



YOU CAN HELP

Your donation supports those most in need in our community – victims of violence, children who are abused or abandoned, and those who have fled persecution in their own countries. If you would like more information, please contact us via:

ADDRESS
4223 Center Street
Omaha, NE 68105

PHONE
402.898.1349

EMAIL
info@immigrantlc.org

WEBSITE
immigrantlc.org

f t i y



IMMIGRANT LEGAL CENTER
An Affiliate of the Justice For Our Neighbors Network

4223 Center Street | Omaha, NE 68105 | P: 402.898.1349 | F: 402.502.4604 | immigrantlc.org



2017 ANNUAL REPORT



WELCOMING IMMIGRANTS INTO OUR COMMUNITIES

OUR JOURNEY
FROM JUSTICE FOR
OUR NEIGHBORS-
NEBRASKA TO
THE IMMIGRANT
LEGAL CENTER



FREE, PROFESSIONAL IMMIGRATION LAW SERVICES

THE BEGINNING

Founded by members of the Nebraska Conference (now Great Plains Conference) of the United Methodist Church in 1999, Justice For Our Neighbors-Nebraska (JFON-NE) launched its first immigration legal clinic in January, 2000, in the social hall of Grace United Methodist Church at 25th and E Streets. Our founders tell us their first clinic was an intense and gratifying experience. JFON-NE volunteers, and later staff, worked in the parish house next door to the church.

SERVING CLIENTS

Free, professional immigration law services were rare in the early 2000s. Our small agency shared monthly visits with immigration attorneys who flew from New York and Washington D.C.

Later, our founders hired a full-time immigration attorney who traveled from Des Moines to Omaha, then to Sioux City, Iowa, to see clients. In 2006, after thoughtful consultation and the support of our founder's group, National JFON, and the Nebraska Conference of the United Methodist Church officials, our board received 501(c)(3) nonprofit status.

CREATING THE DREAM

In 2011, the board hired Emiliano Lerda as executive director to drive growth of the fledgling agency. Shortly after, he hired Shane Ellison as legal director. A consultant led the group through the agency's first strategic plan, where the concept of the Immigrant Legal Center was born. The journey forward was clarified in a vision document named

simply, *Immigrant Legal Center*. Importantly, Emiliano and Shane agreed to always do what is in the best interest of our clients.

OUR VISION

Years passed and the agency grew through the generous support of individuals and funders who understood the critical need for our mission. Staff were hired and infrastructure was strengthened. Legal staff moved to the church and the administrative staff filled the parish house. We started looking for a larger space. In 2015-16, we developed a business plan and growth management framework to implement the transition to our vision. Again, our funders rallied to our support; the pilot programs were implemented to further address the challenges that

prevented immigrants from fully participating in their communities.

Bursting at the seams with new staff, we found the building at 42nd and Center to accommodate our growing organization, with extra rental space for additional income. Private funders made it possible for us to purchase the building that we are currently renovating at 4223 Center Street.



WELCOMING IMMIGRANTS INTO OUR COMMUNITY

On January 12, 2018, we held a press conference to officially launch as the Immigrant Legal Center, seven years later and almost to the day the concept paper was submitted. We revealed the new name, logo, services brochure, and conducted building tours for about 100 guests. The public phase of the capital campaign was launched that day, and our friends who are with us in this journey are responding.

We are deeply grateful for your support.





OUR MISSION

Immigrant Legal Center welcomes immigrants into our communities by providing high-quality legal services, education, and advocacy.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Sarah L. (Sally) McGill, *Chair*
- Daniel Padilla, *Treasurer & Chair-elect*
- Melissa Baron, *Secretary*
- Nicholas Brotzel
- Toni Demetria Smith
- Denise Powell
- Bernadette Tate
- Mary Umberger
- Jonathan Wegner

2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Daniel Padilla, *Chair*
- Mary Umberger, *Chair-elect*
- Melissa Baron, *Secretary*
- Toni Demetria Smith, *Treasurer*
- Nicholas Brotzel
- Denise Powell
- Thomas Simms
- Jonathan Wegner

2017 IN REVIEW

Dear Friends,

Perhaps the best word to describe 2017 for us is transformation.

Throughout 2017, we've participated in transformations at nearly every level. We've assisted eligible low-income immigrants during a time that presented great uncertainty and significant changes in the immigration legal system.

At the same time, we purchased and began the renovation of a building of our own. We are eager to complete our capital campaign this year so we can extend a warm welcome to our clients and their families.

The third transformation for us in 2017 has been our new name. This report highlights that journey.

Through it all, our greatest strength has been you. Dozens of you volunteer with our casework in our clinics and in court. Hundreds of you make donations and advocate for our cause.

Our volunteer board of directors has also re-affirmed and renewed its commitment to the long-term well-being of our newest neighbors. For a second year, board members refined their governance skills through a training made possible by the Iowa West Foundation.

We'd like to thank our resilient staff and collaborators for their extraordinary efforts and unwavering commitment to building capacity for leadership and inclusivity within our organization and in our communities. Our work offers stability for immigrants who are unable to afford legal representation and are caught in a whirlwind of sometimes life-endangering confusion, fear, and delays.

Looking toward 2018, we'll educate more immigrants and supporters on the rapidly-changing immigration legal environment. Watch our social media for news on how you can help.

As you read about the transformations that enabled us to support our highest number of cases to date, please know we could never have accomplished this without *your* support.

You inspire us by the generosity and encouragement we continue to experience every day.

Thank You!



Sally McGill

Sally McGill, J.D.
Chair
Board of Directors



Emiliano Lerda

Emiliano Lerda, J.D., LL.M.
Executive Director



COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS

STATE OF NEBRASKA

American Civil Liberties Union
 Anti-Defamation League
 Asociación Cívica Salvadoreña de Nebraska
 Center for Rural Affairs
 Coalition for a Strong Nebraska
 Courts Matter Coalition of Nebraska
 Legal Aid of Nebraska
 Lutheran Family Services
 Nebraska Appleseed
 Nebraska Association for Translators & Interpreters
 Nebraska Coalition for Immigration Reform
 Nebraska Cultural Unity Conference
 Nebraska Immigration Legal Assistance Hotline (NILAH)
 Nebraska State Bar Association
 Volunteer Lawyers Project of the Nebraska Bar Association

COLUMBUS, NE

Columbus First United Methodist Church
 Centro Hispano Comunitario de Nebraska

CRETE, NE

Blue River Family Center
 City of Crete
 Crete Public Schools
 Crete Area Medical Center
 Crete Police Department
 Crete Public Library
 Grace United Methodist Church
 United Church of Christ, 1st Congregational
 Doane University

GRAND ISLAND, NE

Central Community College
 Crisis Center Inc.
 Grand Island Latino Network
 Grand Island Public Schools
 Hope Harbor
 Multicultural Coalition of Grand Island
 Saint Mary's Immigration Program
 Trinity United Methodist Church

HASTINGS, NE

Hastings Multicultural Association

KEARNEY, NE

NTV News
 Office of Multicultural Affairs, University of Nebraska at Kearney
 Social Justice League, University of Nebraska at Kearney
 University of Nebraska - Kearney

LEXINGTON, NE

Central Community College
 Educational Service Unit 10
 First United Methodist Church
 Get Out The Vote-Lexington
 Law Offices of Jesus Tena
 Lexington Clipper Herald
 Lexington Public Schools
 Lexington Public Library
 Los Jalapeños
 Mid-Community Action Partnership
 Mundo Latino
 Pupusería El Rinconcito
 St. Ann's Catholic Church
 St. Mary's Immigration Program
 The Trinidad Center
 United Methodist Hispanic Ministry

LINCOLN, NE

American Civil Liberties Union
 Center for Legal Immigration Assistance
 El Centro de las Americas
 University of Nebraska Lincoln Clinic

OMAHA, NE

Alegent Health
 Blackford Law
 Boystown
 Cardinal Business Services
 Catholic Charities
 College of Saint Mary
 Completely KIDS
 Comunidad Maya Pixan Ixim
 Creighton Center for Service and Justice
 Creighton Law School
 Creighton Multicultural Center at CU
 Film Streams
 First United Methodist Church
 Grace United Methodist Church
 Grief's Journey
 Heart Ministry Center
 Heartland Worker's Center
 Immigrant Detainee Accompaniment Program
 Intercultural Senior Center
 Latino Center of the Midlands
 Learning Community Center of South Omaha
 Consulado De Mexico En Omaha (Mexican Consulate)
 Nonprofit Association of the Midlands
 Office of Latino and Latin American Studies (OLLAS) at University of Nebraska Omaha
 Omaha Metropolitan Community College
 Omaha Public Schools
 Omaha Together One Community
 One World Community Health Centers
 Open Door Mission
 Project Harmony
 Refugee Empowerment Center

Siena Francis House
 Sisters of Mercy
 St. James East United Methodist Church of Bellevue
 St. Paul United Methodist Church
 University of Nebraska - Omaha
 University of Nebraska Medical Center
 Urban Abbey
 Watie White
 Women's Center for Advancement
 Yamamoto & Kitchens
 Youth Emergency Services

NORTH PLATTE, NE

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

SOUTH SIOUX CITY, NE

South Sioux City Public Library
 Sugal Consulting, LLC
 St. Michael Catholic Church
 St. Paul United Methodist Church
 Unity In Action
 South Sioux City Police
 South Sioux City Public Schools

STATE OF IOWA

Legal Aid of Western Iowa
 Iowa Justice For Our Neighbors

COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA

Catholic Charities Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Program
 Centro Latino of Iowa
 Heartland Family Service

SIOUX CITY, IA

Mary Treglia Community House

NATIONAL

American Immigration Council
 American Immigration Lawyers Association
 Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.
 National Immigration Project

UNITED METHODIST PARTNERS

General Board of Church and Society
 General Board of Global Ministries
 Great Plains United Methodist Conference
 Great Plains United Methodist Mercy & Justice Team/Micah Corps
 Missouri River District of the Great Plains United Methodists
 National Justice For Our Neighbors (NJFON)
 United Methodist Committee on Relief
 United Methodist Women (National & Great Plains)

Individual United Methodist churches are listed with their cities.

ABOUT IMMIGRANT LEGAL CENTER



The Immigrant Legal Center (ILC) is an affiliate of the Justice For Our Neighbors Network. We continue JFON-NE's focus: to serve immigrants with low incomes of all faiths, races, abilities, and ages, with an emphasis on the most vulnerable—victims of domestic violence; children who have been neglected, abused, or abandoned; and persons who would be persecuted if they returned to the country from which they fled. We help our clients address the interwoven legal issues that prevent their full participation in our community.

We enjoy a solid reputation as a leader and go-to resource for our region's immigration legal profession. In 2017, legal clinics and consultations were provided in Omaha, Grand Island, Lexington, Crete, and South Sioux City in Nebraska; and Council Bluffs in Iowa. Educational presentations helped the public understand the complex challenges that immigrants face, and our advocacy efforts made improvements to our government's broken immigration system.

Our affiliation with the Justice For Our Neighbors Network and the Great Plains Conference of the United Methodist Church—our founders—remains strong. We are grateful for their support and friendship.

THANK YOU

Immigrants are facing an uncertain future. We provide immigration legal services to help the most vulnerable among us navigate our complicated and broken immigration legal system. We appreciate that you choose to help us make it happen.

OUR SERVICES



IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES

The Immigrant Legal Center is a nonprofit immigration law organization with specialties in domestic violence, child and family, and refugee and asylum law. We specialize in complex cases that may have multiple solutions. Our immigration legal service providers' comprehensive knowledge of immigration law provides the expertise to know which option is the best for individual clients. Our practice areas include:

- Asylum/Refugee
- Family-based Immigration
- Removal/Deportation
- Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) Status (including state family law matters)
- U-Visa (including labor and employment law matters) and T-Visa
- Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)



EDUCATION

We offer a variety of educational presentations to encourage the public to welcome our newest neighbors to Nebraska and western Iowa and to provide accurate information on the current federal immigration system. Presentations are made for immigrants, non-immigrants, professionals, and groups at institutions of higher learning. In 2017, staff conducted 122 presentations to 5,080 individuals. The top five requested presentations included:

- Services Provided by ILC
- Immigration 101-Law Basics
- Understanding Recent Executive Orders
- Know Your Rights and Safety Planning
- Immigrant Victims of Crime: U-Visa/T-Visa/VAWA



ADVOCACY

Immigrant Legal Center advocates, in collaboration with partnering organizations, for fundamental changes in the laws at the local, state, and federal level. Our goal is to make it safe and lawful for immigrant community members to work, live, and thrive in the United States. In our strategic plan, our board of directors and leadership identified seven strategies for advocacy initiatives:

- Impact Litigation
- Issue Analysis/Research
- Legal Action
- Media Advocacy/Public Awareness
- Coalition Building/Networking
- Policy Analysis/Research
- Ensure Good Policy Implementation

CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

- Mexico – 38.3%
- Guatemala – 21.5%
- El Salvador – 14.8%
- Central and East Africa – 7%
- All Other Countries/Regions – 18.4%



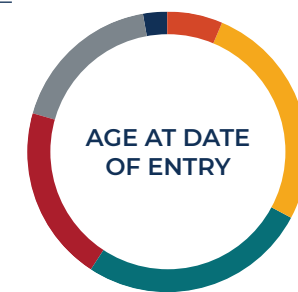
CASES WORKED

2013: 1,058
2014: 1,664
2015: 2,011
2016: 2,726
2017: 3,410

- Female – 53.3%
- Male – 46.7%



- 0-2 – 6.4%
- 3-12 – 26.4%
- 13-18 – 26.6%
- 19-28 – 20.1%
- 30-49 – 17.9%
- 50+ – 2.6%



- Omaha – 52.2%
- Rural Nebraska – 16.3%
- Council Bluffs/SW Iowa – 13.9%
- Lexington – 6.8%
- Grand Island – 6.1%
- Other – 4.7%



- <100% – 76.6%
- 100-125% – 16.4%
- 125-150% – 3.8%
- 150-175% – 1.4%
- 175-200% – 1.5%
- >200% – 0.3%



2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

TRAIN THE TRAINER WORKSHOP/RIGHTS AND PLANNING GUIDE

In the first quarter of the year, staff presented 59 *Know Your Rights* workshops to 2,307 participants and published a 188-page *Rights and Planning Guide* at www.immigrantlc.org/resources. Search for "Planning Guide." We organized a collaborative *Train the Trainer* event in February to provide free legal and safety information for organizations to share with the immigrants they serve.

DEFENDING THE DREAM: WHAT DACA RECIPIENTS AND THEIR ALLIES NEED TO KNOW

Two days after the termination of the Deferred Action For Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program was announced, our staff organized a collaborative presentation at College of Saint Mary offering free, accurate legal information. More than 400 people filled the main hall and two overflow rooms. The session was live-streamed on Facebook and the 90-minute video remains on the ILC Facebook video page.

BONO VIDEO FOR DREAMERS

Bono, lead singer of the band U2, helped us make a video of encouragement to DACA recipients (DREAMers). The video was featured in *We Are All DREAMers*, a collaborative awareness and fundraising campaign to help a coalition of immigrant-serving organizations in Nebraska work with DACA recipients. Go to www.WeAreAllDreamers.org for more information.

WE MOVED FROM THE HOUSE AND CHURCH TO 42ND & CENTER

Thanks to the generosity of private funders, the silent phase of our first capital campaign, plus funds raised through the public phase, will allow us to reach our goal of \$3.1 million by Summer 2018. The funds will be used to renovate the first floor so we can move to our permanent space. Please consider a donation at www.immigrantlc.org/donate.

IMPACT LITIGATION

On behalf of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and National JFON, we worked as a team with lawyers from the Center for New Americans, Harvard Law School, the National Immigrant Justice Center, the Center for Gender and Refugee Studies, and others to file coordinated amicus briefs before the Board of Immigration Appeals and the Ninth Circuit in *Matter of Negusie*. The case is poised to set precedent in refugee and asylum law (awaiting decisions in both cases). We also successfully settled a Federal Tort Claims Act lawsuit filed against the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on behalf of a minor client, resulting in a damages benchmark for future litigants.



2017 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

PILOT PROGRAMS

Immigrant Legal Center created new partnerships to determine the need for low-income legal services where they intersect with our clients' immigration cases.

We committed more resources to our Child and Family Program with Completely KIDS in 2017, in response to the threat of families being torn apart by increased deportations. Our Immigrant Workers Legal Partnership with Heartland Worker's Center and private law firms assist immigrant workers who have been victims of labor and employment law violations. The Immigrant-focused Medical Legal Partnership (IMLP) pilot with Children's Hospital and One World Health Center are testing the hypothesis that proactive immigration legal assistance can improve the health and welfare of immigrant patients and family members in our community.

These pilot programs are possible through the combined funding of the Weitz Family Foundation, Peter Kiewit Foundation, The Sherwood Foundation, The Fred and Eve Simon Foundation, Immanuel Vision Foundation, and Mutual of Omaha Foundation.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

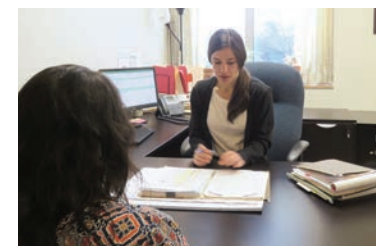
The Domestic Violence team represented victims of physical violence, sexual assault, and other exploitation in U-Visa, T-Visa, VAWA, and asylum applications, and in fighting their deportation. We engaged in education, advocacy, and relationship-building with law enforcement, judges, and other professionals, with the aim of defending and advancing the rights of immigrant victims of crime. Funding is provided by The Lozier Foundation and the Women's Fund of Omaha.

RURAL COMMUNITY INCLUSION PROJECT

This program, funded by The Sherwood Foundation, is a collaboration with the Heartland Worker's Center, Center for Rural Affairs, Centro Hispano Comunitario de Nebraska, Nebraska Appleseed, and ILC. Each agency contributes specific skills to develop local capacity for inclusivity and support for immigration legal services in Nebraska communities. In addition to providing consultations and representation to individuals, our attorneys educate the public about immigration law. We work with community attorneys, judges, and law enforcement to advocate for immigrant justice.

IOWA OFFICE MOVES WITH CENTRO LATINO OF IOWA

Multi-year funding from the Iowa West Foundation demonstrates confidence in our work and provides stability for our Iowa program. We strengthen the social fabric of the Council Bluffs/southwest Iowa community through work that keeps immigrant families together, creates economic development, educates immigrants and citizens alike, and encourages culturally-rich, welcoming communities. In March we moved with Centro Latino of Iowa to new offices in Suite 40 at the Omni Center in Council Bluffs. Consultations are also scheduled at Heartland Family Service in the Charles E. Lakin Human Services Campus. Trainings on specific areas of immigration law were offered to area attorneys who practice other areas of law but may also have immigrant clients.



GABRIEL'S STORY

ILC'S COURT ADVOCACY PROTECTS THE MOST VULNERABLE Protection Exists For Male And Female Victims Of Domestic Abuse

GABRIEL MARRIED A U.S. CITIZEN

Gabriel was brought to the U.S. from Mexico around age 14 to reunite with his father and brothers. As an adult, he began to date Michelle, a U.S. citizen who had two young sons with special needs. Over time, Gabriel became close to Michelle's sons, whose father was not present.

The boys called him "Dad" and considered him their father. When Gabriel and Michelle married, he became stepfather to the boys.

HE BECAME A MALE VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Over the years, Michelle developed mental and physical health problems and became verbally and emotionally abusive toward Gabriel, as well as toward their children. She called Gabriel names, insulted him, threw things at him, and threatened to report him to immigration authorities unless he complied with her demands.

Despite his wife's cruelty, Gabriel stayed with her for the sake of their sons. But in August 2015, Gabriel was detained by immigration authorities and unable to pay a bond to secure his release. Soon after, Gabriel sought assistance from JFON-NE/Immigrant Legal Center to help in his case and avoid being separated from his sons.

Only 14 percent of detained immigrants are lucky enough to obtain counsel, yet detained immigrants with counsel are four times more likely to obtain protection.

-Access to Counsel in Immigration Court, American Immigration Counsel

DETAINED FOR DEPORTATION

For the next 18 months he remained in jail while Virginia Maynes, child and family managing attorney, and Anna Deal, domestic violence managing attorney, fought to prevent Gabriel's deportation. They filed multiple relief applications

on his behalf, including an application for VAWA Cancellation of Removal, which prevents the deportation of individuals who were subjected to battery or extreme cruelty by a U.S. citizen spouse.

They appealed the immigration judge's denial of relief, and the Board of Immigration Appeals remanded Gabriel's case back to the Immigration Judge for a second trial and further consideration.

Through it all, Gabriel remained devoted to his stepsons and determined to remain in the U.S. to provide them with stability and love.

REUNITED WITH HIS STEPSONS

In July 2017, nearly two years after Gabriel had entered detention, the immigration judge approved his application for VAWA Cancellation, granting him lawful permanent resident status, and he was released. Gabriel is now reunited with his beloved stepsons, family, and friends. For the first time since age 14, he can go about his daily life and plan for his future without fearing deportation.

DONORS

FOUNDATIONS & GRANTS

American Immigration Lawyers Association - IA/NE Chapter
Anonymous
The Fred and Eve Simon Charitable Foundation
Great Plains Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church
Immanuel Vision Foundation
Iowa West Foundation
Kiewit Companies Foundation
The Lozier Foundation
Mammel Family Foundation
Mutual of Omaha Foundation
National Justice For Our Neighbors
Nebraska Commission on Public Assistance
Omaha Public Schools Foundation
Peter Kiewit Foundation
The Sherwood Foundation
Weitz Family Foundation
William & Ruth Scott Family Foundation
Women's Fund of Greater Omaha

GUARDIANS/WORLD TRAVELERS \$15,000+

Annette & Paul Smith Charitable Fund
Anonymous
Omaha Steaks/Betiana & Todd Simon
Warren Distribution/Polina & Bob Schlott

CHAMPIONS/MILLION MILERS \$10,000 - \$14,999

Carol Gendler/Marathon Realty
Susan & Mike Lebens

BENEFACTORS/PATHFINDERS \$5,000 - \$9,999

Laura & Michael Alley
Esther & Daniel Brabec
Foundation Beyond Belief
H. Lee & Carol Gendler Foundation
Dianne & John Scott
Katie Weitz, Ph.D.

ADVOCATES/ADVENTURERS \$3,000 - \$4,999

E Creative
Jonna Holland
Denise & Hobson Powell
Slowdown Fundraiser
Streck, Inc. in honor of Betiana & Todd Simon
VGA Group

SUPPORTERS/VOYAGERS \$1,500 - \$2,999

Anonymous
Arcosanti, Inc.
Marla Goldberg & Robert Cohen
Creighton University
Ryan Ellis
First National Bank
Five Points Bank
Fraser Stryker PC, LLO
Donna & Mathew Johnson

Kasaby Nicholls, LLC
Kutak Rock LLP /Gretchen & John McGill
Margaret & Mike McMeekin in honor of Emily & Craig Moody
Mulhall's
Sharee & Murray Newman
William Pickett
Security National Bank
Tenaska, Inc. in honor of Annette & Paul Smith
Mary Umberger
Veridian Credit Union

ALLIES \$500 - \$1,499

Emma & Lee Addams
Jane Alseth
American Immigration Lawyers Association-IA/NE Chapter
Ann & Brad Ashford
T Zaw Aung
Baird Holm LLP in honor of Betiana & Todd Simon
Dawn & Ness Bashara
Ellie Batt
Eleanor Biederman
Barbara Braden
Michaela & Nicholas Brotzel
Consulate of Mexico of Omaha
Dave Cunningham
Dustin Davidson
Dele & Arike Davies
Maria Fernandez
First United Methodist Church - Omaha
Ed & Mary Lee Fitzsimmons
Meredith Fuller & Jim Luyten
Valeria & Washington Garcia
Jim Glazer
Karen Gluck
Heather Gomes & Mac McLaughlin
in honor of Jane Aranha
Diane Greenfield
Dawn Hammel
Maureen Hunt
Joanie & Richard Jacobson
Lexington Community Foundation
Likes Meyerson Hatch LLC
Laura Logan
Tina & Daniel Lonergan
Lund Ross Constructors
Dulce Maroni-Veiga & Christian Perversi
Mario Mazariegos
Sarah McGill
Esther Mejia & Jeneen Sagon
Metro Young Latino Professionals
Association
Emily & Craig Moody
Carolina & Daniel Padilla
Mary & Jay Palu
Lucia Perez Coutino
Nancy Pridal
Athena Ramos
Terrie & John Ringwalt
Rockbrook United Methodist Church
Patricia Rohan
Second Unitarian Church of Omaha

Annette Sneckenberg
Source One, Inc. in honor of Mindy Rush Chipman
Shirley & Kenneth Stice
Kristine Story & Grant Turner-Story
Palma Strand & David Sylvester
Ellen Struve
Gerry Sullivan & Bob Benzel
Yen Thach
Verdis Group
Terrie & Alan Wasmoen
Yamamoto & Kitchens PC, LLO
Anne York & Jefferey Schringer
Rowen Zetterman

FRIENDS \$250 - \$499

Laurie Abler
Jose Aleman Soriano
Jean Ballinger
Josh Bartee
Leslie & Jim Cavanaugh
Coalition for a Better Nebraska
Completely KIDS
Kathryne Cutler
Jennie & Charles Shane Ellison
Terry & Catherine Ferguson
Emily Galas & Scott Humlicek
David Harding
Mary Hewitt
Ann Atkinson & Daniel Isaman
Diane & Lawrence Jensen in honor of Andrea Paret
Mary Ann & Jeffrey Johnson
K&M Wines
George Kleine
Jared List
Rachel Mabrey
Susan Mayberger & John Thomas in honor of Lauren Kincaid & Kathy Higbee
Spencer Maynes
Melanie Menning
Metropolitan Community College
Jane & Phillip Meyer in honor of Maria Fernandez
Karen Morey
Beth Pantano
Jane Raybould
Ken & Jennifer Reed Bouley
Debra Reilly & Bob Culver
Ronald Roemmich
Barbara Schlott
Seline Family Foundation, Inc.
Marcia Smith
Toni Demetria Smith
Megan & Timothy Smith
Kara Stockdale in memory of William Stockdale
Robilea Swindell & Gerald Feese
Jesus Tena
Chris Tjaden
Mary Anne & Peter Tulipana
University of Nebraska Medical Center
Molly & Curt Witzenburg
Mieko Young



MAMIE'S STORY

AFTER 15 YEARS, MOTHER LEARNS HER CHILD IS ALIVE

Mother and Son Reunite on Christmas Day

MOTHER FLED FROM TWO CIVIL WARS

Mamie was born in Liberia. When civil war broke out, she escaped to the Ivory Coast, and she lived there as a refugee. Mamie gave birth to a beautiful boy, Wilfred, in 1999. Then Civil war broke out in the Ivory Coast in 2002, and conditions were dangerous within the refugee camp.

Mamie took 3-year old Wilfred to his paternal grandmother, who offered to take him in and keep him safe. But the grandmother's home was attacked, and Wilfred was separated from his family. Mamie later came to believe that Wilfred was killed during the attack, along with his father and grandmother.

In 2017, the number of displaced people worldwide recently hit an historical high of 65.5 million. The family reunification process brings families back together.

-The UN Refugee Agency's annual Global Trends study

SHE LEARNED HER CHILD WAS ALIVE

A year later, Mamie was resettled in the United States as a refugee. Over a decade later, in 2015, Mamie's brother, who resides in Liberia, called Mamie. He explained that Wilfred was alive, and he knew it was Wilfred the moment he saw and spoke with him. A relative, who knew Dearra Godinez, our rural capacity building managing attorney, immediately took Mamie to Dearra's office. Mamie told Dearra that she had found her son and needed help getting him to the United States.

Mamie and Dearra started by filing an I-130 Petition in November 2015. A DNA parentage test, among other documents, was required. Dearra helped them complete the test, and the results revealed Mamie was, in fact, the biological mother of Wilfred. More than two years later,

Wilfred received his visa and booked his flight.

A CHRISTMAS MIRACLE

Wilfred, now 18 years old, arrived in Omaha on Christmas Day, 2017. He and his mother saw each other for the first time since Wilfred was 3 years old.

Mamie and her family wanted to express their gratitude to our entire staff for bringing her a Christmas Miracle. She

invited us to the airport to witness what our work does for families. Wilfred's extended family welcomed him to Omaha with open arms, and Dearra helped to capture the moment for the family in pictures.

Overjoyed, Mamie told Dearra, "The Immigrant Legal Center family is our family now!"

VOLUNTEERS

ADVISORY COUNCIL

- Bob Campos
- Jim Cavanaugh
- Roger Garcia
- Diane Greenfield
- John Knape
- Lowen Kruse
- David Lanphier
- Doris Boruff Peterson
- Athena Ramos
- John Ringwalt
- Jenny Stillwell
- Jim Van Arsdall

CRETE

- Dulce Castañeda
- Fabiola Dimas
- Josie Filipi
- Maricela Flores
- Rose Godinez
- Rebecca Gonzales
- Pastor Jeff Hagaman
- Kristen Hetrick
- Ryan Hinz
- Wilma Jackson
- Joel Lastor Panjoj
- Joel Lemus
- Jared List
- Valeria Rodríguez
- Gloria Sarmiento
- Pam Scholz
- Shaylene Smith
- Rachel Yamamoto
- Christa Yoakum

GRAND ISLAND CLINIC

- Debbrá Brummund, Coordinator
- Christy Horky, Coordinator
- Connie Anderson
- Steve Anderson
- Carlos Barcenás
- David Clark
- Sherry Cook
- Andrew Cunningham
- Sandy Engel
- Jeanne Graves
- Cecilia Hormachea
- Priscilla Hormachea

Volunteers serve a critical role at ILC. Without their compassionate assistance, we would not be able to serve the rapidly increasing number of immigrants who seek our help. THANK YOU to all the volunteers who help us welcome our newest neighbors to the communities we serve!

- Pastor Kelly Karges
- Audrey Lutz
- Ann Sukraw-Lutz
- Raquel Maar
- Ann Marsh
- Joyce McKinny
- Glen Murray
- Yolanda Nuncio
- Vanessa Ocon
- Jorge Paramo
- Andrea Paret
- Karen Reese
- Carolyn Roper
- Del Roper
- Sandy Sypherd
- Chang Thao
- Maria Trejo Guerrero
- Glenda Vetter
- Brian Whitecalf
- Donna Winter

LEXINGTON CLINIC

- Gladys Godinez, Coordinador
- Flor A Acosta Marquez
- Maria Alvizar (Scottsbluff)
- Ana Castañeda
- Heather Chacon
- Kellie Draper
- Chawnta Durham
- Pastor Anne Gahn
- Carlos Godinez
- Sue Keller
- Brenda Landa
- Karina Lupercio
- Ruby Mendez-Lopez
- Julie Neher
- Maricela Novoa
- Andrea Paret
- Nancy Pinedo
- Valeria Rodriguez
- Gloria Sarmiento

OMAHA

- Josh Cohen
- Donlon DeLaMare
- Richard Dowse
- Meredith Fuller
- Gabriella Hezel

- Yesica Lara
- Daniel Martin
- Tina Nguyen
- Andrea Paret
- Greg Smith
- Jessica Vazquez
- Alexis Zendejas
- Lauren Ziegenbein

SOUTH SIOUX CITY

- Amy Abraham
- Amy Chabra
- Adriana Dungan
- Pastor Jaime Forias
- JoAnn Gieselman
- Pastor Jose Miranda
- David Mixdorf
- Heidi Oligmueller
- Andrea Paret
- Cynthia Perez
- Lisbeth Ramires
- Cristina Topete
- Revathi Truong
- Balbina Valadez
- Ismael Valadez
- Rachel Yamamoto
- Christa Yoakum

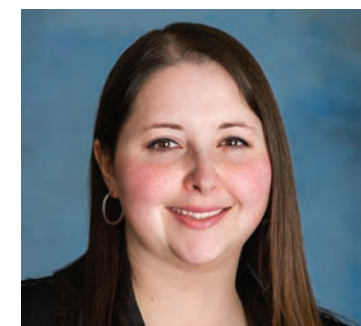
INTERPRETERS & TRANSLATORS

- Elizabeth Ajongo (Arabic)
- Greg Smith (French)
- Sunkist Judson (Burmese)
- Khater F. Khater (Arabic)
- Juan Lopez-Mateo (Q'anjob'al)
- Juana Marcos (Q'anjob'al)
- Luis Marcos (Q'anjob'al)

PRO-BONO VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS

- Brian Blackford
- Julia Cryne
- John DeWald
- Kristin Fearnow
- Tim Farmer
- Tina Ray
- Joseph Lopez Wilson
- Rachel Yamamoto

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



I have been proud to participate as a volunteer attorney representative in the Attorney of the Day program for immigrant juveniles going through the confusing and scary process of removal and deportation proceedings. For children who come from faraway places, who don't understand the language and have often never seen a courtroom, the process can be alarming and daunting. Having legal representation in immigration court is often the difference between being deported and being able to stay in safety in the U.S. I am very glad that Immigrant Legal Center has helped to organize volunteers for this important mission, and I urge others to volunteer their time to help unrepresented immigrant juveniles.

-Julia Cryne, Marks Clair Richards, LLC



ANA AND ROBERTO'S STORY

IMMIGRANT-FOCUSED MEDICAL LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS HELP FAMILIES REUNITE A mother's dying wish of protecting her family comes true

THE THREAT OF TORTURE WAS IMMINENT

Ana, her husband Roberto, and their four young children fled to the U.S. from their home in El Salvador in 2016. Vicious gang members, working in conjunction with law enforcement and the controlling political party, apprehended Roberto, a legal advocate and business owner. They forced him to watch men being tortured and murdered, then showed him a picture of Ana taking their children to school. The violent men told Roberto they would torture and murder his family next if he did not secure the release of two recently jailed gang members.

SEPARATED AT THE BORDER

Roberto knew he could not do what they demanded of him, so the family left everything they knew and owned and fled. The journey was dangerous, and the family was separated before reaching the U.S./Mexico border.

Ana and the children were held in a Texas detention center for a week before being released and allowed to temporarily live with extended family members in Nebraska while they pled their cases in immigration court. However, Roberto was not released and instead forced to plead his case in immigration court from a Texas detention center.

Roberto secured an attorney; however, the unscrupulous and unethical attorney did not properly present his case. As a result, Roberto lost his case and was issued an order of deportation. Meanwhile in Nebraska, Ana had become very sick. She went to the emergency room and soon after was diagnosed with terminal cancer.

TOGETHER ONE LAST TIME

The social worker at the hospital reached out to our Immigrant-focused Medical Legal Partnership (IMLP) team to help the family. Senior Managing Attorney Mindy Rush Chipman began safety planning at once, drafting Ana's will and temporary delegation of parental power documents, as well as appealing Roberto's case to

the Board of Immigration Appeals to prevent his immediate deportation. After repeated requests, he was released from the detention center, where he had been held for over nine months. Roberto reunited with Ana and their children three days before she passed away. He was here to say goodbye to his wife and to grieve with and care for their children.

Recently, the Department of Homeland Services agreed with IMLP team that Roberto should be granted protection under the Convention Against Torture, which allows him to remain in the U.S. The children are living with him. Their asylum and special immigrant juvenile status cases are pending.

Asylum status saves lives by protecting victims and potential victims from being returned to and tortured in the country from which they fled.

-Charles Shane Ellison, Deputy Executive Director/Legal Director

FINANCIALS

IMMIGRANT LEGAL CENTER STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES (UNAUDITED) FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2017.

REVENUE

	Unrestricted	Time ¹ &/or Purpose ² Restricted Funds	2017 Total
Fundraising	\$280,929		\$280,929
Grants	\$317,319	\$5,702,400	\$6,019,719
Individual Donations	\$39,807		\$39,807
Institutional / Corp Donations	\$54,737		\$54,737
Major Gifts	\$95,400		\$95,400
Great Plains Conference	\$112,604		\$112,604
National JFON	\$37,000		\$37,000
Earned Income	\$73,693		\$73,693
Other Income	\$6,306		\$6,306
Released from Restriction	\$1,102,464	(\$1,102,464)	-
Total Revenue	\$2,120,258	\$4,599,936	\$6,720,194

EXPENSES

	Unrestricted	Time ¹ &/or Purpose ² Restricted Funds	2017 Total
Administrative	\$567,956		\$567,956
Fundraising	\$238,547		\$238,547
Programs:			
Child & Family	\$298,517		\$298,517
Domestic Violence	\$154,764		\$154,764
Rural Capacity	\$317,442		\$317,442
Iowa Services	\$116,905		\$116,905
Immigrant Workers	\$111,012		\$111,012
Medical/Legal	\$150,444		\$150,444
Total Expense	\$1,955,587		\$1,955,587

Changes in Net Assets	\$164,670	\$4,599,936	\$4,764,606
Net Assets, beginning of year	(\$138,503)	\$2,700,692	\$2,562,189
Net Assets, end of year	\$26,167	\$7,300,628	\$7,326,795

¹ Time-Restricted funds received in 2017 are to be used in future years.

² Purpose-Restricted funds to the capital campaign are not to be used for general operating funds.



FOOD TRUCK WORLD TOUR

The 2017 Food Truck World Tour fundraiser raised more than \$183,000 for immigrant legal services! It was held at the Okada Sculpture and Ceramics Facility of the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts on a surprisingly hot September evening. Guests enjoyed the live marimba music of Comunidad Maya Pixan Ixim. A great feature of the evening was a tour through KANEKO's *Kinetic* exhibit. We are thrilled at the tireless leadership and support of our volunteers and friends. Your generosity means the world to us!



DONOR SPOTLIGHT



We have proudly supported JFON-NE/ILC for many years. We know the life-changing legal services they provide are critical for immigrants who cannot afford to hire a private attorney. They are a remarkable group of professionals who are fully committed to changing the lives of immigrants. Just look at their success rate. We continue to be thrilled to be able to help so many by supporting JFON-NE/ILC.

-Betiana & Todd Simon

STAFF

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Veronica Amaya
Legal Receptionist/Client Advocate</p> <p>Giselle Arellano
Child & Family Paralegal, DOJ Accredited Representative</p> <p>Dawn Bashara
Communications & Development Director</p> <p>Magdalena Cazarez
Communications & Development Assistant</p> <p>Jim Clements
Executive Coordinator & General Counsel</p> <p>Tessa B. Copeland
Rural Capacity Building Attorney – Lexington, NE</p> <p>Roxana Cortés Reyes
Child & Family Staff Attorney</p> <p>Anna D. Deal
Domestic Violence Managing Attorney</p> <p>Charles Shane Ellison
Deputy Executive Director/ Legal Director</p> | <p>Ellen Fitzsimmons
Rural Capacity Building Operations & Evaluation Manager</p> <p>Emily Galas
Immigrant-focused Medical Legal Partnership Legal Assistant</p> <p>Isrrael Garcia, Jr.
Immigrant-focused Medical Legal Partnership Paralegal</p> <p>Dearra Godinez
Rural Capacity Building Managing Attorney</p> <p>Claudia Islas
Legal Administrative Assistant</p> <p>Sanjuanita Jaimes
Senior Operations Manager, DOJ Accredited Representative</p> <p>Emiliano Lerda, J.D., LL.M.
Executive Director</p> <p>Virginia Maynes
Child & Family Managing Attorney</p> <p>Maria V. Mendoza
Domestic Violence, DOJ Accredited Representative</p> | <p>Ruth Maldonado
Rural Capacity Building Paralegal – Lexington, NE</p> <p>Andres Ramirez
Iowa ILC Paralegal</p> <p>Dorian E. Rojas
Child & Family Staff Attorney</p> <p>Mindy Rush Chipman
Senior Managing Attorney</p> <p>Annette Sneckenberg
Contracted Chief Financial Officer</p> <p>Josh Snowden
Immigrant-focused Medical Legal Partnership Staff Attorney</p> <p>Alexis Steele
Immigrant Worker Attorney</p> <p>Kylynn Wagner
Operations Assistant</p> <p>Gary Walters
Iowa Managing Attorney – Council Bluffs, IA</p> |
|---|--|---|

LOCATIONS

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>OMAHA OFFICE
Immigrant Legal Center
4223 Center Street
Omaha, NE 68105</p> <p>COLUMBUS OFFICE
Centro Hispano Comunitario de Nebraska
3020 18th Street, Suite 7
Columbus, NE 68601</p> <p>LEXINGTON OFFICE
200 W 7th Street, Suite 214
Lexington, NE 68850</p> <p>COUNCIL BLUFFS OFFICE
Centro Latino of Iowa
Omni Center
300 W Broadway, Suite 40
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503</p> | <p>LEGAL CLINIC LOCATIONS
Trinity United Methodist Church
Grand Island, NE
First United Methodist Church
Lexington, NE</p> <p>CONSULTATION LOCATIONS COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA
Centro Latino of Iowa
Heartland Family Service</p> <p>CRETE, NE
United Church of Christ,
1st Congregational</p> <p>GRAND ISLAND, NE
Trinity United Methodist Church</p> <p>LEXINGTON, NE
First United Methodist Church</p> | <p>OMAHA, NE
Children's Hospital
Completely KIDS
Heartland Workers Center
Intercultural Senior Center
Latino Center of the Midlands
One World Community Health Center
Siena Francis House</p> <p>SOUTH SIOUX CITY, NE
St. Paul United Methodist Church</p> |
|---|---|--|