2019 ANNUAL REPORT

PRESENTED BY

Christopher J Koehler, MNPL, Director
Dear Friends,

Throughout the world, it’s harder than ever to get approval to immigrate here. We are set to allow resettlement for only 18,000 refugees in 2019, down from 110,000 a few years ago. In the U.S., many immigrants are living in fear of deportation who in the past did not have to worry about being separated from loved ones.

And yet, as I reflect over this past year, I find myself hopeful because of you.

Our staff and volunteers have worked tirelessly over the past year to build community and welcome immigrants through our ESL Tutoring, Elder Integration, Citizenship Preparation, and Legal Services. Hundreds of people have shown up to our events to raise awareness and celebrate our diversity. We’ve grown our immigration advocates group to over 800 allies. We joined over 70 parishes in a pilgrimage to the local detention center and held vigils, prayer services, and rallies. The sheer number of people making a stand is staggering. Yes, the work is far from over, but immigrants and their allies are strong, resilient, and determined. In the midst of these dark times, we are all a beacon of light to each other, and together we will continue to promote an inclusive society and advance justice for refugees and immigrants.

In solidarity.

Christopher Koehler, Director
Alfred Cheesebrough, President

STAFF
Christopher Koehler, Director
Caroline Okello, Community Activation
Sayuko Setvik, Tutoring
Patrick Suhrbier, Legal Services
Tania Rzhondkovska, Client Liaison

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OUR PROGRAMS

As a community outreach program of St. James Cathedral, we work to promote an inclusive society and advance justice for refugees and immigrants through education, advocacy, and by helping refugees and immigrants to learn English, become citizens and connect to community resources.

Citizenship Preparation
To pass a citizenship interview, applicants need to learn answers to over 100 questions! We provide tutoring using a standard curriculum, including everything needed to pass a citizenship interview.

Elder Integration
These groups offer older refugees and immigrants an opportunity to connect with their peers, and become more involved in the local community. They learn about emergency preparation, health issues and services, community attractions, social services, and much more.

ESL Tutoring
Immigrants and refugees enrolled in our ESL Tutoring program receive individualized instruction tailored to their specific situation and needs – whether that be employment skills, transportation, navigating their children’s school, the grocery store, or the health care system. In addition to ESL skills, volunteers are welcoming and supportive companions in an immigrant or refugee’s life.

Legal Services
We help clients to complete their N400 citizenship application. We work to ensure clients have everything they need to file. This can include, for example, legal services, health services, and even transportation to the appointment...
Client Spotlight | Camila

Camila came to the U.S. on a diversity visa before she had her first child. She works full time while attending school and training to be a nurse. By becoming a U.S. citizen, Camila was able to petition for her mom to come to live with her in the U.S., meet her grandchildren, and participate in her daughter’s growing family.
REACH

292 clients were served last year across four main programs.

All 22 people who were called for their citizenship interview passed and became citizens. Another 26 have applications filed and are waiting for their interview.

Client Spotlight | Huong

Huong came to us one week before her citizenship interview. She was quite nervous and wanted help. It was very short notice but we met with her the day before her interview to review her N400 with her. At the end of the session, she felt much more comfortable and confident. We gave her a list of terms and definitions for her to study, and indeed she was asked to define one of the terms at the interview for which she was prepared. She successfully passed and became a citizen.

Client Spotlight | Maria

Maria has lived in the United States for 40 years as a lawful permanent resident. Now that she has become a United States citizen, she is very eager to start participating politically and exercise the rights afforded to U.S. citizens. We now receive regular updates about her political endeavors and her joy in being able to vote.
...volunteers in just one year. We had 117 total volunteers, and 48 of them were new. The biggest increase was in citizenship preparation tutors. In addition to traditional roles, volunteers have also helped us with interpretation as well as special projects such as reorganizing our entire tutoring resource library.

24% MORE

...were "activated", or called to service through monthly outreach on Sundays, presentations to Catholic Confirmation Candidates, food drives, and the 3rd Annual Immigration Summit.

3842 HOURS

...given by volunteers. Over 2,500 of those hours were spent directly with immigrants. Volunteers provide one on one ESL tutoring and citizenship tutoring. Elder assistance volunteers acquaint clients with culture, customs, and English practice.

COUNTLESS

...ways offered to community members to advocate and grow in awareness: Eat with Muslims dinner, All Cathedral Reads book club, Social Justice Movie Series, Exploring Migration 8 week seminar, Justice for Immigrants advocacy days in D.C., National Migration Week, Detention Lottery, Racial Justice Dialogues, Archdiocese Immigration Pilgrimage, 3rd Annual Catholic Immigration Summit, Weekly Email Alerts.