



REPRESENTING IMMIGRANTS • RESETTLING REFUGEES • REUNITING FAMILIES



ANNUAL REPORT
2015 – 2016

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PRESIDENT



DEAR FRIENDS,

In September, 2015, the heartbreaking photograph of three-year-old Aylan Kurdi—dead on a Turkish beach following his family’s desperate flight in search of safety from the Syrian war—galvanized the community. We were inundated with a record number of requests from prospective volunteers, invitations to speak about our work, and heartfelt gifts in support of our programs. Our staff members, many of them refugees themselves, were as shattered as the rest of the world when they saw that picture. But the outpouring of your support buoyed them and strengthened their resolve to continue our life-saving work.

President Obama’s promise to resettle 80,000 refugees in 2015 was kept and we resettled an unprecedented 220 refugees that year, including 35 Syrians. The first Syrian we resettled offered to act as ambassador to the new and growing community: providing home-cooked meals even to refugees who arrived late at night, giving tours of the neighborhood, and obtaining discounts at the local halal market for new arrivals. The community is thriving, thanks to the many volunteers who generously donated their time and opened their hearts. They are shining examples of humanity motivated by compassion, not fear.

In our immigration legal services program, we received a Stoneleigh Emerging Leader Fellow. Attorney Katherine Feeley more than doubled our pro bono roster of family law attorneys providing Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) representation to immigrant youth. She also ensured that Legal Services Corporation-funded agencies knew that they are permitted to represent immigrant youth in family court proceedings when they are victims of abuse or neglect. This was a victory, as most of our

youth initiative clients are abused and neglected immigrants who need access to LSC-funded family law attorneys to obtain immigration relief.

Our Latino Outreach Immigrant Services (LOIS) initiative also saw record numbers of clients, many of whom were eligible for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) relief. This relief became available as a result of President Obama’s 2012 Executive Order that permitted hundreds of thousands of adult immigrants who came to this country as young children to remain here and work. It is estimated that DACA recipients contribute \$24.6 billion dollars to the U.S. tax base. Imagine an economy without these young, often bi-lingual contributors! In the last fiscal year, we had to increase our site visits to ACLAMO, a Montgomery County social service agency for Latinos, from once to twice per month because the need was so great.

Our immigration legal services staff participated in a coordinated statewide effort to provide “Know Your Rights” presentations and individual consultations to immigrants all over the state in the wake of President Obama’s November, 2014 Executive Order. The Order provided deferred deportation and work authorization to immigrant parents of American citizen children. While the presentations were well attended and helpful, ultimately the Order – and therefore any potential relief from it - was thwarted by the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, which upheld the lower court’s declaration that the Order was unconstitutional and this result was kept in place by the United States Supreme Court’s tied ruling in June, 2016.

Our Annual Meeting in 2015 featured Leon Rodriguez, Director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service. Mr. Rodriguez reminded us of the importance of maintaining open door immigration policies. He also announced that we had been chosen by USCIS to receive a two-year citizenship grant that has enabled us to provide coordinated education and legal services to eligible immigrants across the city. We finished the fiscal year with a new refugee and immigrant summer school.

Over four weeks, working with the Philadelphia School District, we were able to provide English language learning through the arts to 70 children from around the world. It inspired new friendships among the children as well as beautiful artwork, stories, poems, songs, and dances. Moved by the work, the non-profit agency Repair the World generously agreed to exhibit the art in its West Philadelphia agency in September. It was fitting that, after such a tragic beginning, the fiscal year should end with such life-affirming art.

We cannot write this message without acknowledging two significant changes that occurred in the last several months. As we moved into fiscal year 2017, Judith Bernstein-Baker, our beloved Executive Director of 18 years, retired and was succeeded by former Deputy Director Cathryn Miller-Wilson. We will write about Judith's remarkable legacy in next year's Annual Report.

Fiscal year 2016 drew to a close in the midst of a bruising presidential election campaign. We now know the outcome. And we are deeply concerned about the changes this new administration brings for immigrants and refugees. This time next year, we will have a great deal more to say about that. But for now—as we close the book on 2016—we want to thank you for your support and we look forward to forging even stronger partnerships with you as we work together to welcome the stranger.



Cathryn Miller-Wilson, Esq.
Executive Director



Ilan Rosenberg, Esq.
Board President

IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES



2,694 INDIVIDUALS SERVED

901

Youth served

299

Domestic violence victims served

192

Survivors of torture served

355

Latino Outreach program participants served

IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES

HIAS Pennsylvania provides immigration legal services to low income individuals for a broad range of immigration legal matters.



Carol's Story

For an immigrant, the typical path toward citizenship is an arduous journey. We have illustrated this process at the bottom of each page with a description of the 25-year effort by a HIAS PA client from Sierra Leone. We are calling her Carol. It is essential to our country's future—to its economic health, its standing in the world, and its success as a free and democratic society—that people like Carol and their families are able to become Americans. Carol's story demonstrates that the vetting process, which can take a quarter century to complete, can already be considered "extreme."



REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

220

NEW ARRIVALS

- ▶ 25 vulnerable clients with illness or other needs received year-long supportive services
- ▶ 20 elementary students and 16 high school students participated in our refugee after-school program
- ▶ 23 elementary students and 16 high school students participated in our refugee summer program
- ▶ 144 middle school students enrolled in our arts-based ESL Summer Program
- ▶ 106 adults received English language teaching

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM

The Refugee Resettlement Program helps newly arrived refugees integrate into and gain self sufficiency in their communities. Valeri Harteg, who joined HIAS Pennsylvania in March 2016, directs Refugee Education. Val oversees a variety of educational activities for refugees: teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) to adults and children, assisting refugee parents in enrolling their children in school and navigating the complex bureaucracy of the public school system. She also engages in curriculum development, grants management, advocacy in the communities and, with the Philadelphia School District, running an after school and a summer youth program.

The programs couldn't possibly work without volunteers. Volunteers come from a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences to support the high school and elementary programs. In addition to English support, volunteers provide the homework support that their parents, with their lack of English, often cannot provide. Volunteers

also provide, in Val's words, "a safe space where they can discuss experiences that are often traumatic." Students participating in the after school program come from Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Afghanistan, Eritrea, Congo, Tajikistan and other countries where they have often had emotionally wrenching experiences.

In the last year, HIAS Pennsylvania's education work has greatly expanded, including hosting a month-long middle school summer camp for more than 70 English learners, Val came to HIAS PA with a master's degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). But teaching isn't always just about learning English, Val emphasizes. "I've learned that you have to be flexible in your approach," she says. "Sure, children should learn quickly to communicate in English. But it's fine for them to also develop their first language skills and to continue to talk with friends and family members in that language. All of this helps them become comfortable in their new communities."

○ 1991

Carol enters U.S. as a visitor from Sierra Leone.

Carol applies for asylum in U.S., citing the civil war in Sierra Leone.

○ 1993

CITIZENSHIP PROGRAM

While our citizenship program focuses on those too elderly or sick to become citizens without extra help, we are called upon by hundreds of other clients who simply need legal support to become citizens. That's where Citizenship Day comes in. A collaboration with Nationalities Service Center and the local chapter of AILA, Citizens Day brought together 106 volunteer lawyers and 82 other volunteers from around the Philadelphia region for one day to serve more than 300 green card holders ready to achieve citizenship. Volunteers helped clients complete their applications for citizenship, get waivers for the substantial fee that accompanies an application, and go through the final interview process. This past year, Citizenship Day was moved from September to April so that the applications would be processed in time for the clients to vote in the 2016 election.

Steve Heimann, a retired lawyer, was a typical volunteer. Steve heard about HIAS PA in late 2015, during a visit to a town in southern Germany that was building a memorial to mark the location of a synagogue destroyed during the Nazi era. Steve's father was born in the town and managed to emigrate to the United States just before World War II began. When Steve returned from Germany, he contacted HIAS PA about volunteer opportunities. He chose to work on the Citizenship Program, along with his son and daughter-in-law, also attorneys.

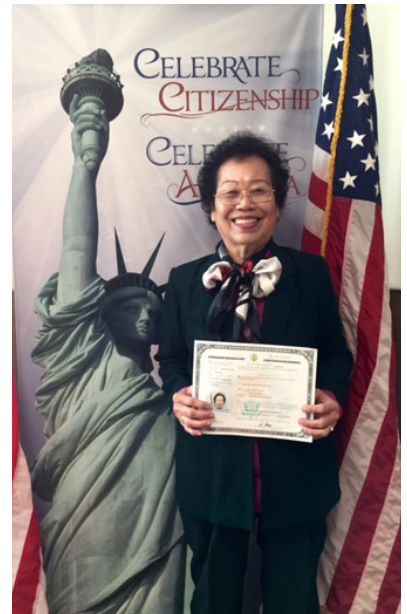
Steve worked intensively with one client, who became a citizen in August 2016 and who voted in November. "The work we did was important and satisfying," Steve said. "It's wonderful to see the gratification a client has when the long process is over and they finally become a citizen of our country."



CITIZENSHIP
385 TOTAL CLIENTS

Clients attending civics and English classes in addition to citizenship legal support: **190**

Clients receiving extensive legal support, including medical waivers: **195**



1995

Carol's application is denied and she is assigned to deportation proceedings.

1996

While pregnant, Carol is attacked by the child's father. She accepts voluntary deportation despite her fear of returning to Sierra Leone. But she does not leave.

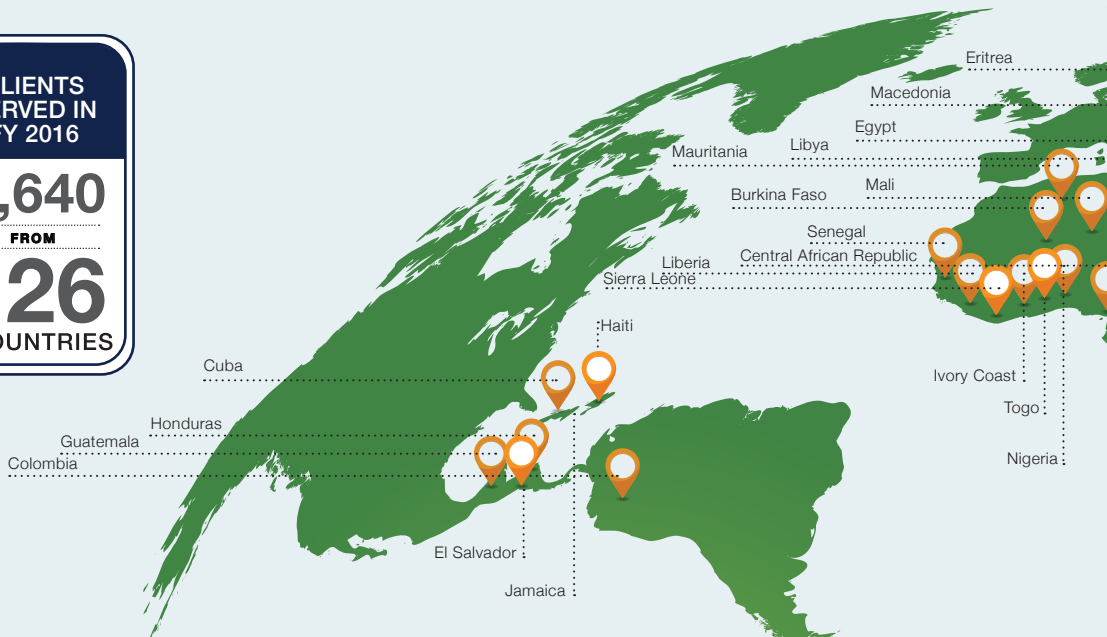
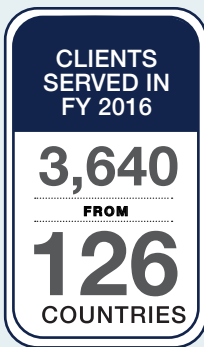
ASYLEE OUTREACH PROGRAM

Throughout our history, HIAS PA has worked with thousands of individuals and families fleeing dangerous situations in their homelands. We have offered legal services and case management assistance aimed at helping asylees achieve self sufficiency.

Recent news has captured graphically the plight of Syrians engulfed by the war in their country, and we have helped many of them. Meanwhile, we have worked with other asylees, including:

- People uprooted by a 20-year civil war in the Democratic Republic of Congo
- Children fleeing gang violence and rape in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala
- LGBT individuals persecuted in Uganda and Iran
- Jews persecuted in Russia
- Eritreans confronted with a repressive government and conscription
- Afghanis and Iraqis facing persecution due to their support for American troops.
- Many more...

No matter what these individuals are fleeing, they need support to start a successful new life in the US. With the help of HIAS Pennsylvania, asylees have been able to restart their lives as authors, opera singers, professors, business owners, human rights activists, and so much more.



1997

Carol and the father of her children are married in a traditional Islamic ceremony. At the same time, her husband starts the path to becoming a U.S. citizen.

1998

Carol receives Temporary Protective Status (TPS) because of civil war in Sierra Leone.

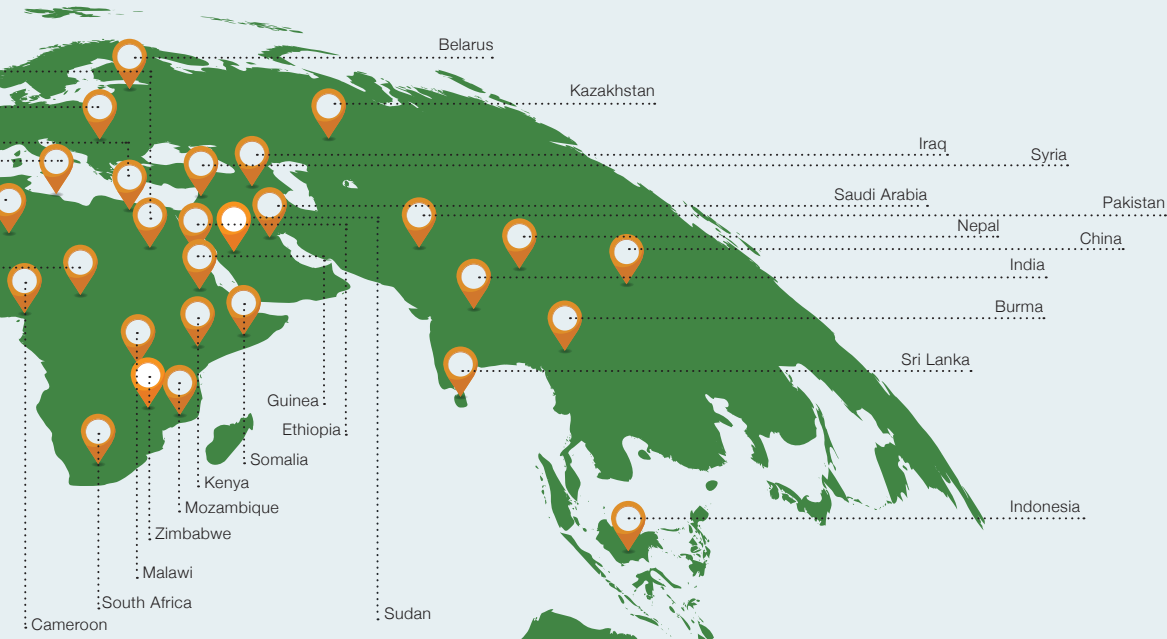
What's the difference between a refugee and an asylum seeker?

Refugees are people who have been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or a natural disaster. As a legal term in the U.S., a refugee refers to one of these persons (described above) who has been given refugee status by the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR) before entering the U.S.

Like refugees, asylum seekers have been forced to leave their country. However, an asylum seeker is directly seeking legal status in the U.S. rather than abroad. In order to obtain this status, they must go to a U.S. court and claim asylum. Once they are granted asylum, they have an equivalent legal status to a refugee and are eligible for the same benefits.

ASYLEE OUTREACH PROGRAM

314 TOTAL CLIENTS **117** NEW CLIENTS



2002

The application filed by Carol's husband for her to stay in the U.S. as his wife is denied because her traditional marriage isn't recognized. Carol is severely beaten by her husband.

DONORS

We gratefully acknowledge the support of our institutional and government funders, corporate and individual contributors whose support makes our life-saving work possible. Every effort is given to share an accurate and complete list. Please excuse us if we have made any errors. In the interest of space, we have only included donors who gave at the \$250 level and above. We are sorry that we cannot include the hundreds of donors that gave below that level.

Please note that the following list only includes donors who donated between October 1, 2015 and September 30, 2016. If you donated after that date, your donation will be acknowledged in the next Annual Report.

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Barra Foundation
 City of Philadelphia, Department of Human Services
 Claniel Foundation
 Commonwealth Advocacy Project
 Department of Justice
 Emergency Food and Shelter Program
 Equal Justice Works (Americorps pass-through funding)
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 HIAS, Inc. (*Department of State Reception and Placement Program and the Office of Refugee Resettlement pass-through funding*)
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pass-through funding)
 PA is Ready!
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 Pennsylvania Refugee Resettlement Program (*Office of Refugee Resettlement pass-through funding*)
 Pennsylvania Department of Education (*Office of Refugee Resettlement pass-through funding*)
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Integration Grant Program
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Champion of Liberty (50,000+)
 The Jacob and Malka Goldfarb Charitable Foundation
 Anonymous

Golden Door (\$10,000+)
 Adele and Irwin Lipton

Torchbearer (\$5,000+)
 Frank Ash
 Ballard Spahr
 Harold Berger
 Brodie Family Philanthropic Fund
 Cooke and Bieler

2004

Carol has second child. Carol and a friend create a foundation to help war amputees.

2003

Protective status for Sierra Leone nationals ends. Carol's brother returns to Sierra Leone and is murdered. Fearing danger in Sierra Leone, Carol decides to remain. Her husband is now a U.S. citizen and her child is a birthright citizen.

Dechert, LLP
Judith Ginsberg
Henry and Helen Bienenfeld
Foundation
LawLogix
William and Adonna S. Kaplan
Endowment Fund

American Dreamers (\$2,000+)

AILA Philadelphia
Evelyn Bishop
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Cohen, Placitella and Roth, P.C.
Doreen Davis and Robert
Simmons
Janice Diamond Smith
Michael and Paula Dvorak
Elliott Feldman and Cindy Mogul

2005

Carol's husband is arrested for domestic violence and the couple separates.

2009

Since Carol hadn't left by her deportation date, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers arrive at her home to detain her and reinstate the deportation order.

Fine, Kaplan, and Black
Guy Fried
Galfand Berger, LLP
Germantown Mennonite Church
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The Green Line Cafe
Bud Hirsch
Matthew Hirsch
Warren Hyams
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Yuriy and Anna Kucherenko
Deborah Gross
Benita Fair Langsdorf
Law Offices of Michael D.
Lipuma
Law Offices of Wayne Sachs
Barry and Gail Levin
James Levin and Andrea
Commaker

2010

HIAS PA helps Carol file an application to stop her deportation and apply for relief because of the abuse she has suffered.

Debbie Levin and Max Markovitz
 Lindy & Tauber
 Jack and Blima Ludmir
 Cirel and Howard Magen
 Daniel and Susan Mangold
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 Masterman School
 David and Cyndie Metz
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 Frank and Sandra Norman
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 memory
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 Ethel Verticelli
 Norman Weinstein
 Marli Weisman
 Henry Yampolsky
 Roger Youman

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(The following donors ensure that HIAS Pennsylvania will be supported now and into the future by leaving a Legacy Gift)

Frank Ash
 Sharon Ash z"l of blessed
 memory
 David Berney
 Judith Bernstein-Baker
 Penni Blaskey
 Samuel Brooks z"l of blessed
 memory
 Wendy Castor Hess
 Sonia Crane z"l of blessed
 memory
 Judith Drasin
 Barry Fireman

2011

Carol's petition is approved, but she is informed that she can't apply for a Green Card without reopening her deportation case.

2015

HIAS PA successfully petitions for the reopening of Carol's deportation case.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Ilan Rosenberg, Esq.
Gordon Rees, Attorney

VICE PRESIDENTS

Judy Eidelson, Ph.D.
Independent Clinical Psychologist

Carol Gantman, Ph.D.
Independent Psychologist

Dveera Segal, Esq.
Villanova Law School, Professor

Roger Youman
Retired Editor/Writer

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STAFF LIST

(Please note that this listing is for the fiscal year that ended September 30, 2016. On November 1, 2016, Judith Bernstein-Baker retired and was succeeded by Cathryn Miller-Wilson)

ADMINISTRATION

Judith Bernstein-Baker,
JD, MSW

Executive Director

Cathryn Miller-Wilson, Esq.
Deputy Director

Daniella Scruggs
Development Director

Latda "Loy" Omphommasack
Office Manager

Michelle Zarate
Receptionist and Administrative Assistant

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

Carrie Fox-Kline, MSW
Director of Refugee Programs and Planning

JT Kendall
Case Management Coordinator (through July 2016)

Zaid Hatoum
Lead Case Manager

Marina Merlin
Special Projects Coordinator

Kimberly Mitchell
Education Coordinator (through February 2016)

Val Harteg
Education Coordinator

Alhaji Saccoh
Health Coordinator

Gin Sum
Housing Coordinator (through June 2016)
Employment Coordinator

Sarah Kaepffel
Volunteer Coordinator, Philly Fellow (through June 2016)
Housing Coordinator

Amy Eckendorf
Case Manager

Go (Christina) Vung
Ashok Rai
Case Aide

IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES

Philippe Weisz, Esq.
Managing Attorney

Ayodele Gansallo, Esq.
Senior Staff Attorney

Prachi Potdar, Esq.
Philadelphia Partnership for Resilience, Legal Coordinator

Vleidmy Velarde, LLM
Latino Outreach and Immigration Services (LOIS) Coordinator

Stephanie Costa, Esq.
Domestic Violence Initiative Supervising Attorney

Rona Gershon, Esq.
Domestic Violence Initiative and Immigrant Youth Advocacy Initiative Staff Attorney

Elizabeth Yaeger, Esq.
Immigrant Youth Advocacy Initiative Supervising Attorney

Catherine "Katie" Feeley, Esq.
Staff Attorney/Stoneleigh Emerging Leader Fellow

Stephanie Lubert, Esq.
Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Legal Fellow

Justin Mixon, Esq.
Immigrant Youth Advocacy Initiative Staff Attorney

Mary McCabe, Esq.
Know Your Rights Coordinator

Gerardo Castillo Jamenez
Know Your Rights Coordinator

Lori Alexander, MSW
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Raisa Davidovich
Citizenship Specialist

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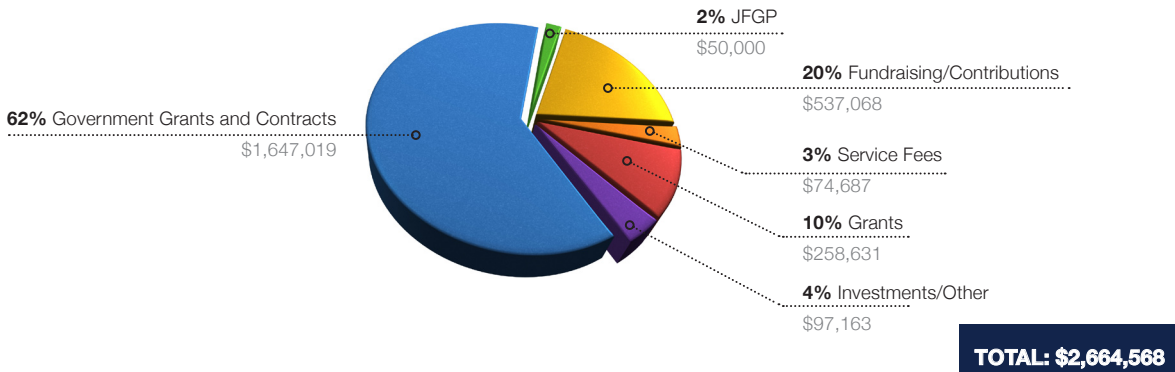
Jason Hernandez, Esq.
Asylee Outreach Project Coordinator

2016

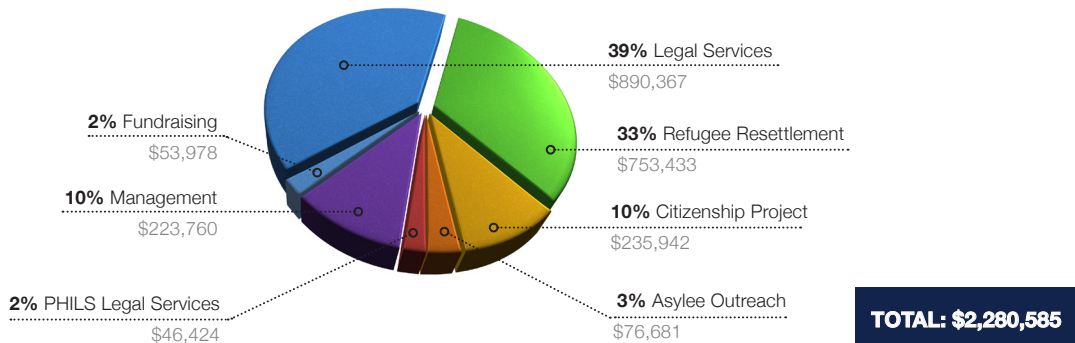
HIAS PA proves that Carol and her children would suffer extreme hardship if deported. An immigration judge in Philadelphia agrees to terminate her deportation case and grant her a Green Card. Carol now works in information technology at a Baltimore hospital. One of her children is in college; the other is in seventh grade. She looks forward to applying for citizenship in five years.

FINANCIAL

HOW WE RAISED OUR FUNDS



HOW WE SPENT OUR FUNDS



SUPPORT, REVENUE AND IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

Fundraising and Contributions	\$537,068
In-kind contributions	\$1,010,373
Government Support	\$1,647,019
Foundation Grants	\$262,929
Grants from the Jewish Federation	\$50,000
Service Fees	\$74,687
Investments/other income	\$97,163
TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT:	\$3,679,239

EXPENSES (INCLUDING IN-KIND)

Programs	Amount	Support Services	Amount
Legal Services--includes in-kind	\$1,784,443	General and administrative	\$223,760
PHILS Legal Services	\$46,424	Fundraising	\$53,978
Resettlement Program--includes in-kind	\$869,730	TOTAL SUPPORT SERVICES:	\$277,738
Citizenship project	\$235,942		
Asylee Outreach	\$76,681		
TOTAL PROGRAMS:	\$3,013,220	TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$3,290,958

Change in Net Assets	\$81,276
Net Assets, Beginning	\$1,700,197
Net Assets Ending	\$1,781,473



HOW YOU CAN HELP

HIAS Pennsylvania has a singular mission: to provide legal and supportive services to immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers from all backgrounds and to assure their fair treatment and full integration into American society. We started in 1882 as the Association for Jewish Immigrants, just as an influx of Eastern European Jewish immigrants came to this country looking for a new home. More recently, HIAS PA has provided assistance to refugees and immigrants from many faiths, cultures, and parts of the world.

Our values are based on the core Jewish belief of “welcoming the stranger” and *tzedakah* (generosity, charity, and fairness).

The past year has been a successful one, but we are now under fire. As you can see in our financial statement, much of our funding comes from the government, which has promised to cut funding

for immigrants and refugees. Without new funding sources, we will have to cut programs, leaving fewer resources for immigrants at the very time that their need is greatest. Donate at www.hiaspa.org/donate or contact Daniella Scruggs, our Director of Development, at dscruggs@hiaspa.org or (215) 832-0940 about fundraising opportunities, such as hosting a house party or other fundraising event.

You also can donate your time. Volunteers expand our capacity to serve clients and there are a range of opportunities, from helping families to find homes and settle here to teaching them English and moving them toward citizenship. Please visit www.hiaspa.org/volunteer to learn more. Thank you for all that you do—and for believing, as we do, that welcoming immigrants is an important part of what makes America great.





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DONATE, VOLUNTEER, SUBSCRIBE AT WWW.HIASPA.ORG

