ANNUAL REPORT
2014 - 2015

HIAS PENNSYLVANIA

REPRESENTING IMMIGRANTS
RESETTLING REFUGEES
REUNITING FAMILY
DEAR FRIENDS

Dear Friends:

Last year we experienced the world refugee crisis in our own hemisphere. Children, mostly unaccompanied but some with their mothers, fled the violence of Central America to treacherously journey to the United States and seek the protection of the U.S. government. (Though most were apprehended and detained, special rules allowed some of those under 18 to be released to caretakers.) In response to this humanitarian crisis, our Immigrant Youth Advocacy Initiative was expanded from 1.75 attorneys to 4.75 attorneys, thanks to pass-through funding from the Office of Refugee Resettlement, the awarding of a Department of Justice AmeriCorps Fellow, and our selection as a host site for a Stoneleigh Fellow, among other grants. We were honored to host Sonia Nazario, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and journalist, at our Annual Event. She presented a riveting account of why children try to escape from Central America and the perils of their journey. We were joined by some of our young clients who shared their stories with Ms. Nazario and our guests during the event.

Sadly, the world refugee crisis has continued to unfold in many other parts of the world. From the Sudan, the former Soviet Union, the Democratic Republic of Congo and, of course, Syria, the number of refugees continues to grow. The crisis is everywhere— today, there are 60 million refugees who have been displaced from their homes due to war, violence and other disasters. Of these, 20 million are outside their country of origin. One in every 122 people in the world is displaced—the highest number since World War II—and more than half of which are children. For this reason, HIAS Pennsylvania, together with other Jewish, faith, and humanitarian organizations, has worked to ensure that the U.S. refugee program keeps pace with the need and does not shut out those whose lives hang in the balance. HIAS Pennsylvania was created to respond to past crises when Jewish refugees sought safety from pogroms and genocide and this new crisis goes to the core of our mission.

We invite you to read further about how HIAS Pennsylvania’s Board, staff, and volunteers turn the worst of times into the best of times for our ever-growing constituency. If you like what you read, join us at our events, listed on our website at www.hiaspa.org.

Our new summer program brought refugee kids to the zoo.”

Updated: 5/2016 for Fiscal Year 2014-2015

STATISTICS

Over 3,700 cases served

- Our Immigration Legal Services made 1,112 consults and opened 527 new cases, including:
  - 165 Immigrant Youth cases
  - 130 Victim of Interpersonal Violence cases
  - 83 Latin American Outreach cases
  - 49 Survivor of Torture cases

- Our Refugee Resettlement Program resettled:
  - 167 refugees from 16 different countries

- Our Citizenship Assistance Program opened:
  - 236 new citizenship cases

- Our Asylee Outreach Project opened:
  - 110 new cases

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 and practices.

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. Today HIAS PA serves refugees and immigrants representing 70 nationalities regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, or sexual orientation.

Judith Bernstein-Baker
Executive Director

Ilan Rosenberg, Esq.
Board President
In 1990, the Lautenberg Amendment was enacted to help thousands of Jews leave the chaos of the Soviet Union. Since then, it has helped religious minorities in the former Soviet Union and Iran escape oppression and come to the US. In the past two years, the number of individuals HIAS Pennsylvania has helped apply for emigration through the Lautenberg Amendment has quadrupled, going from dozens to hundreds of individuals.

Lev was one of those individuals. Although his family was highly educated, they were treated as second-class citizens and faced a life of persecution and humiliation. Through the Lautenberg process facilitated by HIAS Pennsylvania, Lev managed to travel to the United States with his mother and grandfather, relieved to escape the harsh life they had back in Russia. Once in the United States, HIAS Pennsylvania staff relentlessly advocated for the family by assisting them in gaining social services they needed in order to begin again in Philadelphia.

When Dechert attorneys Susan Nieto and Dina Kasper met Caribbean native Chevelle through HIAS Pennsylvania’s pro bono program, she was in danger of deportation. After moving to the United States, she had fallen into an abusive relationship with a man that battered her both physically and mentally. It took four years, but Susan and Dina were finally able to petition for Chevelle’s legal status under the Violence Against Women Act. Now Chevelle lives with her son free of her abuser and free of the fear of being separated from her US-born child.

Susan and Dina were able to help Chevelle because of the long-term partnership between HIAS Pennsylvania and Dechert LLP. Dechert’s pro bono attorneys enhance HIAS Pennsylvania’s ability to serve vulnerable clients, particularly those who suffer domestic abuse. In return, pro bono attorneys like Susan know they have the support of HIAS Pennsylvania staff: “I can always pick up the phone and reach out.” Without the support of pro bono attorneys like Susan and Dina at Dechert and many other law firms, hundreds of immigrants would not be able to claim their rights in court.
Citizenship Assistance provides direct representation to refugees and immigrants, particularly the elderly and the disabled, who are seeking to naturalize. We also work in collaboration with other agencies to provide citizenship and ESL classes to

Manuel was able to fulfill his life-long dream of joining the Marines when he became a citizen.

Fulfilling a Life-Long Dream

Andres Rodriguez had a dream: he wanted to become an American citizen. He loved the United States and wanted to officially belong. But his diabetes seemed to be an insurmountable obstacle to that dream. He suffered from blindness, a stroke, and eventually, the amputation of his leg. The team at HIAS Pennsylvania did not let his disabilities get in the way. They worked tirelessly with Andres and his wife to advocate for a homebound citizenship interview and assisted with hospice arrangements as Andres’s health continued to decline. Before his death, he found out that his citizenship was approved, and he achieved his dream of dying as a citizen of the United States.

ASYLEE OUTREACH PROJECT

The Asylee Outreach Program provides legal and social services for asylees and their families, including case management services with a focus on self-sufficiency and extensive cultural orientation.

Starting over in the United States

Yousef was trying to normally live his life as the Syrian Civil War raged around him, but when a bomb dropped in his neighborhood leaving shrapnel in his leg, he knew normalcy was not possible. He had to escape the danger of his once beloved home. Yousef managed to escape to Lebanon, and from there traveled to the United States. When Yousef finally gained asylum a year later, he still hadn’t gained employer or the medical assistance he needed. Then he met Jason, HIAS Pennsylvania’s Asylee Outreach program coordinator. Jason connected Yousef with the basic necessities he needed to begin a new life in his new home, including English classes and job assistance. With the help of Jason and his team, Yousef was able to get the medical services and benefits he needed in order to deal with the pain in his leg from the shrapnel. Now, Yousef wants to give back. He is currently volunteering in North Philadelphia and with Jewish Educational and Vocational Services. He hopes to help other Syrians as they come to Philadelphia, fleeing the violence he knew all too well.
**FINANCIAL**

**How we raised our funds**

1. **Government Grants and Contracts** 66% $1,286,418
2. **JFJP** 3% $49,388
3. **Fundraising/Contributions** 14% $264,552
4. **Service Fees** 3% $59,711
5. **Grants** 13% $258,631
6. **Investments/Other** 1% $26,207
Total 100% $1,944,907

**How we spent our funds**

1. **Legal Services** 41% $766,351
2. **Refugee Resettlement** 36% $663,158
3. **Citizenship project** 7% $121,328
4. **Asylee Outreach** 4% $74,855
5. **PHILLS Legal Services** 1% $15,506
6. **Management** 8% $155,860
7. **Fundraising** 4% $66,573
Total 100% $1,863,631

---

**SUPPORT AND REVENUE**

- Fundraising and Contributions $258,631
- In-kind contributions $1,109,315
- Government Support $1,286,418
- Foundation Grants $264,552
- Grants from the Jewish Federation $49,388
- Service Fees $59,711
- Investments/other income $26,207
Total Revenue and Support $3,054,222

**SUPPORT SERVICES**

- General and administrative $155,860
- Fundraising $66,573
- Total Support Services $222,433
- Total Expenses $2,972,946
- Change in Net Assets $81,276
- Net Assets, Beginning $1,700,197
- Net Assets Ending $1,781,473

**EXPENSES PROGRAMS**

- Legal Services--includes in-kind $1,742,742
- Legal Services $45,506
- Resettlement Program--includes in-kind $766,082
- Citizenship project $121,328
- Asylee Outreach $74,855
Total Programs $2,750,513
We gratefully acknowledge the support of our institutional and government funders and individual contributors whose support makes our life-saving work possible. Every effort is given to share and accurate and complete list. Please excuse us if we have made any errors.

GOVERNMENT AND INSTITUTIONAL FUNDERS
Donor Advised Gift—Cardozo Fellowship
City of Philadelphia, Department of Human Services
Commonwealth Advocacy Project
Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law
Emergency Food and Shelter Program
Equal Justice Works (Americorps pass-through funding)
Henry and Helen Bienefeld Foundation
HIAL, Inc. (Department of State Reception and Placement Program and the Office of Refugee Resettlement pass-through funding)
Horce Goldsmith Foundation
Independence Foundation
Jewish Federations of Greater Philadelphia
MAZON Foundation
Mexican Consulate of Philadelphia
Montgomery County Foundation
Nationalities Services Center (Office of Refugee Resettlement pass-through funding)

PCF: Foundation
Pennsylvania Interest on Lawyers’ Trust Account (PA IOLTA)
Pennsylvania Refugee Resettlement Program (Office of Refugee Resettlement pass-through funding)
Pennsylvania Department of Education (Office of Refugee Resettlement pass-through funding)
Pew Charitable Trusts
Philadelphia Bar Foundation
Philadelphia Foundation
Philadelphia Legal Assistance (US Department of Justice, Office of Violence against Women pass-through funding)
Philadelphia World Refugee Day 2014
Philadelphia Legal Assistance (US Department of Justice, Office of Violence against Women pass-through funding)
Pincus Family Foundation
Stoneleigh Foundation
United Way of Southern New Jersey & Greater Philadelphia
VERA Institute of Justice (Office of Refugee Resettlement pass-through funding)

Women’s Way

2014-2015 Donors
Golden Door ($10,000+)
Langer, Grogan, & Drive
Torchbearer ($5,000+)
Frank Ash
Ballard Spahr LLP
John Templeton Foundation
Judge Harold Berger
The Estate of Samuel Brooks
Judith Ginsberg
Linda & Stephen Harker
Adele & Irwin Lpton
American Dream ($2,000+)
AILA Philadelphia
Evelyn Bishop
Stuart Davidson and
Ann Cohen
DLA Piper, LLP (NY)
Judy Drasin & Bob Washburn
Eldeslon Philanthropic Trust
Adam & Anna Herzog
Wendy Castor Hess & Steven Hess
Main Line Reform Temple
Pepper Hamilton, LLP
Tom & Maryelle Roberts
Schnader, Harrison
Segal & Lewis
Sharon & Michael Sherman
Sidney J. Stein
Foundation

Michael Slotnick
Sylvia Charp Fund for Russian Immigrants
University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine
Norman & Lita Weinstein
William & Adonna S. Kaplan Endowment
Global Citizen ($1,000+)
Geraldine Aaron
Juan Alvarez
Karen Baker and Judith Bernstein-Baker
Leonard & Lynne Barack
Senn & Mark Blasky
Duane Morris, LLP
Barry Fireman
Carol Gantman
Mervyn Goldfarb
Lisa Hurlbut & Robin Morris
Alan Isor
Jenkintown Building Services
Marcia & Ned Kaplin
Elida Katz
Ronald Klasco
Kline & Specter
Jason Leckerman
Kevin Peter
Mario & Sara Rafal Foundation
Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman, & Goggin

Sandford & Clare Mozes
Deevee Segal & Bradley Bridge
Marty Tuzman
Stanley R. Wolfe Memorial Fund
Roger & Lilian Youman
Passport Partner ($500+)
Erika Aaron & Marc Fliegelman
Gene Bishop & Andrew Stone
Blank Rome, LLP
BMC Benefit Services
Lee Casper
Rhoda Cohen
Cohen, Fluh, & Gonzalez
Cohen, Placetella, & Roth
Drinker Biddle
Feldman, Gates, & Boscott LLC
Debby Freedman
Galfand Berger, LLP
Bud Hirsche
Warren & Elizabeth Hyams
Alunne Katz
Rebecca Katz
Klasco Immigration Law Partners
Seth Kreimer
Sylvia & Martin Kreitner
Jason Leckerman & Jean Sarge
Hannah Lee
Littler Mendelson

Emily Markos
Steven & Elizabeth Morely
John & Jane Niebler
Jenny Perkins
Lili Perski
Philadelphia Area
Combined Federal Campaign
Roslyn and David Pollack
Puentes De Salud
Homer Robinson & Lisa Zahren
Suzanne Robinson
Ilan Rosenberg
Rosa Rudney
Sisterhood of Mainline Reform
Janice Diamond Smith
Cheryl Spelman
Margret Trotsky & Dennis Murphy
Wendy Voet
Jeff Winkler & Michele Reimer

Jonathan Grode
Francie Hansen
Matthew Hirsch
George & Elissa Hirschhorn
Erik Hocky & Abby Stamelman
Vivian Isak
Anzhela Kogan
Benita Fair Langsdorf
Lasko Family Foundation
Mary and Lance Laver
Law Offices of David E. Piver
Barry & Gail Levin
Emily Squires Levine
Donald Liss
Fred Marshall & Liz Hallmark
Robert Masterson
Bart Mellitis & Barbra Berley-Mellitis
National Council of Jewish Women -Greater Philadelphia
Philadelphia
Pennsylvania
Corporation for Aging
Rob and Bonnie Hapkin
Robert Schwartz
William Seltzer
Selter Family Foundation
Edward Sholinsky
Smith & Horwitz
Harris Sokoloff
Rosalind Spiegel

Sandra Moise
Health Coordinator (through January 2015)
Alhaji Saccoh
Health Coordinator
Gin Sum
Housing Coordinator
Pendle Marsh-Halmark
Self-Sufficiency Coordinator, Philly Fellow (through June 2015)
Sarah Kaeppler
Volunteer Coordinator, Philly Fellow
Marina Merlin
Special Projects Coordinator

IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES
Philippe Weiss, Esq.
Managing Attorney
Ayodele Gansallo, Esq.
Senior Staff Attorney
Kristina Klugar, Esq.
Philadelphia Partnership for Resilience, Legal Coordinator (through November 2014)
Prachi Potdar, Esq.
Philadelphia Partnership for Resilience, Legal Coordinator
Stephanie Costa, Esq.
Interpersonal Violence Project Staff Attorney

Vleidmy Velarde,
LLM
Latino Outreach and Immigration Services (LORIS) Coordinator
Elizabeth Yaeger,
Esq.
Immigrant Youth Advocacy Project Supervising Attorney
Catherine "Katie" Fleeley,
Esq.
Staff Attorney/ Stoneleigh Emerging Leader Fellow
Rona Gershon, Esq.
Immigrant Youth Staff Attorney/Cardozo Law Institute for Human Rights Fellow
Stephanie Lubert,
Esq.
Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Legal Fellow
Mariana Falco
Know Your Rights Coordinator
Justin Mixon, Esq.
Staff Attorney
Lori Alexander,
MSW
Program Manager, Immigration Services
Raisa Davidovich
Citizenship Specialist
Shaloo Jose
P-CAN Project Coordinator
Jason Hernandez,
Esq.
Asylee Outreach Project Coordinator

You can ensure HIAS PA’s future through a legacy gift to our
Emma Lazarus Legacy Fund.
For more information, contact
Cathryn Miller-Wilson,
cmwilson@hihaspa.org.

Robert and Jo Steinhardt
Milton Tarshish & Susan Greenberg
Qing Hui Wang
Valley Green Bank
Ellis & Peggy Wachs
Robert Weyman
David Wic
Henry Yampolsky
BOARD of DIRECTORS

Sara “Susy” Simpser-Rafalin DDS, DMD
Ed Sholinsky, Esq.
Michael Slotznick, Esq.
Felicia Smith, Esq.
Bonnie Squires
Marty Tuzman
Henry Yampolsky, Esq.

Officers

PRESIDENT
Ilan Rosenberg, Esq.

VICE PRESIDENTS
Carol Gantman, Ph.D
Judy Eidelson, Ph.D.
Dveera Segal, Esq.
Roger Youman

TREASURER
Bud Hirsch

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
Margret Trotzky, MD

PRESIDENT’S CIRCLE
Sharon Ash
z” I of blessed memory
Linda Harker
Wedy Castor Hess, Esq.
Kenneth Kaiserman
z” I of blessed memory
Benita Fair Langsdorf, Esq.
Adele S. Lipton
Irwin Lipton
Sanford K. Mozes, Esq.
Norman Weinstein, Esq.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Judge Harold Berger
Penni Blaskey, Ph.D.
Ed Brant, Esq.
Susan Brooks, Esq.
Emily Cohen, Esq.
Judith Drasin, Esq.
Arnold Feldman, Esq.
Barry Fireman
Debby Freedman, Esquire
Judith Ginsberg
Rose Gold
z” I of blessed memory
Adam Herzig
Warren P. Hyams
Vivian Isaak
Rabbi Alan Iser
Lois S. Katzen, MSW, LSW
Jason Leckerman, Esq.
Steven Loux, Esq.
Emily Breslin Markos, Esq.
Russell Paul, Esq.
Jenny Perkins, Esq.
Sheri Rosenberg, Esq.
z” I of blessed memory