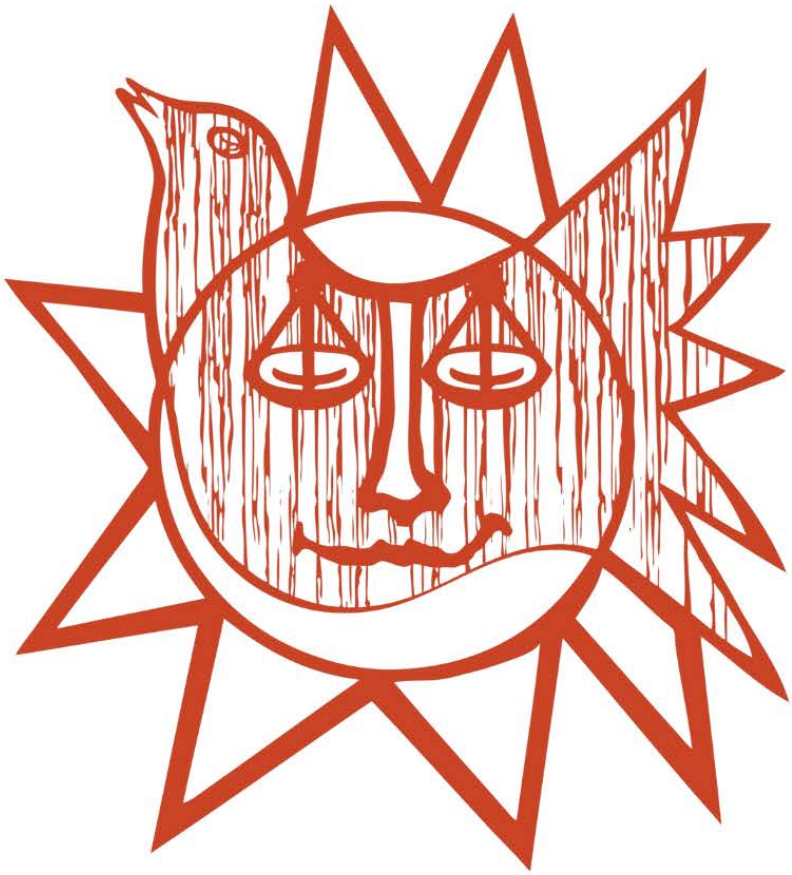
IMPACT REPORT



CARECEN

Strengthening the Latin Community in the DC Area since 1981

2023

CARECEN

LATINO RESOURCE AND JUSTICE CENTER

WASHINGTON DC OFFICE

1460 Columbia Rd. NW
Suite #C-1
Washington, DC 20009

(202) 382 - 9799

CARECEN.ORG

@CARECENDC

@CARECEN.DC

@CARECENDC

@CARECENDC

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A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear friends & supporters,

In 2023, CARECEN is proud to have served over 2,400 members of the DC immigrant community. Through our programs and initiatives, we have made significant strides in promoting immigrant rights, access to essential services, and social justice.

Thanks to the ongoing support of our board, staff, volunteers, friends, and funders, we are able to provide life impacting services on a daily basis. Through a two-pronged approach, we combine direct services with advocacy to strengthen and empower our community.

On the grassroots level, we are hosting health outreach workshops, resettlement services, and civic participation courses. In our offices, our attorneys and housing counselors provide personalized bilingual guidance on an array of services.

In 2023, we are proud to have launched two new vital service programs. Our Navigator Resettler program began in August 2023 and has been working with recently arrived immigrants to ensure a successful integration into their new communities. Launched in November 2023, our Digital Divide program continues to connect clients with discounts for stable in-home internet service.

As we look to the future, we are inspired by the possibilities that lie ahead and grateful for partners like you who share our vision for positive change. In 2024, we look forward to the implementation of a wide-scale initiative with DC Cares, providing health resources to 15,000 individuals. We also hope to grow our reach in Washington DC.

Thank you again for your ongoing support. Together, we can continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of countless individuals and families in our community.

Best Regards,

Abel Nuñez
Executive Director
CARECEN DC

MEET THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Melecio Riviera
President
World Bank

Rosemarie Salguero
Vice President

Gabriela Colocho
Treasurer

Kristen Keating
Treasurer
Freddie Mac

Members
Ana Helena Alvarez
Ernesto Campos
Alicia Criado Hampshire
Jorge Granados
Roy McAllister
Ana Patricia Rodriguez
Rexanah P. Wyse, Esq.
Alberto Zegada

ABOUT CARECEN

Since 1981, the Central American Resource Center (CARECEN) has fostered the comprehensive development of the Latino population in the Washington metropolitan region by providing direct legal services, housing counseling, citizenship education, and community economic development, while promoting grassroots empowerment, civic education, and civil rights advocacy.

OUR VALUES

empowerment

Creating an immigration reform movement that inspires and empowers immigrants and natives alike

solidarity

Creating an immigration reform movement that inspires and empowers immigrants and natives alike

self-reliance

promoting and strengthening immigrants' capacity to rely on their own efforts, abilities, and talents for their self actualization

innovation

Striving to become a model organization that continuously introduces approaches while advocating for immigrant rights

since 2019:

8500 +
INDIVIDUALS SERVED

772
CITIZENSHIP STUDENTS

513
NATURALIZED CITIZENS

7189
LEGAL CASES

OUR HISTORY & TIMELINE

EL SALVADOR, NICARAGUA AND GUATEMALA ALL EXPERIENCED CIVIL WARS DURING THE 1980S AND 1990S, AND HONDURAS SUFFERED MORE THAN A DECADE OF CIVIL STRIFE IN THE FORM OF A "DIRTY WAR." MANY CENTRAL AMERICANS, SEEKING REFUGE FROM THE VIOLENCE IN THEIR HOME COUNTRIES, FLED TO NEIGHBORING NATIONS INCLUDING MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES.

THE FOUNDERS OF CARECEN RECOGNIZED THE NEED FOR AN ORGANIZATION TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF CENTRAL AMERICAN REFUGEES FINDING HAVEN IN WASHINGTON, DC FROM THE CONFLICTS IN THEIR HOME COUNTRIES.

1981 CARECEN opened its doors to Salvadoran refugees fleeing political violence and human rights abuses in their home country. CARECEN was officially incorporated as a 501(c)(3) organization in 1982 and quickly went to work building *La Clínica del Pueblo* to meet the health needs of refugees.

1985 CARECEN played a formative role in the initial stages of Casa de Maryland, which provides emergency clothing, food, immigration assistance, and English instruction to new immigrants. CARECEN also advocated for suspension of deportation and permanent residency for eligible Guatemalans and Salvadorans in the "ABC class."

1987 CARECEN helped eligible Nicaraguans re-apply for asylum through the new Nicaraguan Review Program (NRP), which gave Nicaraguans who previously had been denied asylum a second review.

1995 After the U.S. government dissolved the Nicaraguan Review Program (NRP), CARECEN presented a "petition for rulemaking" to the Clinton Administration. This set an advocacy precedent for the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA).
CARECEN also launches it's Citizenship class initiatives to help eligible immigrants apply for citizenship.

2000 CARECEN began its Housing and Community Action Program, which helps tenants in the District defend their renters' rights

2002 CARECEN led an effort organizing a national network of Central American community-based organizations, known as the *Immigration Taskforce for Central America (ITCA).*

2012 After thirty years of operation, CARECEN joined dozens of organizations around the country for the launch of the Campaign for Permanent Residency, which seeks permanent resident status for the nearly 270,000 Central Americans who currently have Temporary Protected Status.

2022 In response to the DC busing crisis, CARECEN was on site receiving migrants and giving them immediate aid. Staff members and volunteers completed an intake form with each person traveling alone or with a family group to determine their immediate needs and the next step in their journey.

2023 The Navigator Resettler Program was launched to help provide essential services to recently arrived immigrants to the metro area. Workshops and personalized services help immigrants receive the support they need to ensure a successful integration into their new communities.

E Us A
HANCE --
VE EARNED IT

GREEN CARD
SALVADORA
GUATEMALA

The Salva
HONDURA
SALVADOR
AND
GUATEMA
NO Human is Being ILLEGAL
NO Human is Being ILLEGAL
RAL AMERI

CARECEN
CENTRAL AMERICAN REFUGEE CENT
PRESENTE!

NC.

IMMIGRANT RIGHTS
=
HUMAN
CARECEN-DC
WA HINGTON D.C.
LEGALIZATION NOW
FOR IMMIGRANT
WORKERS

MEET OUR TEAM

ADMINISTRATION

Abel Nunez Aguilar	*Executive Director*
Kevin Glass	*Receptionist*
Martha Grijalva	*Receptionist / Intake Specialist*
Catherina Rubio	*Director of Operations*
Simon Santodomingo Nahmens	*Program Admin Manager*
George Toboada	*Program Assistant*
Jonathan Nolasco	*Resettlement Navigator*
Selene Lara	*Resettlement Navigator*
Dora Alicia Lazo	*Outreach Coordinator*

HOUSING DEPARTMENT

Dora Aguilar Beltran	*Senior Bilingual Housing Counselor*
Rafael Alfaro	*Tenant & Outreach Specialist*
Frida Cuellar	*Bilingual Housing Counselor*
Anabell Martinez	*Housing Director*
Rosa Rovas-Garcia	*Housing Preservation Specialist*
Jose Torres	*Housing Preservation Specialist*
Kevin Vargas	*Tenant Outreach Specialist*

LEGAL DEPARTMENT

Santos Amaya	*Immigration Paralegal*
Genevieve Augustin	*Director of Legal Services*
Celia Caceres	*DOJ Accredited Immigration Paralegal*
Paula Costa Ramos	*Immigration Paralegal*
Edgar Grijalva	*Citizenship Coordinator*
Emily Kvalheim	*Humanitarian Relief, Staff Attorney*
Julia Marta Orellana	*Immigration Paralegal*
Luis Rojas Rodriguez	*Citizenship Manager*
Bakary Sambou	*Immigration Paralegal*
Claudia Sanchez D'Alessandro	*DOJ Accredited Immigration Paralegal*
Jawaid Stationwala	*Pro Bono Coordinator*
Paulina Molina	*Immigration Legal Assistant*

IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES

1389 INDIVIDUALS IN THE METRO AREA RECIEVED LEGAL ASSISTANCE

CARECEN's legal department provides a wealth of information and resources for navigating the at-times confusing and intimidating immigration process. Our team supports our clients during the initial steps of filing an immigration application and over the entire course of the process, until a real result is obtained. Our goals are to facilitate their transition to the United States, increase the presence of legally documented Latinos in the region, reunite families, secure work authorization and economic security, and provide them with the resources and tools necessary to become informed and engaged community members.

591

INDIVIDUALS PROVIDED WITH LEGAL CONSULTATION

Every client seeking legal assistance first passes through an initial consultation to explain his/her issue to a member of the legal team and CARECEN will determine if we can take the case, make a referral, or determine that the individual is ineligible for relief.

46

INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED IN OBTAINING A U-VISA

CARECEN helps immigrants who were victims of violent crimes to secure legal status, if the victim reports the crime and works with police during the investigation. If approved, the U visa can be extended to the victim's family. Thus CARECEN helps individuals to secure certain protections, return to work, reunification with their family and fosters the reduction in crime by collaborating with law enforcement.

88

INDIVIDUALS RECIEVED ASSISTANCE WITH A FAMILY PETITION

Too many parents are forced to leave their children behind in Latin America in the care of relatives while they migrate to the United States, with the hope that someday they might be reunited on the other side of the border. It is a story told all too often. CARECEN helps these parents, siblings, and children, file petitions on behalf of family members to reunite.

DID YOU KNOW?

There are an estimated 700,000 migrants who currently have or are eligible for TPA (Temporary Protected Status) - A program allowing temporary work and residency authorization for migrants flees designated countries of war and natural disaster. An estimated 97% of those immigrants come from El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, & Venezuela.

60 INDIVIDUALS HELPED WHILE APPLYING FOR ASYLUM

311

INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED WITH CITIZENSHIP APPLICATION

For many lawful permanent residents in the United States, securing American citizenship is a lifelong achievement. In collaboration with the Citizenship and Civic Participation program, the CARECEN legal department accompanies its clients through every step of the application process, from making sure that all paperwork is in order to preparing clients for the citizenship test and interviews, and ultimately, helping immigrants gain security and fully become involved in our country's democracy.

77

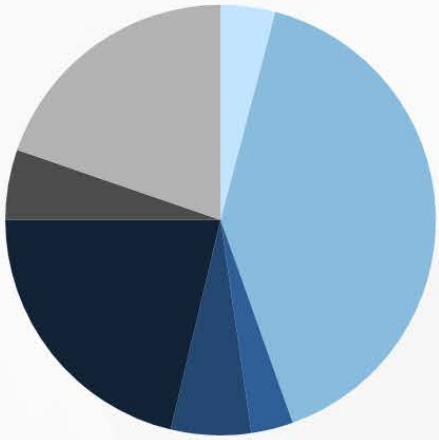
INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED APPLYING FOR RESIDENCY

CARECEN assisted with re-registration for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and renewal of work permits for nationals of El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua, who were granted TPS as a result of devastation caused by natural disasters in their home countries. CARECEN also assisted those who arrived before 1991, fleeing violence and human rights abuses, who were eligible for lawful permanent residency under the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA). With our help, Central American immigrants with established roots in this country can continue to work, raise their families, and progress in the United States.

288

INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED APPLYING FOR WORK PERMITS

Receiving work permits is vital for immigrants to gain economic independence. Our legal team works with clients to determine their eligibility, obtain the necessary documentation, and file their cases through the appropriate channels.



A FAMILY REUNITED

in October of 2022, Edwin came to CARECEN hoping to apply to support two beneficiaries of the new Process for Venezuelans and receive advance travel authorization.

May of 2023, authorization cleared and this family was reunited! The whole family came to CARECEN so we could further help the beneficiaries apply for employment authorization.

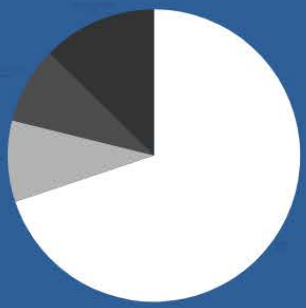
Asylum
Legal Consultation
U-Visa Assistance
Family Petition
Citizenship Application
Residency
Work Permits

HOUSING COUNSELING

in 2023

554 individuals provided with

ONE on ONE COUNSELING



70

FINANCIAL COUNSELING

47

FORECLOSURE PREVENTION

387

RENTAL COUNSELING

50

POST - PURCHASE COUSELING

CARECEN's Housing Program seeks to secure safe and affordable housing for Latinos in the Washington metropolitan area, inform tenants and homeowners of their rights, and equip our community with the financial literacy tools to make well-informed decisions, particularly in relation to their housing issues. This is accomplished through individual counseling, educational workshops, and technical assistance to tenant associations.

FINANCIAL COUNSELING

Through our financial assistance counseling, we work with clients plan for their housing expenditures. Clients receive one-on-one advice regarding their financial capacity, and we help find resources to overcome housing debts such as rental and mortgage back payments. We are able to do this through connections to resources such as ERAP (emergency rental assistance program) that allocate this funding.

FORECLOSURE PREVENTION

CARECEN helps property owners keep their homes through foreclosure prevention and counsels them on their options, negotiate with banks, avoid foreclosure rescue scams, and help them improve their financial management skills and in the end, hopefully save their home.

RENTAL COUNSELING

CARECEN informs tenants of their rights and responsibilities and helps them to resolve housing code violations, prevent evictions, and ultimately helps tenants to obtain and secure safe and affordable housing. The most common issues addressed were preventing eviction, certification for the disabled and elderly, renters in foreclosed properties, illegal rent increases, housing code violations and repairs, and assistance in locating section 8/subsidized housing.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE & HOUSING WORKSHOPS

863 FAMILIES provided with technical assistance in **51 BUILDINGS** CITY - WIDE

353 INDIVIDUALS attended **25 DIFFERENT WORKSHOPS** on home maintenance, foreclosure prevention, lead poisoning, tenant rights, & financial literacy

CITIZENSHIP & CIVIC PARTICIPATION

The main goal of the Citizenship program is to increase the number of Latino US Citizens and their participation in our country's democracy. CARECEN accompanies candidates through the entire naturalization process and beyond, by providing civics and English classes, as well as legal assistance, while also encouraging civic participation as a tool for empowerment.

238 PARTICIPANTS COMPLETED OUR CITIZENSHIP CLASS

CARECEN offers quarterly 10-week citizenship classes, including civics focused ESL, to prepare eligible individuals for the naturalization exam. At the culmination of the 10 week period, the students are evaluated through a mock citizenship interview.

244 RECIEVED 1 ON 1 TUTORING AND INTERVIEW PREPERATION

As the exam date nears, CARECEN offers individual tutoring to those who need intensive practice before their interview. Candidates are paired up with volunteer tutors and they meet typically twice a week at CARECEN to practice the history and government questions and English.

43 WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS APPLIED FOR NATURALIZATION

CARECEN held monthly workshops to inform people about the importance and process of becoming a US citizen and assist those eligible in filing their application for naturalization to the US Citizenship and Immigration Services. During the workshop, immigration attorneys presented the process, screened potential applicants, reviewed the N-400 form and answered questions, while trained volunteers assisted with filling out the application form.

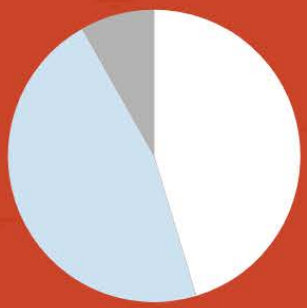
CITIZENSHIP TESTIMONIAL

Ms. U.P., a client from El Salvador had taken the CCP class twice and was finally scheduled for her interview on May 22, 2023. We had her do a mock interview and she answered all the questions correctly. She expressed gratitude towards CARECEN, saying she felt supported throughout the whole process. She passed her interview and shared her story with the Summer 2023 students.

Ms U.P. is now scheduled for her oath ceremony!

She passed her interview and shared her story with the Summer 2023 students. She also spoke to other family members and told them about the process and the importance of becoming citizens.

CITIZENSHIP & CIVIC PARTICIPATION BREAK DOWN



CLASS PARTICIPANTS

1 ON 1 TUTORING

NATURALIZATION APPLICANTS

5 CITIZENSHIP PARTICIPANTS

were provided with interpretation during their naturalization interview or oath ceremony

DID YOU KNOW?

In spite of being the largest immigrant group in the Nation (approximately 3.8 million individuals according to the Migration Policy Institute), the naturalization rates of Central American immigrants are very low compared to other groups of immigrants - only 4.9% of all naturalized citizens in 2023 were Central American according to the Office of Homeland Security.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

NAVIGATOR RESETTLER PROGRAM

ENSURING THE SUCCESS INTEGRATION OF IMMIGRANTS IN THE WASHINGTON DC AREA

As a new 2023 program, CARECEN's Resettlement Navigators play a crucial role in providing essential support to immigrants who are in the process of resettling in the Washington Metropolitan area. Through our workshops and services, recently arrived immigrants receive support to ensure a successful integration into their new communities.

WORKSHOPS ON VARIOUS TOPICS SUCH AS

- HEALTH LITERACY
- FINANCIAL LITERACY
- CIVICS
- BASIC NEEDS
- TECHNOLOGY

360+ WORKSHOP ATTENDEES
since launching the program in AUGUST 2023 among
51 FAMALIES

THANKS TO OUR NAVIGATORS | providing individualized services and case management assistance

Our Navigators provide comprehensive case management assistance, developing individualized service plans, tracking participant progress, and offering referrals to necessary resources and services. They also serve as intermediaries, advocating on behalf of participants with government agencies, community organizations, and service providers to address their needs effectively.

DIGITAL DIVIDE

BRIDGING THE INTERNET ACCESS GAP

Launched in November of 2023, we helped individuals receive reliable and secure internet access. In 2022, 181,000 immigrants of a racial or ethnic community in Washington DC lacked broadband internet access (American Immigration Council). Through outreach, individuals were notified of discounted internet plans, providing stable Wi-Fi connection for individuals who otherwise lacked access in their homes.

PER MONTH WE REACHED

125
CONTACTS NOTIFIED

10
INTERNET SUBSCRIPTIONS

HEALTH OUTREACH

PROVIDING HEALTH EDUCATION WITH OUR PARTNERS AT DC | HEALTH

Our Health Outreach program works to provide health workshops with our partners at DC Health. These workshops cover basic health practices, COVID protocols, and how to access health resources in the Washington DC area. At the conclusion of each workshop, participants receive a $50 gift card for health supplies.

5
TOTAL HEALTH WORKSHOPS

40
WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

$2000
PROVIDED IN GIFT CARDS

AND
PERMANENT RESIDENCE
BIDEN,
- Reconsider -
REDESIGNATE
TPS
EXPAND TPS NOW!
¡EXPANDAN TPS AHORA!
CARECEN
LATINO RESOURCE AND JUSTICE CENTER

EXPAND
TPS NOW!

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Activities

Year Ended

December 31, 2023

REVENUE

Grants and contributions	$1,019,920
Government Grants	$1,554,529
Program service fee	$266,234
Other Revenue	$4800
Net assets released from rest.	$143,500
Total Revenue	***$ 2,988,983***

EXPENSES

Program Service	
Legal and counseling	$1,062,438
Housing	$1,111,211
Total	2,173,649
Support Service	
Management and General	$427,156
Fundraising	$104,469
Total Support Services	$531,625
Total Expenses	***$ 2,705, 274***

Current Assets

Checking & Savings	$ 1,419,819
Receivables	$ 507,289
Total Current Assets	***$ 1,927,108***

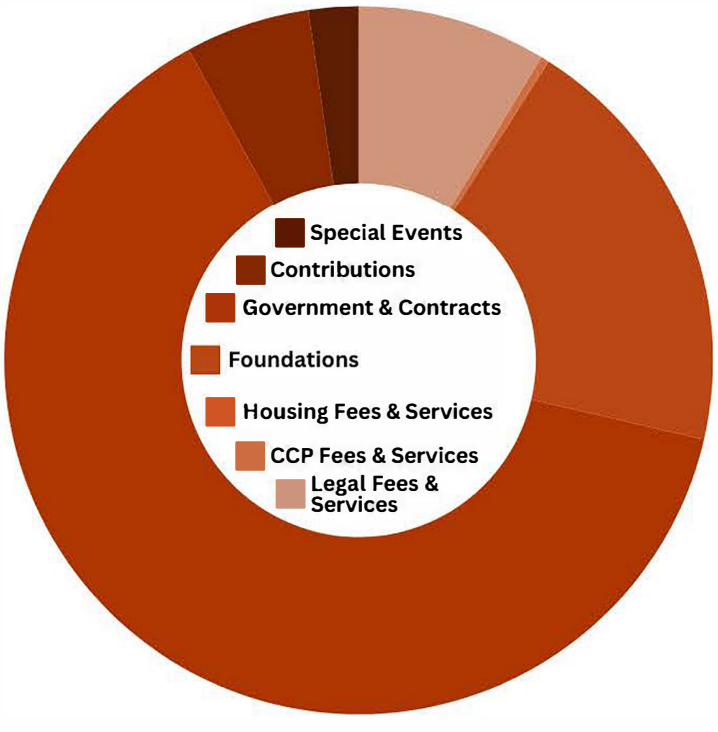
Property and Equipment

Net Property and Equipment	***$ 721,508***
Non- Current Assets	***$11,778***
Net Assets	***$ 2,660,394***

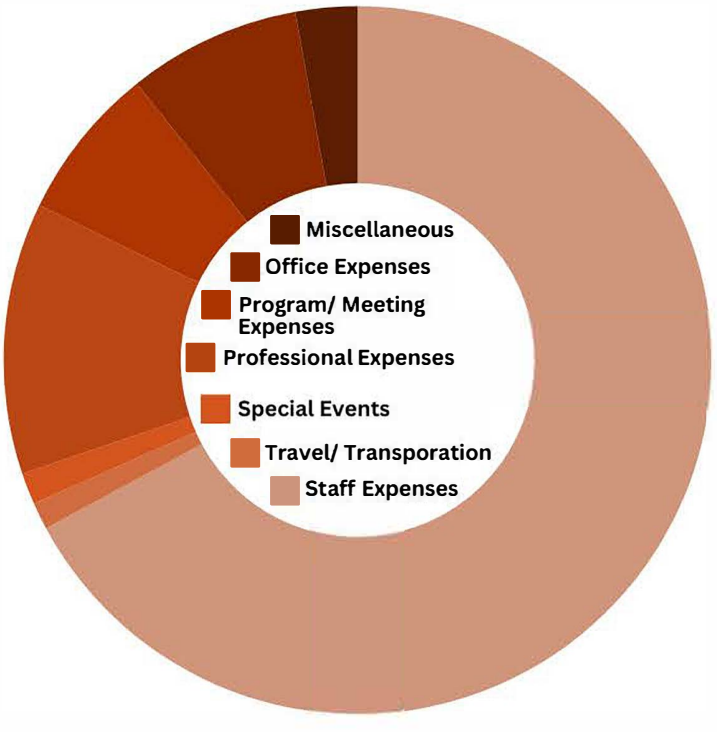
LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Current Liabilities	$ 130,668
Total Liabilities	$ 299,804
Total Net Assets	***$ 2,360,590***
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	***$2,660,394***

2023 REVENUE BY TYPE



EXPENSES



DONARS & PARTNERSHIPS

$500 - $999

- Evelyn & Bob Wrin
- Immigrant Food INC
- Great Neck South High School
- Alan A Kadrofske
- Jordan Meyer
- Mary Tinker
- Michelle Hannahs
- Emily Feenstra
- Marta Urquilla
- Nora Cobo
- Roby Ellis
- Barbara Laur
- Leigh Tait
- Stephen Callahan
- American Federation of Government Employees
- Anne Schwartz
- Costello PC
- Georgianna McGuire
- Jim McDonald
- Paul Siegel
- Sisters of Charity of Nazareth
- Jewish Foundation of Greater Washington

$1,000 - $4,999

- Mike Zamore
- Wendy Jacobson
- Victor Ramirez
- Martin O'Hara
- Marcia Bernbaum
- Robert Cantizano
- William Ragen
- Elina Teplinsky
- Melissa Kain
- Janice Carter
- Larry Villegas-Perez
- Antonio Manusco
- Herbert Gstalder
- Marie Shirey
- Melanie Pittard
- Philip Katz

$5,000 - 24,999

- Clark Construction Group, LLC
- Exelon Corporation
- Ella Cleveland
- The Owenoke Foundation
- Pamela Bass-Bookey and Harry Bookey
- Andrea & John Murino

$25,000 - $49,999

- Verizon

$50,000 - $199,999

- Hearthill Family Foundation

2023 MEMBERSHIPS

- AlianzaAmericas
- UnidosUS
- United Way of the National Capital Area
- Spur Local (formerly Catalogue for Philanthropy
- American Immigration Lawyers Association

PRO BONO LAW PARTNERSHIPS

- WilmerHale

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Genesis Torres
Mariama Ceesay
Marcy Bernbaum
Amelia Espinosa
Lucia Gutierrez
Nathan Wollar
Chiara Eisner
Darren Frankel
Blaire Barton
Nathan Quave
Jaqui Nieschmidt
Gala Loayza
Melissa Carias
Monica Valencia
April Holloway
Kate Reeves

Sarah Bloomgarden
Daniel Cardona
Maxwell Kanefield
Esmeralda Espinoza
Natalie Chait
Abbey Van Diver
Aubrey Polliard
LIlly Gillespie
Marcia Bernbaum
Phil Sussler
Victoria Santos
Alex Frances
Luis Gomez
Calsita Schloessman
Rishma Vera
Lauren Heberlee

Amelia Espinosa
Alyssa Hill
Ryan Carter
Jonathan Nolasco
Shea Christian
Jermaine Jackson
Kelly Hancox
Cayla Germain

NEW 2023 VOLUNTEERS

Kevin Reyes
Nadia Frances
Stephanie Miranda
Edie Pressel
Melissa Lazo Contreras
Eddie Pressel
Haley Dymek
Rven Calloway

43 VOLUNTEERS IN 2023

WANT TO VOLUNTEER WITH US?

Volunteer Citizenship Instructor

Name
Contact

LOOKING TOWARD 2024

OUR GOALS INCLUDE:

1 EXPAND OUR REACH INTO MARYLAND TO MEET IMMIGRANT NEEDS IN NEED COMMUNITIES

2 SEND DELEGATIONS TO COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN TO BETTER UNDERSAND ROOT CAUSES OF MIGRANTION

3 STABALIZE FUNDING FOR OUR NAVIGATOR RESETTLERS TO CONTINUE PROGRAM EXPANSION

IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE FOR AN EMPOWERED LATINO COMMUNITY

@CARECENDC CARECEN.ORG

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Designed by Temma Schlesinger / Communications Intern 2024