

CELEBRATING  
**OPEN DOORS**



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2017–2018

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## The United States, at our greatest, is a celebration of love, not hate.

HIAS PA's clients survive violence, persecution, discrimination and governmental instability and make their way to America in search of peace and community. In a season of unspeakable acts, we renew our commitment to help them find the America they have held in their hearts. In the most hostile environment for immigrants in decades, we continue to reach out with the love and welcome that express our shared humanity. And in the face of hate, we celebrate with joy all that they bring into our lives.

Our clients in 2017–2018 came from nations around the globe and faith traditions across a wide spectrum. They have shown courage, strength and resilience beyond anything most of us can imagine. We celebrate that with your help, HIAS Pennsylvania was able to help them over the threshold of a nation's door that must sometimes have felt barely ajar. We resettled a shrinking number of refugees and helped the growing number of immigrants already here — eligible for and desperate to secure legal status — build new lives.

Never has your readiness to stand with us been more important. We celebrate you — our contributors, friends, and volunteers — who made it possible for us to sustain the high level of our services in a time of growing need. Together, we will keep the door not only open, but open wide.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cathryn Miller-Wilson".

**Cathryn Miller-Wilson, Esq.**  
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dveera Segal".

**Dveera Segal, Esq.**  
President of the Board

In 2017–2018,  
HIAS PA served

2,461+  
New clients

New clients included:

233  
Survivors of domestic  
violence/sexual assault

547  
Independent youth

104  
Victims of  
violent crimes

65  
Survivors  
of torture

91  
Newly arrived  
refugees

239  
Individuals newly  
granted asylum



## THE COURAGE OF REFUGEES

“... HIAS PA was with us at every moment. We can’t even explain all the ways they supported us.”

**In Pakistan, the Sadaqats lived in fear.** Their Christian faith and work as human rights activists made them targets for constant persecution. Especially vulnerable as a community leader, Mr. Sadaqat received asylum from the US in 2017. He quickly turned to HIAS PA for help bringing his entire family to Philadelphia. When the family’s application was approved that same year, HIAS PA’s work shifted from legal services to the intensive support the family would need to navigate a completely new culture. “We didn’t know how anything worked,” remembers Qamrosh, the only boy among the Sadaqat children. “But HIAS PA was with us at every moment. We can’t even explain all the ways they supported us.” HIAS PA found a job for Mr. Sadaqat and helped the family enroll in programs that assisted with the cost of heat and other necessities.

Sponsored by HIAS PA, three of the four siblings took part in a youth leadership program, where they gained confidence and a powerful sense of community with other young immigrants. A HIAS PA summer program prepared the two school-age girls, Kawish and Mehwish, for their senior year at Northeast High School, where they are now taking honors courses, playing sports, and looking forward to college. HIAS PA connected Qamrosh to a post-secondary program in information technology that he hopes will be a step toward a good career.

The Sadaqats pray for their Christian friends and family left behind in Pakistan, still subject to discrimination, but they do not feel alone in this country. HIAS PA, they say, “has become our family.”







WE CELEBRATE

## THE STRENGTH OF IMMIGRANTS

**She couldn't apply for financial aid, so her mother secured loans and saved the money for Blanca's tuition out of her pay for cleaning houses.**

**Blanca Anoushian was a teenager when she learned that she was undocumented.** She had entered the country as a toddler in her mother's arms. "I owe my mother everything," says Blanca, "It must have been so hard for her to tell me I wouldn't be getting a driver's license or a job like the other girls, but that is the day everything changed." In fact, Blanca's life went on hold for a very long time. After high school, she attended a one-year program to train as a medical assistant. She couldn't apply for financial aid, so her mother secured loans and saved the money for Blanca's tuition out of her pay for cleaning houses. To help her mother rebuild her finances, Blanca worked under the table, often at two jobs. Then, life changed again for Blanca, when she met and married a US Marine stationed near her home. He successfully petitioned for her to receive legal status.

With her green card in hand, Blanca was finally ready to move forward again. She completed an associate's degree in health systems management at Montgomery County Community College and secured a good job at a medical equipment company. She badly wanted to become a citizen, but she was afraid. She had heard terrible stories of people making mistakes and worsening their situations. She contacted HIAS PA, where staff member Mary Clark walked her through the process step by step. At the citizenship ceremony, Blanca says, "All I could think of was Mary and how I wouldn't be there without her. When they got to that song at the end of the ceremony, 'Proud to Be an American,' I cried like a baby."



## Our Services

In 2017, we opened

# 3,341

new cases including:

## 91

Refugee  
resettlement cases

## 193

Immigrant  
social service cases

## 245

Naturalization

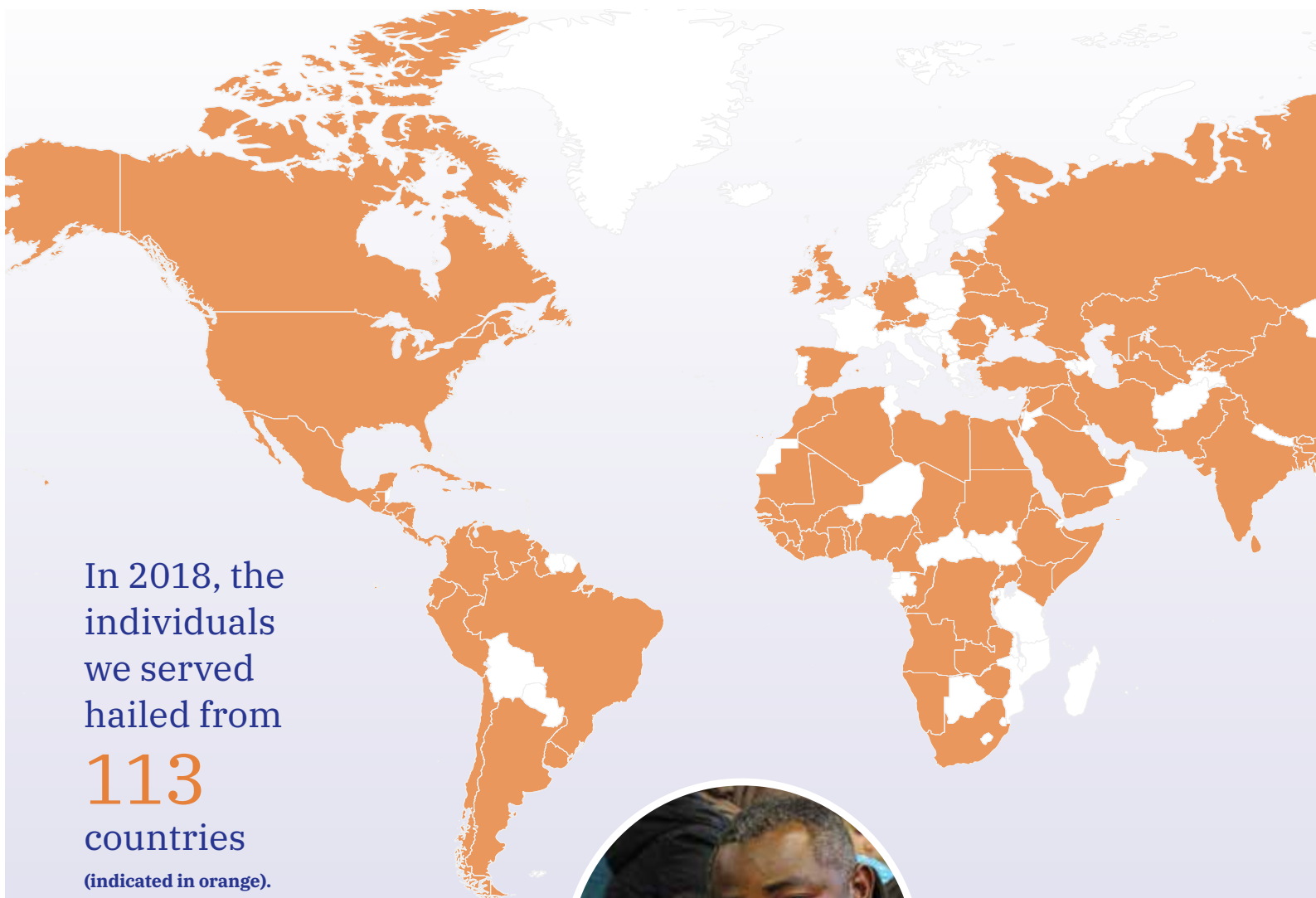
## 2,812

Other legal work  
(see page 6)



Each year, HIAS PA helps hundreds of people like Liudmila (pictured above, third from right, with her friends and family) and Bima (pictured in the insert) become citizens.

In 2018, the individuals we served hailed from **113** countries (indicated in orange).



**Breakdown of New Legal Cases 2017–2018**

56

Asylum

64

Temporary Protected Status and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals

67

Family reunification

199

Visas due to humanitarian causes like domestic violence and trafficking

258

Green cards

238

Employment authorization and other miscellaneous legal cases

1,930

Legal consultations





WE CELEBRATE

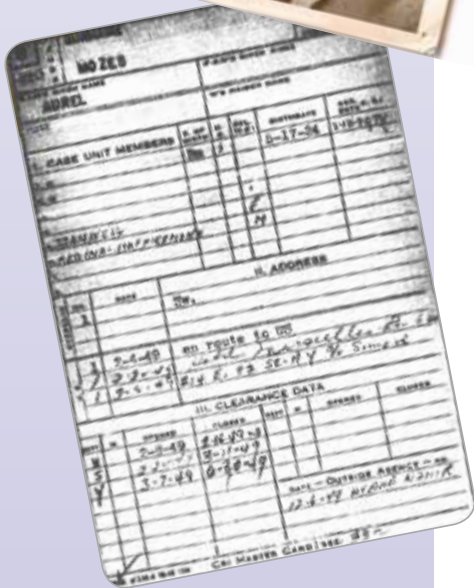
## THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE US

**Sandy has paid forward HIAS's service to his father as a 32-year member of the HIAS PA Board . . .**

**Aurel Mozes escaped in the forest during a march to a Nazi death camp.** Barely alive from years in forced labor camps, he nonetheless made his way to a Raoul Wallenberg safe house in Budapest. Eventually he gained entry to Sweden through a false engagement to a woman he never met.

In 1949, HIAS helped Aurel resettle in New York City, where, over time, he thrived. He met his wife Rose, herself a Holocaust survivor, and proudly became an American citizen. "He framed his naturalization certificate and hung it in their bedroom," remembers Sanford (Sandy) Mozes, the oldest of their three sons. HIAS PA honored Sandy in 2017 with its Golden Door Award for his lifetime of service and support.

Sandy has paid forward HIAS's service to his father as a 32-year member of the HIAS PA Board, including a stint as its president in the early 1990s, and a generous donor. Now Sandy's three sons are enriching such diverse aspects of American society: Eric as an artist, Daniel as a lawyer, and Jon as a sports-caster. And two-year-old Henry — great-grandson of Aurel, grandson of Sanford, and son of Daniel — has made his first contribution to everyone around him: unfettered joy.





WE CELEBRATE

In the past 15 years, the number of HIAS PA staff members has more than tripled from **13** to **41**.

## THOSE WHO REACH BACK FOR OTHERS

... he understood the impact when people had to flee their homes with nothing.

**Zaid Hatoum watched his country descend into chaos from a special perspective.** As a Syrian lawyer for the UN Refugee Agency, he knew war's reality. He saw its brutality when he interviewed refugees and displaced persons; he understood the impact when people had to flee their homes with nothing. Then, he became a person who could not go home.

He was studying for a Master of Laws at Temple University when the fighting in Syria made return impossible. Zaid knew how fortunate he was to possess a US student visa. His good fortune held as he secured a job on the HIAS PA resettlement team, helping refugees in their first 90 days in America. "I loved that job," said Zaid. "You are with a family literally from the moment they arrive, helping them adjust to life. Then you see them again in a year, and they are working, paying taxes. Although they are not necessarily achieving the American dream, they are definitely rebuilding their lives and healing from trauma."

Now Zaid, having passed the New York Bar, works on the legal team serving survivors of torture for the Philadelphia Partnership for Resilience, a joint program of HIAS PA and Nationalities Service Center. He worries constantly about his parents and sister, who are still in Syria, but in other ways life is looking up. He has married a woman he met in the US, and he finds his job deeply satisfying. About the US, he says, "You are able to express your opinion here and criticize the system. Americans should not take this right for granted. People die for it overseas."





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For 2017–2018, ending September 30, 2018

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Lead Case Manager (until March 2018, moved  
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# OUR REACH

Fiscal Year 2018

Increase in  
new comprehensive legal cases  
compared to FY2013

44%

Youngest client

5 months



Oldest client

97 years old



Increase in new  
asylum cases  
compared to FY2013

522%



Hours contributed  
by volunteers

9,000





## THE FUTURE IN TURBULENT TIMES

Our clients retain  
their ideals even when  
they face new barriers.

At HIAS PA, we can  
do no less.

**W**e know that the number of refugees allowed into the country is likely to remain historically low until at least 2020. Immigrants at every stage between arrival and citizenship will continue to face uphill battles; thus, the need for HIAS PA's services will continue to grow. The phone will ring more often, and more cases will require a complex response. These assumptions frame our plan for navigating a landscape where the road sometimes disappears under our feet.

Our plan is “transformation” — transforming our services from siloed to holistic — in recognition of our clients’ multi-faceted needs. HIAS PA has already begun providing more social services to our legal clients so they can start life in America with the best set of tools we can give them. We seek to continue to support their integration until they are naturalized.

The portion of our budget covered by federal refugee resettlement dollars has decreased significantly — moving from 30% of our agency budget in 2016–2017, to 27% of our agency budget in 2017–2018 to 8% of our budget in the current year, 2018–2019. This decline has accelerated as the number of refugees whom the government pays us to resettle goes down while the need for trauma-informed social services continues to increase. In this climate, we depend more than ever on the support of foundations, families, and individuals who respond with generous hearts.

Only your generosity will allow us to achieve our vision.  
**Join us as we transform our services and assure  
the defense of freedom’s flame into the future.**



# WE CELEBRATE YOUR SUPPORT

We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of our institutional and government funders and 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 who gave below that level.

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October 1, 2017–September 30, 2018

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### Emma Lazarus Society

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

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 Ethel Verticelli, z"l of blessed memory  
 Norman Weinstein  
 Henry Yampolsky  
 Roger Youman



A smiling woman with dark hair, wearing a patterned top. She has the word 'Smile' written on her cheeks. The background is a warm, orange-toned gradient.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

### Based on the Jewish value of “welcoming the stranger,”

HIAS PA provides legal and supportive services to immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers from all backgrounds to assure their fair treatment and full integration into American society. We started in 1882 as the Association for Jewish Immigrants to serve the influx of Jewish immigrants fleeing the pogroms of Eastern Europe and looking for a new home in the United States. Now we provide services to all vulnerable refugees and immigrants, from arrival to citizenship.

The past year has continued to see immigrants and refugees under fire: everything is more difficult, from applying for asylum to applying for citizenship. ICE raids have increased, families have been separated, and the lives of thousands of people with DACA and TPS are in limbo.

**Your support ensures that whatever happens, immigrants and refugees have somewhere to turn.**

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#### Donate Money

You can donate at [www.hiaspa.org/donate](http://www.hiaspa.org/donate). You can also contact Daniella Scruggs, Director of Development, at [dscruggs@hiaspa.org](mailto:dscruggs@hiaspa.org) or (215) 832-0940, to learn more about fundraising opportunities such as hosting a house party.

#### Donate Time

Volunteers expand our capacity to serve clients. Opportunities range from helping families settle here to teaching English and moving them toward citizenship. Please go to [www.hiaspa.org/volunteer](http://www.hiaspa.org/volunteer) to learn more. Thank you!



2100 Arch Street  
3rd Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
215-832-0900

**Donate, Volunteer, Subscribe at [HIASPA.ORG](https://HIASPA.ORG)**

“Whoever degrades another  
degrades me,

And whatever is done or said  
returns at last to me.”

– **Walt Whitman**  
Song of Myself

