanmar (NUG), the Prime Minister of NUG, and Chairman of the Committee Representing the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw; various ministers and inclusive actors from diverse backgrounds were among those who delivered over 40 keynotes and speeches at the conference. We are happy to observe the ideas generated and the impact the conference has effected in the past year, especially on the strategic coordination front.



Spring Flowers International Conference

Concluded with a ...

The Conference reaffirmed its support for building a federal democratic Union of Myanmar based on the Panglong principles of freedom, equality and self-determination INDIANAPOLIS, February 19, 2022 - The Spring Flowers International Conference on ...

Read more thebaci.org

In collaborative partnership with diverse partners, we have been able to continue providing comprehensive support in a variety of ways including building a professional federal army under civilian oversight, developing a new constitution, strengthening functional and effective public institutions, and advocating and promoting strong international community partnerships as well. We are particularly pleased that the **BURMA Act 2022** was included in the **U.S. National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2023**. We look forward to strengthening our collaborative work with the U.S. Government, our friends and our partners to help effectuate real change in Burma.



Advocacy, Engagement Safeguarding and Promoting Democracy and Freedom

Through continuous and consistent engagement with the international actors, meeting with the various U.S. government agencies and Congressional Offices, BACI continues advocating for the Burmese-American community's integration and success, strong and comprehensive support of the U.S. for restoration of the democratic process and freedom in Myanmar, sustainable peace and prosperity in the Southeast Asia nation in line with the United States Government's policy, principled leadership, and mutual interests.

With a clear conviction and renewed commitment, BACI will continue to engage with stakeholders through our advocacy efforts locally, nationally, and internationally on the issues that concern our shared community in line with the BACI mission and vision, maximizing the impact of our unique and collective action, including supporting democracy in Myanmar.



BACI Advocacy and Service Outcome

4042	651
total individuals	students served through the
directly assisted	Upward College Program, regular and
in 2022	summer in 2022
1446	517+
newcomers served in English,	individuals served through basic need
immigration, and naturalization	assistance, resettlement &
needs in the past year	employment (EMED) during 2022
5,000+	20,000+
volunteer hours completed through	individuals and families served
BACI in the past 12 months	since 2011
93%	96%
College going rate	College persistence rate among
averaged for 2022	Burmese-Americans
Burmese HS and College Graduates in USA 2022	
2 000	600

Let Us Build Burmese Community Center

College Graduates in 2022

2,000

HS Graduates in 2022

A Campus to Serve Members of the Community in More Impactful Ways

After over a decade of resolute advocacy, education and service, we have come to an agreement with the desires expressed by members of our community that we should move a step further not only in a view to sustain these integrative and vital services to our community members, but also to ensure we are responsive to the emerging needs in comprehensive and innovative ways in an inclusive manner. Accordingly, with consultations with our community and stakeholders, the Board of Advisors and Board of Directors of the BACI has agreed to begin plans for the development of the Burmese Community Center facilities for all community members as laid out in the institute's Strategic Plan 2021-2026.

Good news! We have now secured a 10-acre property at 5212 & 5246 Bluff Rd for a new Community Center location. The project has been planned in phases. Your giving today will support the implementation of Phase I that includes construction of a Community Hall for educational activities, youth programming, other integration and human services delivery, community gathering, etc. as well as relocation of some of BACI's administrative offices. We are grateful that the majority of the funding is coming from grants and other sources. **But we still need your help!**



Help Us Build Burmese Community Center

A Campus to Serve Members of the Community in More Impactful Ways. Dear Friend, Warmest greetings. We are writing to you to share the good news for our community and request you to support the development of the Burmese Community Center in...

Read more thebaci.org

Our service outcomes and the positive impact that we are seeing in our shared community would not have been possible without your support and collaboration. With a dedicated board, proven leadership and committed and passionate staff, we hope to further strengthen and expand the community integration service provision while new initiatives and innovative partnerships will be developed and implemented in 2023.

Thank you for your continued support.



Thank You

Our special THANKS to

Our main sponsors and funders in 2022



Upcoming Events



Open House

Creating a HOME for all, a campus to serve the community better and in more impactful ways.

Date: Friday, Jan 13, 2023 Time: 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM Address: 5212 Bluff Rd Indianapolis, IN 46217

More information...

2nd Spring Flowers International Conference on Myanmar Feb 8-12, 2023

in conjunction with

Myanmar Union Day 2023

Saturday, Feb 11, 2023 05:00 PM - 8:00 PM EST

Contact: info@baci-indy.org Tel: 317-731-5537

Designed to support democracy and freedom in Myanmar, the program will include:

- Keynote speeches
- Expert panels
- Panel presentations of academic papers and Roundtable Discussions
- **Musical and Cultural Performances**

Conference website, co-hosts, registration, etc. to be announced later. Updates will be posted on the BACI website. For general questions, contact: info@baci-indy.org.

Food Fair - Saturday, Feb 11, 2023 01:00 PM - 8:00 PM EST

A variety of authentic food from Myanmar and Southeast Asia will be available.All proceeds will go directly to support the development of our Community Center, which will allow us to serve the community in more impactful ways. More information







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#7. Rakhine

ရခိုင်မုန့်တီ



#8. Shan

ရှမ်းခေါက်ဆွဲ

5610 S Meridian St, Indianapolis IN 46217 0



About Burmese American Community Institute

The Burmese American Community Institute (BACI) is a non-profit organization founded in 2011 that provides educational and vocational support to the Burmese community in greater Indianapolis. The BACI also supports community members regionally, nationally, and globally through new initiatives, collaborative and strategic partnerships, and advocacy.

