

In Honor and Healing: Standing With Senator John Hoffman and mourning the Hortmans



The Isuroon family is heartbroken by the tragic events that unfolded earlier this month—acts of senseless violence that have deeply shaken our state and touched those closest to our hearts. We begin by lifting up **Senator John Hoffman**, a devoted public servant and steadfast friend of Isuroon. Senator Hoffman and his wife, Yvette, survived a targeted assassination attempt in their Champlin home—both suffering multiple gunshot wounds. Their survival is nothing short of miraculous. As they begin a long road to recovery, we send our love, strength, and unshakable support.

Senator Hoffman has been more than a policymaker—he has been a **true ally**, advocating for culturally grounded health access, equity, and dignity for immigrant and underserved communities. He has listened, shown up, and used his voice to amplify the needs of those too often overlooked. His compassion and commitment have shaped policy and changed lives.

While we are grateful that the Hoffmans survived, we are devastated by the lives lost in the second

We mourn the tragic deaths of **State Representative Melissa Hortman** and her husband, **Mark Hortman**—taken from us far too soon. Melissa was a trailblazer in Minnesota politics: the first woman to lie in state at the Capitol, a champion for ALS research, and a fierce defender of justice. Mark was her lifelong partner and quiet supporter, known for his warmth and deep devotion. Their loss is a blow to our entire state.

These tragedies remind us of the deep risks that come with public service—and the profound human cost of political violence.

As we grieve, we also recommit ourselves to the values that John Hoffman, Melissa Hortman, and Mark Hortman lived by: **service, inclusion, courage, and compassion**.

To Senator Hoffman and Yvette: we are with you. To the Hortman family: we mourn with you. To all Minnesotans: let us unite in healing, remembrance, and the pursuit of peace.

With deepest sympathy and solidarity,
The Isuroon Family

attack that followed.



Upcoming Events



Isuroon at Community Landing Day: Empowering Families and Youth

Isuroon is proud to participate in **Community Landing Day** on **Monday, July 28th from 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM**—a day of connection, celebration, and empowerment! We invite you to stop by our booth to learn more about our work and how we've been serving the community for **more than a**

This year, we're also thrilled to offer youth a **once-in-a-lifetime opportunity** to experience the **Minnesota Vikings Training Camp** like never before! Youth participants will receive:

- Early entry before public gates open
- A private tour of the **Minnesota Vikings Museum**
- Exclusive access to the team's walkthrough session—where they'll be the *only* community members in attendance!

decade with culturally grounded programs and services.

Isuroon's booth will showcase our commitment to women's health, family wellness, mental health support, economic empowerment, and youth leadership.

Visitors will have the chance to meet our team, access helpful resources, and discover how we continue to build a stronger, more resilient community—one family at a time.



Isuroon Wellness Center Coming Soon!



Isuroon is excited to open our new **Wellness Center** in Burnsville—offering holistic, culturally respectful care designed for women and families from all backgrounds, especially East African and Muslim communities.

Our services include acupuncture, massage, physical therapy, cupping, and trauma-informed mental health therapy—all delivered in a private, comfortable setting by women providers.

We also offer full **maternal care**, including prenatal support, labor and delivery guidance, postpartum visits, lactation and birth education, nutrition coaching, and culturally sensitive comfort measures. Through in-home services like doula care, parenting support, and family wellness coaching, we bring trusted care directly to you. We also provide 245D waiver services and ARHMS mental health programs to support independence and recovery.

For over a decade, Isuroon has served the community with dignity and compassion. Now, with our new Wellness Center, we invite you to take the next step in your healing journey—with care that honors your culture, privacy, and strength.

Join us in Burnsville. Appointments now available.



Community Highlights



Staff Fun Day!

We had an incredible Staff Fun Day last week on the beautiful Mississippi River! It was a well-deserved break and a perfect opportunity to relax, connect, and celebrate the amazing team behind our work. From laughter on the water to shared stories and team-building moments, the day was filled with joy and appreciation. We are deeply grateful to each of our dedicated employees whose passion, commitment, and hard work make a lasting impact on the families we serve every day. Your efforts do not go unnoticed, and this special day was just a small token of our appreciation. Thank you for all that you do—together, we're building stronger communities and brighter futures for Somali women and families in Minnesota.

Isuroon Hosts World Refugee Gathering in Roseville

“Celebrating Resilience & Transformation!”

Isuroon proudly hosted its **World Refugee Gathering** at the **Roseville office**, under the inspiring theme: *“Celebrating Resilience & Transformation!”* The event also marked the official launch of the **Isuroon Wellness Center**, a safe and culturally rooted space for healing and holistic care.

Guests explored Isuroon’s wide range of services, including mental health therapy, prenatal and postpartum support, massage, acupuncture, and doula care. The highlight of the gathering was a series of **heart-touching refugee stories**, shared through moving live testimonials and an emotional short film that honored the pain, strength, and resilience of refugee families.

Dr. Bakare delivered an impactful presentation on trauma and healing, reminding the audience of the importance of culturally responsive wellness. The event concluded with a powerful **spoken word performance by Farah**, capturing the refugee experience through poetry, reflection, and hope.

It was a day of community, connection, and celebration—recognizing the courage it takes not only to survive, but to heal and transform.





Welcome Tony Biel To The Isuroon Family!

Tony joined Isuroon in 2025 as Chief Operating Officer, bringing a strong background in both social services and business leadership. With over 12 years of experience working with at-risk youth and adults in crisis, Tony developed a results-driven mindset that now shapes his approach to strengthening teams, improving systems, and advancing the organization's mission. He is passionate about creating sustainable impact and building operational excellence to support community well-being. Tony's leadership is grounded in compassion, strategic thinking, and a commitment to equity. Outside of work, he values spending quality time with his family, going on walks with their dog Laker, and exploring new places through travel. He brings dedication and vision to his role at Isuroon.



Celebrating Somali Independence Day!

On this special day, we honor the strength, resilience, and unity of the Somali people. July 1st marks a historic moment—when, in 1960, the regions of British Somaliland and Italian Somaliland came together to form the Somali Republic. This day symbolizes the realization of a long-held dream for independence, dignity, and self-determination. As we celebrate, let us reflect on our proud history and rich cultural heritage, and recognize the enduring spirit that continues to inspire generations. May this day renew our commitment to peace, progress, and unity among all Somalis, both at home and across the world. Happy 64th Independence Day—here's to a future full of hope and strength for the Somali nation.



Portraits

Mary Turner is an ICU nurse at North Memorial Medical Center in Robbinsdale and previously worked at Abbott Northwestern Hospital for 10 years. She has served as the President of the Minnesota Nurses Association since 2015. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, Turner was selected by President Biden to serve as the only frontline healthcare worker on the COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force. She has also served on the National Nurses United Joint Nursing Commission since 2011 and on the board of Isuroon, which provides empowerment, culturally sensitive health education, and advocacy for Somali women. Turner completed an Associate of Science in Nursing from North Hennepin Community College and has completed coursework in nursing at Metropolitan State University. She also serves on the U Of M Board of Regents.



Get To Know Isuroon



Founded in 2010, Isuroon is a women-led nonprofit dedicated to empowering Somali women and their families in Minnesota. Our mission is to support women in overcoming barriers such as language challenges, racism, and religious intolerance. We offer access to health education, financial literacy, civic engagement, and leadership development programs. Through strategic partnerships, Isuroon provides culturally competent training and conducts community-centered research to improve health and social outcomes. We help women successfully navigate complex healthcare systems and advocate for their physical, social, and financial well-being. The name “Isuroon” signifies a woman who takes care of herself—reflecting our belief in self-empowerment as the foundation for strong families and communities. At Isuroon, we uplift voices, build resilience, and foster long-term change. [Read More](#)

Resources



Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline

You Are Not Alone!



Parent Capacity Services

Isuroon's primary mission is to promote the well-being of



Refugee Support Services

Over the last 12 years, more than 10,000 East African

At Isuroon, We offer confidential and culturally sensitive support specifically for victims of sexual and domestic violence.

Call Our 24/7 Hotline:
(833) 437-3463

[Learn more](#)

children and families by strengthening parenting capabilities, reducing instances of abuse and neglect, and preventing out-of-home placements.

[Learn more](#)

women have attended health and parenting workshops organized by Isuroon. Our staff and volunteers are well aware of the hurdles that new refugees must overcome. To help Afghan newcomers make a strong start in Minnesota, Isuroon is offering a comprehensive set of services, including ESL, cultural orientation, education, system navigation, group support, and case management.

[Learn more](#)



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