

Ways You Can Make Pennsylvania Welcoming to Immigrants

- 1. Contact business, labor, faith and public officials** and ask them to sign the Pennsylvania Compact at www.pacompact.com. If you are such a leader, sign the Compact yourself.
- 2. Encourage people to use language that is respectful and accurate.** Avoid terms that criminalize immigrants or dehumanize such as "illegal alien."
- 3. Support the federal and Pennsylvania Dream Act.** To learn how you can help, go to www.dreamactivist.org or the Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition (PICC) at www.paimmigrant.org
- 4. Respond to articles on immigration issues.** Your voice is an important counterpoint. Write a short e-mail or post a comment regarding the article on the internet that is supportive of immigrants. Feel free to use information presented on the enclosed sheet, *Immigration: Myths versus Facts*.
- 5. Educate your legislator.** As a constituent, you have a special opportunity to speak with your Pennsylvania state representatives, Congressperson or Senator. Consider attending one of their home-district constituent open houses, or writing a brief e-mail. For more information, contact Rebecca Hufstader at rebeccahufstader@paimmigrant.org.
- 6. Arrange an educational program or speaking engagement** to learn more about immigration policy and issues. The organizations below will supply speakers.
- 7. Volunteer with an agency that works with immigrants and refugees.** Volunteering can include gathering donations for new refugee arrivals, mentoring an immigrant or refugee, performing pro bono legal, medical or other services, becoming an English teacher or tutor. For information about volunteering contact the people below.

HIAS Pennsylvania: for refugees, Marina Merlin at mmerlin@hiaspa.org, for pro bono, Philippe Weisz at pweisz@hiaspa.org
Nationalities Service Center: recruits volunteer English teachers, Ellen Pollsy at epolsky@nscphila.org.
Lutheran Family and Children's Service, Janet Panning at janetp@lcfsinpa.org
- 8. Volunteer to do nonpartisan voter registration at a US citizenship ceremony.** Ceremonies are held 4-6 times a week in Center City Philadelphia. Volunteering takes just 90 minutes. Be part of a new citizen's



very first act as American! Contact Rebecca Hufstader from PICC at rebeccahufstader@paimmigrant.org.

Attorneys can volunteer, after training, to help individual apply to become citizens. Contact Judith Bernstein-Baker at jbernsteinbaker@hiaspa.org.

