



REPRESENTING IMMIGRANTS • RESETTLING REFUGEES • REUNITING FAMILIES

AMERICA'S GREATNESS



ANNUAL REPORT | 2016 – 2017

“

We were constantly threatened and humiliated because we were different ethnicity. Now we live in a country where no one has right to humiliate you because you have another religion, skin color or something else that doesn't have any connection to your human quality. All of what we have now is because of work that HIAS PA staff do to help us and other people like us.

”



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PRESIDENT

WHAT A YEAR! Running from October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017, HIAS PA's fiscal year started with the roiling, tumultuous pre-election fall and ended facing the lowest refugee ceiling ever and the termination of two vital protections for immigrants and refugees: DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) and TPS (Temporary Protected Status).

It was also a time of deep change internally. On November 1, Cathryn Miller-Wilson succeeded our beloved Judith Bernstein-Baker, who had led HIAS PA so magnificently as executive director for 18 years. We also welcomed Rona Buchalter as our new director of refugee resettlement.

Fiscal 2017 has been, to say the least, a year of change for HIAS PA. But because of your support, despite the escalating and on-going challenges on the outside, it has also been a year of opportunity and proud resistance.

TOGETHER we:

Spoke out more forcefully than ever:

- Joining private and nonprofit law firms, the city, and the Philadelphia Bar Association to create Take Action Philly (TAP), to provide public education and volunteer opportunities for lawyers to support immigrants and refugees.
- Joining the protests at the airport and co-counseling the litigation to free those detained there and ensure the return of those sent away.
- Starting a coalition to bring free legal defense to detained immigrants in Pennsylvania threatened with deportation.
- Participating in a coalition formed by the Scattergood Foundation to distribute a fund for immigrant wellness for maximum benefit to the immigrant community.
- Creating popular booklets of talking points to help the public and our clients understand the threats and what they could do about them.
- Creating an electronic Issues Digest to help our mailing list members stay on top of the rapidly changing legal landscape for immigrants and refugees.

Cathryn Miller-Wilson, Esq.
Executive Director

Welcomed and supported those who came through our doors:

- Resettling 190 refugees from 14 countries, despite every roadblock, with the same attention to their individual needs we have shown since 1882.
- Increasing Know-Your-Rights presentations to meet increased demand.
- Training fifty family lawyers to assist immigrant parents facing possible detention and deportation away from their US-citizen children.
- Training two large law firms and one hundred private attorneys in citizenship services and conducting bi-monthly citizenship clinics.

Fought for our clients in the courts:

- Signing on to three amicus briefs challenging, respectively, threats to sanctuary cities, asylum seekers and long-term permanent residents.
- Doubling our staff to support immigrant survivors of domestic violence to meet growing demand from the suburban counties as well as Philadelphia.

You—our donors, volunteers, and friends—have stood with us. Thank you for helping us continue our critical mission to welcome the stranger.

Ilan Rosenberg, Esq.
Board President



IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE LEGAL SERVICES

IN FY 2017, OVER **1600** PEOPLE TOOK THE NEXT STEPS TOWARD NEW LIVES IN AMERICA AFTER LEGAL CONSULTATIONS WITH OUR STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS. WE OPENED OVER **950** NEW CASES INCLUDING:

- 61** asylum applications, **43** of which were for individuals under **21**
- 197** permanent residence applications (“green cards”)
- 203** citizenship applications
- 75** work authorization applications
- 39** applications for Special Status for abused or neglected youth (SIJ)
- 90** DACA applications
- 3** Temporary Protected Status (TPS) applications
- 82** visa applications for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault
- 54** visa applications for victims of other crimes in the US
- 4** visa applications for victims of trafficking
- 50** petitions for individuals to reunite with hundreds of family members
- 90** other cases, including essentials ranging from travel documents to getting a copy of a green card



Elhadj, his wife Katiatou, and their son with Carole and her husband Rob.

MAKE YOUR LIFE A BLESSING

Carole Wilder loved her career as an employment lawyer. Then she took on an asylum case *pro bono* for HIAS PA – and discovered a whole new love. Her HIAS PA experience was so satisfying that she accelerated her retirement plans so she could take on more asylum cases. **“What I have gained from these refugees and asylees is far more than anything I could give them,”** Carole says. “Every time I catch myself taking something for granted, I think about what my clients have gone through. Their strength and resilience has been inspiring”

Elhadj Diallo who refers to Carole as his “second mother,” was among Carole’s earliest HIAS PA clients. “We hit it off,” says Carole, as did their families. They have shared holidays and other occasions together. Carole not only continues to represent asylees herself, but now does asylum intake for HIAS PA, conducting in-person interviews with potential clients. She has also recruited other volunteers for HIAS PA. Among them is her friend Marty Miller, a retired educator who is now a lead teacher in HIAS PA’s after-school program for refugee children at Spruance Elementary School. Carole also serves on HIAS PA’s Board.

“Our country was built by immigrants,” Carole says, **“and we have so much to be grateful for.** It’s important that we try to give back by helping the refugees who come to our shores escaping war, poverty, and persecution like so many of our families once did.” She recalls the words of Bill Kuhn, Rabbi Emeritus of Rodelph Shalom: **“Make your life a blessing.”** Through HIAS PA, Carole continually strives to do so.

“I CAN NEVER REPAY WHAT HIAS PA DID FOR US.”

Elhadj has always been involved in his community. After graduating from the University of Conakry in Guinea, he worked as an administrative assistant at the US Embassy. He loved his job and the people he worked with, spending hours of his own time learning about the teachings of Martin Luther King, which he then applied to his own troubled community. During the first ebola crisis, he organized young people to go door to door educating neighbors. When a military coup overthrew Guinea's democratically elected government, he led nonviolent protests.

That was too much for Guinea's military leaders. Security forces detained and beat Elhadj until his brother paid a guard for his release. When he continued to lead peaceful protest marches, security forces came to his house, trashed the furniture, pushed his wife against the wall, and threatened to kill him. **“We are no longer safe,”** Elhadj told his wife, Kadiatou. **“We must flee.”** With aching hearts, they left their infant daughter in the care of Kadiatou's mother until they could establish a safe home.

In the U.S., Elhadj and Kadiatou were wholly dependent on a cousin who was struggling herself. “All that period I was so confused,” Elhadj recalls. **“Then I met with Prachi, and everything**

changed. Prachi was the first person in the US to give us hope.” A legal coordinator at HIAS PA, Prachi Potdar connected Elhadj and Kadiatou to Carole Wilder, who agreed to take their case pro bono and help them apply for asylum. **“Carole was more than our lawyer, Carole became a friend of our family.”**

Elhadj and Kadiatou found separation from their daughter unbearable but they could not bring her here until they obtained asylum. Fortunately, Carole was able to convince the U.S. immigration service to expedite their case, so Elhadj and Kadiatou obtained asylum in two years, far less than the usual time, and finally brought their daughter here to join them.

Now Elhadj and Kadiatou live in West Philadelphia, where they feel part of a community. Elhadj found work at Amazon, and Kadiatou at Walmart. Elhadj hopes their daughter, who is now 4 and healthy and whole, will someday want to become a doctor. In 2015, their son was born a US citizen.

While Elhadj does not need HIAS PA as he once did, he is never far away. **“I will do anything for HIAS PA. Anything,”** he says. **“I can never repay what HIAS PA did for us.”**





DEMOGRAPHICS

OF MORE THAN **2200** NEW REFUGEE AND IMMIGRANT CLIENTS WHO DIRECTLY BENEFITED FROM OUR HELP:

36%

WERE UNDER
22 YEARS OLD

5%

WERE 65 YEARS
OLD OR OLDER



53%

WERE FEMALE



47%

WERE MALE

They came from **112** countries; the top five countries of birth were **El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Liberia, and Mexico.**



These figures do not include family members who also gained status through our help (for example, if a parent naturalizes their children under 18 may derive citizenship.)

WELCOMING THE STRANGER



Ezra Fishman's

grandfather made it out of Europe on the last boat from Poland before the Nazi invasion in 1939. Out of his grandfather's resettlement in America, Ezra gained a wonderful life with a safe home for his wife and two children, a PhD from a prestigious

university, and a great job as a specialist in diabetes research. But amid his successes, Ezra has never lost his empathy for people forced to begin anew in a completely alien land.

Thus, it was no surprise that Ezra and his wife Nicola Brodie sought an organization helping refugees when her father, Jonathan, celebrated his birthday by donating to charities chosen by his three children and their spouses. "HIAS PA was the first place that came to mind," says Ezra. **"They are one of the most experienced in the business."**

Ezra was surprised to learn how long it takes to earn refugee status – an average of three to five years –and about the scope of HIAS PA's services. "It's not as if you are ready to stand on your own feet on day one," he points out. "The programs that help refugees with housing, learning English, and other basic needs are really important."

Ezra also supports HIAS PA's advocacy work. **"We all know about the moral outrage of the US refusing to let the St. Louis dock on American shores in 1939,"** he says, **"We ought to be working hard to avoid that moral failure again."**

Inspired by Jonathan Brodie, Ezra and Nicola have continued his support of HIAS PA for several years. "The imperative to welcome strangers is deeply embedded in Jewish texts and concerns, rooted in our own exile in Babylon," says Ezra. **"As a Jew, it is very important to me to respond to the refugee crisis."**

"I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE."

Rushana wants to be a journalist. This wasn't always the case. When she was younger, all she wanted to do was play soccer for Tajikistan's national team. That was before the Tajik police threatened her mother. "From then on," Rushana says, **"I knew I had to do something that makes a difference in the world."**

Rushana's mother had written stories that upset the Tajik government. Soon, she was receiving death threats. Rushana gathered up her most prized possessions, her soccer uniform and shoes, and they left for Turkey. But Turkey was overwhelmed with refugees. Rushana's mom was not allowed to work and there was no high school for Rushana. So they were resettled in the U.S.

The first days in Philadelphia were a rush. HIAS PA's staff met Rushana's family at the airport and took them to their new apartment, and that was just the beginning. Volunteers and staff helped them get their IDs, register for school, and secure everything they needed. They helped Rushana and her family learn how to use the bus and navigate the city. "All the buildings looked alike," Rushana remembers, "I didn't know which one was the one we lived in."

School was hard. Although Rushana had learned English in Tajikistan and Turkey (and already knew Farsi, Russian, Tajik, and Turkish), she felt lost: **"I knew everything, but I didn't know how to explain it."**

But at HIAS PA's afterschool program, Education Coordinator Valeri Harteg helped Rushana gain the tools to communicate. "There are not enough words to explain Val," Rushana recounts. **"She always finds the way to explain something, no matter what it was."**

By three months, Rushana knew enough English to complain about how little English she knew. By six months, Rushana felt she could truly express herself.

Now Rushana is going to the Community College of Philadelphia, studying to become a journalist. She was recently promoted at TJ Maxx, where she works to help her family. "That's what's great about the U.S.," she says. "In Tajikistan, you get promoted if you have the right connections. **Here, if you work hard, you get promoted and have a chance to succeed."**



IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE SOCIAL SERVICES

IN FY2017, WE HELPED:

- 190** refugees with resettlement services.
- 24** vulnerable and medically needy refugees and asylees with intensive case management.
- 30** refugees and asylees with support services to get and keep jobs.
- 159** asylees with case management.
- 104** immigrant victims of crime with case management.
- 56** elementary, middle and high school students with intensive ESL afterschool.
- 137** elementary, middle, and high school youth with intensive ESL summer camp.



DONORS

We gratefully acknowledge the support 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 that gave below that level.

Please note that the following list only includes donors who donated between October 1, 2016 and September 30, 2017. If you donated after that date, your donation will be acknowledged in the next Annual Report.

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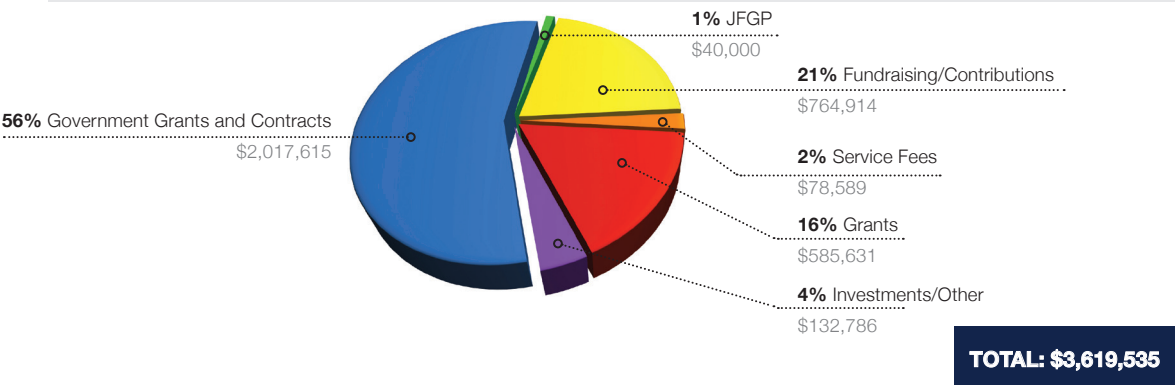
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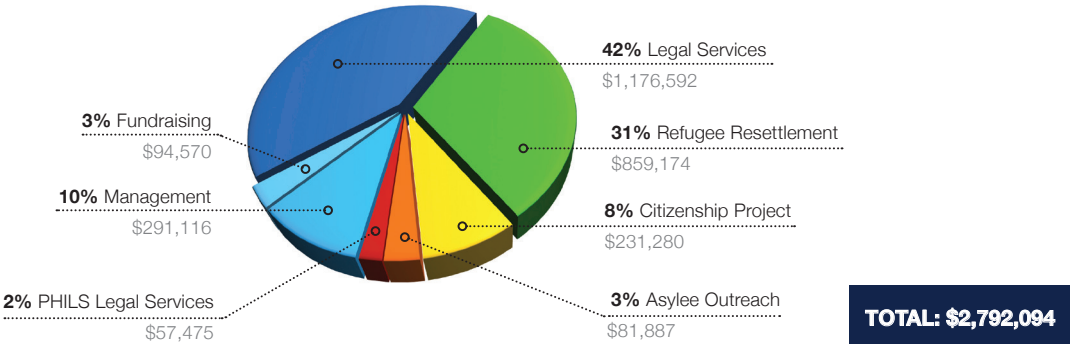
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HIAS PENNSYLVANIA FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2015-16

HOW WE RAISED OUR FUNDS



HOW WE SPENT OUR FUNDS



SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Fundraising and Contributions	\$764,914
In-kind contributions	\$1,047,524
Government Support	\$2,017,615
Foundation Grants	\$585,631
Jewish Federation	\$40,000
Service Fees	\$78,589
Investments/other income	\$132,786
TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT:	\$4,667,059

NOTE: Last year, governmental shifts in policy were projected to have a tragic impact on our ability to serve our clients when they needed it most. With your support, we not only kept the doors open, but grew. With this surplus, we continue to expand our services to meet our clients' increasing needs.

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.

EXPENSES

Programs	
Legal Services--includes in-kind	\$2,100,516
PHILS Legal Services	\$57,475
Resettlement Program--includes in-kind	\$982,774
Citizenship project	\$231,280
Asylee Outreach	\$81,887
TOTAL PROGRAMS:	\$3,453,932
Support Services	
General and administrative	\$291,116
Fundraising	\$94,570
TOTAL SUPPORT SERVICES:	\$385,686
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$3,839,618
Change in Net Assets	
Change in Net Assets Restricted	\$162,200
Change in Net Assets Unrestricted	\$665,241
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$827,447
Net Assets, Beginning	\$2,169,754
Net Assets Ending	\$2,997,195



HOW YOU CAN HELP

HIAS Pennsylvania has a core mission: 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 looking for a new home here. Now we provide services to all vulnerable refugees and immigrants, from arrival to citizenship.

The past year has seen immigrants and refugees under fire: DACA and TPS are under threat. The refugee ceiling has been slashed from 110,000 to 45,000. ICE raids have increased. But your support ensures that whatever happens,

immigrants and refugees have somewhere to turn. Donate at www.hiaspa.org/donate. Contact **Daniella Scruggs**, our Director of Development, at dscruggs@hiaspa.org or (215) 832-0940 to learn more about fundraising opportunities such as hosting a house party or other fundraising event.

You can also donate your time. Volunteers expand our capacity to serve our clients. Opportunities range from helping families to find homes and settle here to teaching English and moving them toward citizenship. Please go to www.hiaspa.org/volunteer to learn more. Thank you for all that you do.





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DONATE, VOLUNTEER, SUBSCRIBE AT WWW.HIASPA.ORG

