



pursuing justice

ANNUAL REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2012 - AUGUST 2013



HIAS

PENNSYLVANIA



Letter from Linda Harker, President

Dear Friends:

Being President of HIAS Pennsylvania this past year has been one of the most gratifying jobs I have ever had. After stepping into Wendy Hess' shoes I must admit to some nervousness. But the Board, staff, and Judi Bernstein-Baker immediately made me feel at home. Their warmth and competence in their jobs exceeded my expectations. I was literally overwhelmed by the work they accomplish in a day.

HIAS Pennsylvania is a growing organization with a bold mission—we assist refugees in dire straits throughout the world, by filling basic needs once they arrive, as well as, providing legal aid and advocacy on behalf of refugees and immigrants. This year we embarked on a new adventure, creating a new strategic plan, broadening our mission, establishing new programs such as legal services for survivors of torture and unaccompanied immigrant youth and venturing into new geographic areas of the region, as well as raising public awareness.

Among our many accomplishments:

- In conjunction with the strategic plan we have formed a loosely knit group of advisors who we can go to for fundraising advice;
- We had a wonderful First Thanksgiving dinner for recent refugees featuring cultural performances that brought staff, volunteers and new Americans together;
- Our active website has given us more exposure;
- We have launched the Young Friends of HIAS Pennsylvania;
- We were selected by the Jewish Federation to participate in building a legacy program, which we named the Emma Lazarus Legacy Fund. We currently have 20 individuals who intend to leave a legacy to HIAS Pennsylvania.

This Annual Report will feature our programmatic achievements accomplished by our devoted staff, board and volunteers. I look forward to serving another year.

Linda Harker



From left to right: Jennifer Rodriguez (Mayor's Office of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs), Judith Bernstein-Baker, Linda Harker, Mayor Michael Nutter and Peter Gonzalez (The Welcoming Center for New Americans) pose at the HIAS, Inc. Annual Conference.



Judith Bernstein-Baker, Esq., MSW, Executive Director

Dear Friends:

I can think of no better theme this year than "pursuing justice," both with respect to our individual work with refugees and immigrants and at a time when immigration policy is front and center.

We pursued justice when one of our attorneys who works with torture survivors won an asylum case of a woman from Sudan who was whipped and burned because she spoke out in favor of women's rights. We pursued justice when we resettled Darfuri, Burmese, ethnic Nepalese from Bhutan, Eritreans and religious minorities from the former Soviet Union. We pursued justice when we assisted close to 200 individuals gain citizenship, including over 50 elderly and disabled applicant.

Some aspects of immigration policy inched towards justice. In June, 2012, President Obama announced a new program for immigrants who arrived before they were 16, lived in the U.S. for five years and attended or graduated from high school or a GED program called Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Known as "Dreamers" these youth and young adults could finally come out of the shadows, obtain work authorization and plan for the future. We pursued justice when we provided representation to 117 "Dreamers" so they could benefit from DACA. You can hear some of their stories at bit.ly/wearedaca.

We were able to do this and more due to the incredible support of our donors, the competency and compassion of our staff, and the tireless commitment of our Board under Linda Harker's leadership.

As we move forward, we will continue our meaningful work, made stronger through the partnerships and collaborations listed in this report. Join us by visiting our website at www.hiaspa.org.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith Bernstein-Baker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Front cover: Newly arrived refugee children celebrate their first Thanksgiving with HIAS Pennsylvania at Old Pine Community Center. Below: Taught by HIAS Pennsylvania staff member Raisa Davidovich, two students at the Klein JCC ESL citizenship class learn to write for the first time. Photos courtesy of HIAS Pennsylvania staff.



OUR MISSION

HIAS Pennsylvania provides legal and supportive services to immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers from all backgrounds in order to assure their fair treatment and full integration into American society.

HIAS Pennsylvania advocates for just and inclusive public policies.

OUR VALUES

Our values are based on the core Jewish belief of "welcoming the stranger" and tzedakah (generosity, charity and fairness). HIAS Pennsylvania believes in newcomers as an asset, not a burden to the community.

We believe in the dignity of the individual. We believe in compassion, empathy, conscientiousness, tolerance, respect and commitment to a multicultural society.



Our Programs



The Refugee Resettlement Program provides case management to newly arrived refugees with the goal of early integration and self-sufficiency. In the past two years, we have resettled over 300 individuals from Burma/Myanmar, including ethnic Nepalese; Darfur, Sudan; the former Soviet Union; Iraq and Eritrea.

The Asylee Outreach Project assists those granted asylum to obtain self-sufficiency by providing immigration legal services and connecting them to social service providers.

The Immigration Legal Services department helps individuals with a broad range of immigration matters focusing on vulnerable immigrants, handling complex legal cases in administrative and court proceedings and serving those seeking asylum.

Special Initiatives

- **The Immigrant Youth Advocacy Project** is the only of its kind in Pennsylvania, providing legal advocacy to youth in the US without parents or who have been abused or neglected
- **The Victims of Interpersonal Violence Project** helps survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking and other violent crimes obtain lawful immigration status in order to promote safety, independence and self-reliance.
- **The Philadelphia Partnership for Resilience**, with Nationalities Service Center (lead agency) and other community partners, provides case management, mental health and legal assistance to survivors of torture.
- **Latino Outreach Immigration Services** works directly with Latino communities both in Philadelphia and Norristown, providing free on-site immigration consultations and immigration legal services in partnership with Puntos de Salud and ACLAMO.

Citizenship Assistance provides refugees and immigrants, especially vulnerable adults such as the elderly and disabled, seeking to naturalize with courses, seminars and English classes to prepare them for the citizenship test.

We provide **Community Education and Advocacy** through trainings and education on immigration issues to service providers, immigrant community and members of the general public.



2,443
individuals served by
HIAS Pennsylvania in 2013

161
refugees resettled

1,468
cases handled total by the
Immigration Legal Services
department, includes:
583 new cases;
100 victims of
interpersonal violence;
100 youth;
40 survivors of torture;

Success rate exceeded 90%

563
Citizenship cases handled,
includes 270 new cases -
a 30% increase from 2012

251
individuals served
through the Asylee
Outreach Project

Guests put themselves on the map at the
2013 Annual Golden Door Awards Event.
Photo courtesy of HIAS Pennsylvania Staff.



how I pursue JUSTICE

ILAN ROSENBERG, ESQ.

**First Vice President of HIAS Pennsylvania,
Attorney in *Lozano vs. City of Hazelton***

In 2006, Hazelton passed the Illegal Immigration Relief Act Ordinance, which made it unlawful to hire anyone or to rent housing to anyone who was in the US illegally, and imposed its own set of penalties for any employers, tenants or landlords who violated it. This law would likely lead to increased suspicion and heightened discrimination of all foreigners, so attorneys from the ACLU of Pennsylvania, led by Witold Walczak, Esq., attorneys at the law firm Cozen O'Connor, led by Thomas Wilkinson, Esq., the ACLU Immigrants' Rights Project, the Community Justice Project, and Latino Justice PRLDEF decided to take action. I was a member of the Cozen team.

In 2007, the District Court ruled that the ordinance violated the supremacy clause of the constitution and the due process rights of the plaintiffs and struck it down, but the Hazelton attorneys appealed. In 2008, this decision was appealed to the US Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, which ruled the ordinances unconstitutional. Once again, the city appealed, but in July 2013, the Circuit Court of Appeals, which includes Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware, affirmed the District Court's decision and found the ordinance unconstitutional. The case was appealed to the Supreme Court, but on March 3, 2014, that court refused to hear the case, so the Third Circuit Court's ruling that the ordinance was unconstitutional became law.

This case was especially important to me. As a Mexican immigrant and a Jew, I felt compelled to defend the rights of immigrants who were being subjected to persecution. I understand the needs of immigrants who seek opportunities here that aren't available at home. The vast majority of immigrants come to the US out of the purest sense of duty to themselves and their families. It was important for me to represent those who immigrate to the US to become full contributors to society.

Hopefully this will serve as a trigger for communities to focus on benefits of immigration instead of holding undue prejudices against new groups that are trying to become part of our society.



Making new friends at the Philadelphia Zoo.
Photo courtesy of HIAS Pennsylvania Staff.



how I pursue justice

*Clients' names are changed for their protection

ERIC FREED, ESQ.

Global Insurance Dept. Vice Chair, Cozen O'Connor, Pro Bono Asylum Attorney

In 2011, my colleague Greg Fliszar sent out a request for a firm attorney with trial experience to handle a hearing in an immigration case that was being referred by HIAS Pennsylvania. Adama*, a refugee from Mauritania, was seeking assistance after his initial asylum application had been denied. Greg had helped file his initial application and represented him at the interview, but wanted help with the next phase of Adama's case.

I knew nothing about immigration law, and even less about Mauritania. On satellite maps, Mauritania appears to consist of nothing but the Sahara desert. It is bordered by Algeria, Mali, Western Sahara, Senegal, and the Atlantic Ocean. Adama is Muslim and spoke no English, I am Jewish, born and raised in the United States, but something about his story, and the realization that if I did not volunteer he may be on his own, made me take the case. Asylum seekers are not entitled to court appointed counsel and many are left to represent themselves. Luckily I had the gracious help of HIAS Pennsylvania staff to help lead me through the process.

Adama had lived in the capital of Mauritania and became active in a political party that was seeking the democratization and equal rights for black citizens. He was arrested and jailed three times, where he was beaten and left in filthy conditions with little to no food and barely room to sit. He fled Mauritania to avoid being arrested a fourth time and was certain that if he was sent back, he faced imprisonment, torture, and possibly death.

After months of preparation, the day of Adama's hearing finally came. After a few desultory cross examination questions, the government representative informed the judge that they would no longer oppose the grant of asylum and the judge agreed – Adama was able to live in the United States with asylum. As Adama, Greg and I stepped out of the courtroom, Adama gave both of us bear hugs with tears in his eyes. I have never had a more satisfying day in court.

My representation of Adama felt like a way for me, the grandson of immigrants, to give back something in return for all the help they had received along the way. I learned so much from him and am honored to call him my friend.

how I pursue justice

KRISTINA KLUGAR, ESQ.

**HIAS Pennsylvania Legal Coordinator,
The Philadelphia Partnership for Resilience**

When I was a child living in Germany, my parents took me to see the concentration camp in Dachau. The image of human remains in ovens and the knowledge that other humans put them there will never leave me. Distant relatives of ours had perished in the Holocaust, simply for being Slavs.

It is no surprise that this daughter of a Czechoslovakian political asylee now assists survivors of torture through the Philadelphia Partnership for Resilience (PPR), funded through a special grant from the US Office of Refugee Resettlement. Survivors come to our doors from around world where they were mistreated by people acting “under the color of law”—police, government representatives and others working in official capacities. Many were detained and made to suffer unspeakable acts, often because they have taken a stand to defend basic human rights.

PPR completed its first year in the fall of 2013, far exceeding its goal of screening 600 individuals and handling 50 cases per year. 89 people received case management services and the entire project served close to 200 individuals, including dependents.

Our participants often arrive with very little as refugees or asylum seekers and needing a range of services including legal, physical and mental health. Nationalities Service Center, the project’s lead agency, helps them develop a plan to set them on a solid footing. HIAS Pennsylvania provides immigration legal services along with an established network of pro bono attorneys, doctors and psychologists who provide legal assistance and expert testimony to verify what survivors experienced. Through this partnership I am able to help survivors such as Emma*, a woman’s rights activist in Sudan opposed to female cutting and the subjugation of women. She was detained, interrogated, whipped and burned with an iron. In October 2013, Emma finally received the grant of asylum she deserved so she could begin a new life in the U.S.

In a world where the face of sufferers may change but the reality of their plight does not, it is inspiring to be helping these men, women and children rebuild their lives and find safety and comfort in the United States.





how I pursue justice

RAISA DAVIDOVICH

**HIAS Pennsylvania Citizenship Specialist
and Accredited Representative**

In May 2007, while living in Moscow, the first of Lada's comas occurred. The doctors in Russia could not properly diagnose her and she fell into two more in the following months. During the third coma, her daughter, a United States citizen, petitioned for her to come to the US so she could be near family members and receive better medical care. She arrived in Philadelphia still comatose and was sent immediately to Holy Redeemer Hospital for care, where she was finally properly diagnosed with an autoimmune disease, Hashimoto's thyroiditis. With treatment now available, Lada began her new life in the United States, got permanent residency and began taking English classes, having never learned the language before. When she became eligible for citizenship, she was determined to take the test in English, as her way of giving thanks to the country that gave her health back. She took any classes that were available, including my class at the Klein JCC, sought additional literature and studied on her own. I helped her apply for citizenship and fee waivers. She was granted a medical waiver, but courageously declined using it. With great persistence, after three years of studying, she recently took the citizenship test in English and passed!

A pick-up soccer game at World Refugee Day 2013,
hosted by the Gilbert Spruance School in Northeast Philadelphia.
Photo courtesy of HIAS Pennsylvania Staff.



Staff of HIAS Pennsylvania traveled to Washington, D.C., to rally for immigration reform with partners from the Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition. Photo courtesy of HIAS Pennsylvania.

how I pursue justice

CARLA*

HIAS Pennsylvania Immigrant Youth Advocacy Client

My name is Carla. I am 18 years old, a youth advocate working with different local community organizations, was elected president of Philadelphia's City-Wide Student Government Association, this spring I will graduate high school, and start college in the fall.

My life wouldn't be what it is today if it weren't for HIAS Pennsylvania. I was brought to the United States at the age of five by relatives who, I later found out, had committed fraud to get me here. Throughout my childhood, I had to use a name and birth date that were not my own. My life was confusing and uncertain, and I had a constant fear that one day I might be discovered and deported.

I was put in foster care and then connected to HIAS Pennsylvania where my attorney told me there was a way for me to get legal status under my true identity. Hearing this was a huge relief. We prepared my application and went to an interview with an immigration officer. My case was complicated, but thanks to the help of my attorney, my application was approved.

Now that my immigration status is in order, I can pursue my dreams. Having a "green card" means I am eligible for scholarships and student loans and work legally. The questions I once had as to who I am are answered, and worries of deportation are a thing of the past. I no longer have to walk around with a heavy burden on my chest, and can focus on my education.

Immigrant youth don't want to hide or get deported, we just want an opportunity to pursue our dreams. HIAS Pennsylvania helped me and many others finally do just that.



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Sheena Townsend, Esq., Legal Coordinator,

The Partnership for Resilience

Kristina Klugar, Esq., Legal Coordinator,

The Partnership for Resilience (as of May, 2013)

Stephanie Costa, Esq., Know Your Rights Coordinator

Lori Alexander, MSW, Program Manager,

Immigration Services, Accredited Representative

Raisa Davidovich, Citizenship Specialist, Accredited Representative

Adjua McNeil, P-CAN Coordinator

Shaloo Jose, Law Clerk (through January, 2013)

Vleidmy Velarde, LL.M., Law Clerk, Accredited Representative

Jason Hernandez, Esq., Asylee Outreach Project Coordinator

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT STAFF

Sarah Amazeen, LSW, Director of Refugee Programming & Planning

Marina Merlin, Special Projects Coordinator and Accredited Representative

Minu Mathew, MSW, Refugee Team Supervisor

JT Kendall, Case Management Coordinator

Parangkush Subedi, MPH, Refugee Health Coordinator &

Resettlement Case Manager (through October, 2012)

Sandra Moise, Refugee Health Coordinator & Resettlement Case Manager

Neeta Patel, Refugee Education Coordinator (through November, 2012)

Arlene Hayles, Refugee Education Coordinator

Gin Mum Sum, Refugee Case Aide

Ashok Rai, Refugee Case Aide

REFUGEE FELLOWSHIPS

Paul Stower, German Service Fellow 2012-2013

Chloe Tomlinson, Refugee Food Security & Nutrition Coordinator, Philly Fellow 2012-2013

Annie Reading, Orientation and Resource Coordinator, Philly Fellow 2013-2014

Ben Van Son, Housing Coordinator, Haverford House Fellow 2013-2014

LEGAL FELLOWSHIPS

Cesar Limon, Temple Beasley School of Law Conwell Fellow

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Renu Sagreiya

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Sarina Issenberg, MSW Intern

Pratchi Pothar, Esq.

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PRO BONO PROJECT

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Duane Morris, LLP - Immigrant Victims of Interpersonal Violence

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Pepper Hamilton, LLP - Refugee Adjustment of Status Clinic, Joe Sullivan, Esq., *Pro Bono Counsel*

Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis, LLP - Immigrant Youth

Bruce Merenstein, Esq., *Pro Bono Counsel*, Edward Sholinsky, Esq.*, *Practice Group Liaison*

* *HIAS Pennsylvania Board Members*

For a complete listing of attorneys and legal workers participating in pro bono practice groups, visit hiaspa.org/probono2013.

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT VOLUNTEERS

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Linda Brock

Anneke Kat

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Freweini Dille

Hawa Salih

Hayder Alisawi

Heba Elabed

Mshari Htheri

Mulu Teklemuz Tekle

Nadir Hamdan

Naw Day

Naw Doh

Niang Tawi Lian

Raymond Mathais

Woldebruk Negussie

Zainab Alsawaf



HIAS Pennsylvania staff, Darfuri refugees and community members build a community garden in Max Myers Park in Northeast Philadelphia. Volunteers took home plants for their own gardens on the way home. Photo courtesy of HIAS Pennsylvania Staff.

PARTNERS

Coalitions/Collaborative Networks
Coalition for Latin American Migrants and Immigrants
Delivery of Legal Services Committee
Domestic Violence Law Enforcement Committee of Philadelphia
Greater Philadelphia Jewish Coalition on Immigration (Jill Zipin and Philippe Weisz, Co-Chairs)
Healthy Foods Green Spaces
Immigrant Youth Task Force
Immigration IMPACT Project of the Association of Pro Bono Counsel (Ballard Spahr LLP, Blank Rome LLP, Dechert LLP, DLA Piper, Duane Morris LLP Philadelphia IMPACT Coordinator, Pepper Hamilton LLP, Reed Smith LLP)
Pennsylvanians United for Immigration Reform
Philadelphia Citizenship Action Network
Philadelphia Deferred Action Network
Philadelphia Refugee Education Project
Philadelphia Refugee Health Collaborative
Philadelphia Refugee Mental Health Collaborative
Philadelphia Refugee Resettlement Providers Collaborative
Pennsylvania Voter ID Coalition

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

ACLAMO	National Council of Jewish Women
ACLU of Pennsylvania	Nationalities Service Center
AILA Philadelphia	New Sanctuary Movement
American Jewish Committee	New World Association
Anti-Defamation League	Old Pine Community Center
Arcadia University	Penn Center for Primary Care
Bhutanese American Organization of Philadelphia	Penn Law Immigrant Rights Project
Boat People SOS, Delaware Valley	Penn Law Interdisciplinary Child Advocacy
Bridging the Gaps	Penn Law Transnational Clinic
Casa de la Cultura	Pennsylvania Office of Refugee Resettlement
Center for Literacy	Pennsylvania's Migrant Education Program
CHOP	Philadelphia Bar Association
Community Justice Project	Philadelphia FIGHT
Community Legal Services	Philadelphia Immigration and Citizenship Coalition (PICC)
Congreso de Latinos Unidos	Philadelphia Legal Assistance
Department of Human Services	Philadelphia Youth Network
Department of Public Welfare	Philly Fellows
District 1199C Training and Upgrade Fund	Puentes de Salud
Domestic Violence Center of Chester County	Reconstructionist Rabbinical College
Drexel University Earle Mack School of Law	Rodeph Shalom
Esperanza	School District of Philadelphia
Germantown Jewish Center	SEAMAAC
Hadassah of Greater Philadelphia	Society Hill Synagogue
Haverford House Fellows	Support Center for Child Advocates
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J-SPAN	Temple University School of Social Work
JCC Klein	The American Team for Displaced Eritreans
JEVS	The Food Trust
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Jewish Family and Children Service of Pittsburgh	Transnational Legal Clinic, University of Pennsylvania Law Center
Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia	United Communities
JUNTOS	United Healthcare
KidsPeace	University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice
Lincoln Intermediate Unit 12	Vera Institute of Justice
Lutheran Children Family Services	Victim Witness Services of South Philadelphia
Main Line Reform Temple	Women Against Abuse
Mayor's Office of Immigrant and Multicultural Affairs	Women Organized Against Rape
Mexican Consulate of Philadelphia	Women's Opportunities Resource Center

Financial Report 2012-13

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Fundraising and Contributions.....	\$234,971
Government Grants and Contracts.....	\$825,650
Foundation/Institutional Grants.....	\$395,759
In-kind Contributions	\$1,266,100
Grants from the Jewish Federation.....	\$30,000
Service Fees	\$75,082
Investments/Other Income	\$44,211
Net Assets Released from Restriction Satisfaction of Progam Restrictions	

Total Revenue and Support.....\$2,871,773

EXPENSES

Programs	
Legal Services (includes in-kind).....	\$1,690,574
Resettlement (includes in-kind).....	\$702,306
Naturalization	\$199,266
Asylee Outreach.....	\$63,098

Total Programs

SUPPORT SERVICES

General and Adminstrative	\$123,565
Fundraising	\$36,661

Total Support Services.....\$160,226

Total Expenses.....\$2,815,470

Total Expenses and Losses.....\$2,815,470

Change in Net Assets.....\$56,303

Net Assets, Beginning

Net Assets, Ending

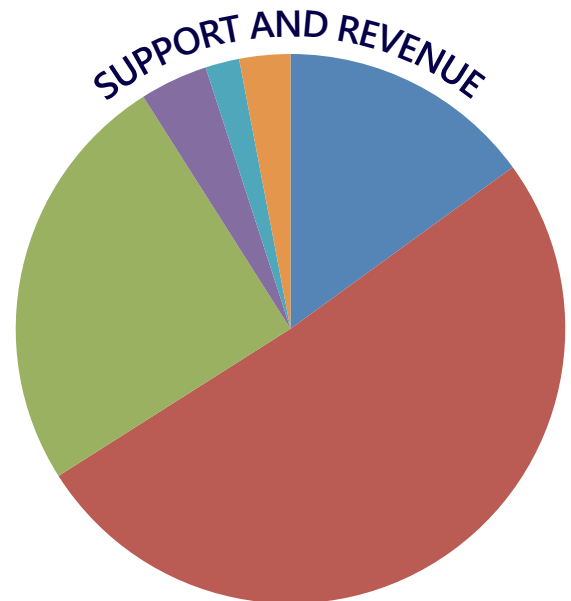
DETAIL OF INCREASE/DECREASE IN NET ASSETS

Change in Net Assets Unrestricted

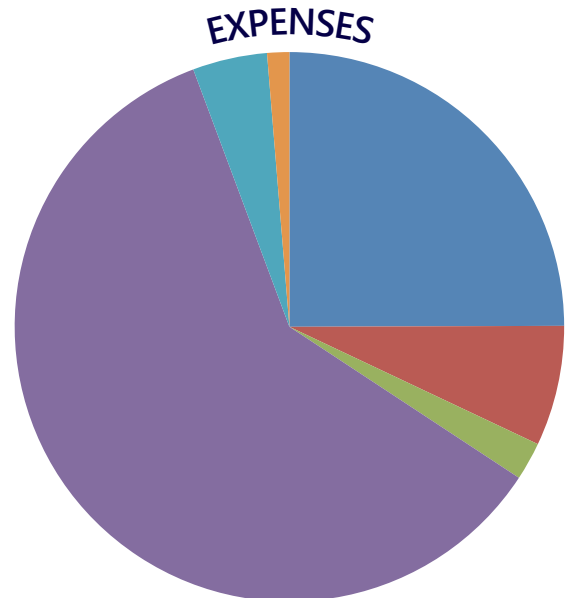
Temporarily Restricted

Change in Net Assets.....

Complete fiscal statements for the fiscal year, audited by Snyder, Daitz and Co., are on file at HIAS Pennsylvania, 2100 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103



Fundraising and Contributions.....	15%
Government Grants and Contracts.....	51%
Foundation/Institutional Grants.....	25%
Grants from the Jewish Federation.....	2%
Service Fees	4%
Investments/Other Income	3%



Legal Services.....	60%
Resettlement	25%
Naturalization	7%
Asylee Outreach.....	2%
General and Administrative	4%
Fundraising	1%

شكراً
شكراً

Thank you

ကျေးဇူးတင်ပါတယ်
ကျေးဇူးတင်ပါတယ်

Thank you!

شكراً
شكراً

Thank you!

ကျေးဇူးတင်ပါတယ်
ကျေးဇူးတင်ပါတယ်

Thank you.

شكراً

Thank you

Kunawa, gress

"Thank You" in many languages, written by refugee children after a visit to the zoo. Photo courtesy of HIAS Pennsylvania Staff

Thank you!

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donors

GOLDEN DOOR (\$10,000+)

Frank Ash
Koholet Foundation

TORCHBEARER (\$5,000+)

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Hon. Harold Berger
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Boscov's
Independence Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Irwin Lipton
Russell Paul, Esq.
Ethel Verticelli
Lisa Zahren and Homer Robinson

AMERICAN DREAM (\$2,000+)

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Cozen O'Connor
Dechert, LLP
Judith Drasin, Esq. and
Robert Washburn, Esq.
Roy and Judy Eidelson
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Harker
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