Born in Afghanistan, Fnu (Faizullah) and his brother, Saifullah, worked for the U.S. Army as a linguist, starting in 2002 when they were still in high school. Faizullah worked in the small town of Khost in eastern Afghanistan, close to his mother and other siblings.

“We started working in the U.S. military when I was in high school,” Faizullah shares, “My brother was a year younger than I was... it was convenient, the schools were nearby, but it was risky.”

In 2012, it became too dangerous for Faizullah to work for the U.S. military in Afghanistan. He and his family moved to Fredericksburg, Virginia as refugees. In 2017, they moved to Hazel Hill to join Saifullah and his family.

“I lived in Brown Hill for like four years and one of the problems I had was with my kids,” Faizullah says, “My kids were not able to get enough homework stuff done because I was busy with school... they are very happy here because as soon as they leave the school, they will come straight from the school to the [tutoring] office for school homework and stuff.”

Faizullah has just begun his third year of school at the University of Mary Washington after receiving his associate degree from Germanna Community College. He is studying to become a doctor. “Without a skill, you cannot live in America,” Faizullah exclaims, “If you’re armed education-wise, you’re skilled and professional, you can help. And this is (like) my true belief that I want to serve people.”

Faizullah says that without communities like Hazel Hill, attending school would be impossible for him, as he is the sole provider for his family.