



April 18th, 2023

Dear J.M. Kaplan Fund,

I support the Innovation Grant proposal from the nonprofit East County Media to create a Social Justice News and Resources center on www.EastCountyMgazine.org.

Our organization, Nile Sisters Development Initiative, educates, supports, and offers training to refugee and immigrant women and their families to help them overcome barriers to social and economic self-reliance.

East County Magazine's editor, Miriam Raftery, has interviewed me and provided coverage of our efforts in the past, which were very positive. She is a reputable journalist with a large regional audience on her award-winning news site. We applaud her efforts now to create a centralized hub for resources to assist refugees and immigrants, as well as provide a broader platform to educate the public and coordinate information among the various organizations aiding these populations through webinars, podcasts, and interactive programs, as well as tech upgrades that are planned with this grant funding.

The San Diego region is the sixth largest county in the U.S. and has one of our nation's largest populations of refugees from around the world. Many languages and cultures are enriching our communities here, but the need is great to better coordinate assistance for our diverse refugee population.

I urge you to please support East County Media's grant proposal, which will benefit many people across our region and beyond.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Lou
President/ CEO

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