



VISITATION

MONITORING

PHONE JUSTICE

STORYTELLING

EXPOSÉS

CIVIC's 2013-2014 fiscal year was exciting, as we made great strides toward ending the isolation and abuse of people in U.S. immigration detention. We continued to educate communities across the country about immigration detention and to inspire local residents to visit people isolated in immigration detention. We produced award-winning short films featuring people in immigration detention to educate the public about the reality of immigration detention. We hosted the first-ever national visitation convention, bringing over 50 visitation program leaders from 15 states together to develop a unifying strategy to combat immigration detention.

We partnered with a team from IBM to develop the nation's first on-line detention monitoring system to capture, compile, and organize real-time data on the treatment of individuals in detention. We filed formal complaints with the Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties against U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) on a range of heinous actions and practices: from physical and sexual assault to medical neglect, and from prolonged solitary confinement to bans on community and family visitation. We received widespread media attention with over 70 articles, including features in Mother Jones, the Los Angeles Times, the Associated Press, and more.

We launched a phone justice campaign in California by researching, advocating for, and co-sponsoring AB 1876 to reduce the cost of in-state phone calls for all people imprisoned in California jails, immigration detention facilities, private prisons, and juvenile facilities. We lent our support to a national phone justice campaign, contributing to the Federal Communications Commission's new rule that caps interstate prison phone rates and thus decreases the cost of maintaining family connections by nearly 80 percent.

These achievements were possible only because of the talents, generosity, and dedication of our staff, volunteers, and supporters. As social entrepreneurs, we are always developing innovative solutions that disrupt the status quo. We look forward to continuing to be on the forefront of almost every major struggle to end isolation and defund immigration detention in the United States.

Christina Fialho & Christina Mansfield
Co-Founders/Executive Directors

19,200 Visits

32

Visitation Programs

9,600

People Visited

800

Visitor Volunteers

57,600

Volunteer Hours

228

Volunteer Trainings

20,000

**People Reached
Through Social Media**



What We Did

Developed New Projects

- Expanded detention visitation programs from 16 to 32 facilities
- Piloted a pro bono hotline, answering over 1,320 calls from people in detention
- Organized the first-ever nationwide visitation convention in April 2014 where we brought together over 50 leaders from 15 states to empower them. Together, we articulated national as well as region-specific strategies for continuing both visitation programs and advocacy.
- Launched #EndtheQuota Campaign on Twitter with our award-winning video, “34,000 Sold,” catalyzing a renewed national effort by over 20 nonprofits to end the Congressional bed quota that requires 34,000 people to be in immigration detention each day. Our Campaign contributed to the introduction of the Deutch-Foster Amendment, which is an amendment that eliminates the detention bed quota in the 2015 House Appropriations Bill.
- Launched the New Angel Island Stories project with a grant from Cal Humanities, recording audio from people inside detention in California, developing accompanying animated shorts, and teaching other organizations how to do the same. Our videos and audio were featured on radio shows across the country, including National Public Radio (NPR), and showcased at conferences and at a Tedx Talk.
- Filed California Public Record Requests in all 58 counties to determine how much people were paying for a phone call in immigration detention, and worked with Assemblymember Bill Quirk to draft and co-sponsor AB 1876 to reduce the cost of phone calls for all people imprisoned in California jails, private prisons, and juvenile detention facilities
- Created an Ambassador program, recruiting Sarah Shourd as CIVIC’s first Ambassador. Sarah is a writer and activist who was held as a political hostage in Iran.



Fought for a Rights to Visitation & Community Monitoring

- Launched a national Campaign for a Right to Visitation, resulting in the Office of the Public Advocate at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement releasing an agency-wide newsletter supporting CIVIC and encouraging ICE Field Office Directors to work with CIVIC-affiliated visitation programs.
- Effectively blocked the Contra Costa County (CA) Sheriff’s Department from renewing its contract with Global Tel Link and put a permanent halt on the county’s potential contract with Securus Technologies for a video-only visitation program.
- In July 2013, ICE, the federal agency overseeing immigration detention, suspended 3 of CIVIC’s affiliated visitation programs after CIVIC’s Christina Fialho blogged on the Huffington Post about the lack of oversight in these facilities.
- CIVIC partnered with the ACLU of Southern California to send a clear message to ICE that restricting visitation privileges for volunteers who speak out publicly against the immigration detention system violates the First Amendment.



“Federal officials have suspended volunteer visitation programs at three immigrant detention facilities in Southern California, sparking outcry from civil liberties groups who say the move further isolates detainees held out of sight, far from their families and often without access to legal assistance.”
– Los Angeles Times, Aug. 20, 2013

- CIVIC met with local ICE staff, submitted a formal complaint to ICE and the Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, and engaged the media. Visits resumed within a month and visitors were not required to sign the ICE agreement.

Improved Technical Infrastructure

- Partnered with IBM employees to create the first immigration detention monitoring system that has the capability to effectively track in real time the treatment of people in immigration detention across the country
- Launched a new website with 200% increase in traffic

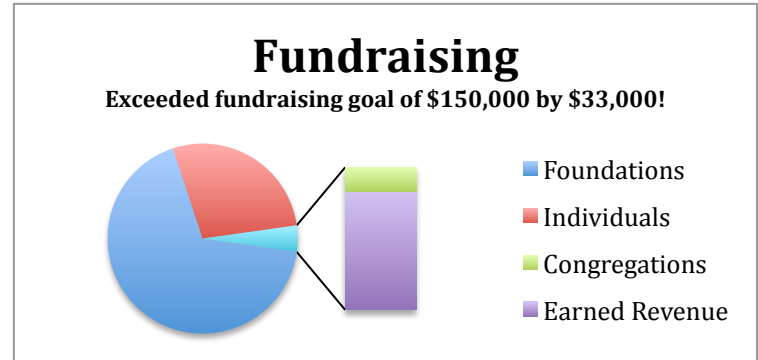
Earned Recognition

- Founders won the Echoing Green Fellowship out of 3,509 applicants
- Founders won the 2013 Rockwood Leadership Institute Fellowship for a New California
- Founders continued to serve on the board of the Detention Watch Network
- Founders invited to speak at approximately 40 events, including the Clinton Global Initiative University annual conference, the Center for American Progress, and committees of the California State Senate and Assembly
- Board Chair Grisel Ruiz received a 2014 Fun, Fearless Latina Award from Cosmo Magazine for her work with CIVIC
- Co-Founder Christina Fialho was invited directly by Arianna Huffington to blog for the Huffington Post
- Co-Founder Christina Fialho was invited to serve on the Board of Directors for the ACLU of Southern California and on the California Bar Association’s Civil Justice Strategies Task Force



- CIVIC produced award-winning short films: “34,000 Sold: How Human Rights are Traded for Profit in the United States” received the Audience Choice Award at the 2013 Re3StoryHack in NYC and was featured on Upworthy, and “Immigration Detention Separates Family” received a 2013 TechSoup Digital Storytelling Challenge award and was featured on Upworthy
 - The U.S. Department of Justice’s National Institute of Corrections recognized CIVIC’s LGBTI Training and published it in the agency’s 2014 Correctional Resource Library
- CIVIC brought the immigrant rights narrative to the press through targeted op-eds, strategic media appearances, and a robust social media platform. CIVIC was featured in over 70 articles, radio stations, and television appearances

- All 3 programs were restored in less than 5 weeks.
- In 2014, visitor volunteers were banned from a fourth immigration detention facility. Visitors raised concerns with ICE about alleged sexual abuse at the Otay Detention Facility, and ICE asked the visitors to sign an agreement that would limit their First Amendment rights.



Spotlight on Pro Bono Hotline



Why We Did It

To Support People in Detention & Their Families

"[My visitor volunteer] came to visit, and it was the first visit I ever had. The visitor volunteers were a great support. They made me see that even people who were not living in the conditions I was living in were actually caring. I think it is a unique thing that people who have no direct connection to immigration detention would take it upon themselves to get involved and help out. The visitor volunteers would do whatever was possible outside to help out and lend a hand."

– Carlos Hidalgo, father of U.S. citizen children who was detained at the Adelanto Detention Center for 8 months.

"We are separated by an inch or two inch glass, and we just have to put our palms together against the glass and that is the closest contact we have with the outside world. For me, visitation means a lot because I don't want to feel that I was forgotten. A lot of people are detained for a long time and no one comes to visit them. You don't know when you are going to get out, and a visit gives me a little hope, to keep on pushing and not lose my mind, and to stay another day."

– Naz Mustakim spent over eight months in the South Texas Detention Facility.

To Provide Rewarding Volunteer Opportunities



"I joined CIVIC to help connect detained immigrants to their families. This simple act has led me into the lives of immigrant families in a way I could not have envisioned. I have seen the humiliation of shackles, fear of being returned to a violent country, depression, despair, panic brought on by mental illness, hopelessness from a detention lasting years, and grinding institutional treatment. What keeps me going is the desire to counter the human and civil rights abuses I've seen as well as the amazing love, resilience, and deep appreciation expressed by [the people in immigration detention]." – Suzanne Llewellyn, Visitor Volunteer in Northern California.

With the financial support of the Y & H Soda Foundation, CIVIC's hotline volunteers answered 1,320 calls from people detained at the West County Detention Facility (WCDF), connecting nearly 300 people to their families. Once family contact was established, volunteers worked with family members and loved ones to help the person in detention secure legal representation. For those representing themselves, CIVIC worked closely with family members to obtain the necessary supporting documents, and CIVIC volunteers wrote affidavits of support to attest to the good moral character of their friend in detention. CIVIC also organized communities of support to attend court hearings and pay the immigration bonds of people eligible for release. We also voiced our intentions to ICE to go "public" about certain cases, which resulted in the nearly immediate releases of people from detention. CIVIC and its partners have played a direct role in securing the release of one person per month from WCDF through non-legal advocacy strategies.



"In immigration detention, there is a lot of opportunity to give up and sign a voluntary departure. There is a lot of temptation to give up because things are so uncomfortable there, so hopeless. You don't even know the impact that a visit is going to have in their life, in their legacy, in their family because if they stay, if they win, it impacts generations to come. There's nothing like helping someone be strong in their heart and in their soul. It's such a small sacrifice for someone to go and give time compared to what its doing for that other person." – Hope Mustakim, current visitor volunteer in Texas whose husband, Naz, was detained in immigration detention.

To Hold the Government Accountable

"The Department of Homeland Security: They're violating human rights," said Eric Adrian Vallejo in a phone conversation with CIVIC volunteers from the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, Washington. Eric lived in the United States for 23 years before being detained for over two years at the West County Detention Facility, the California City Correctional Center, the Northwest Detention Center, and the Otero Processing Center. *"Immigration detention is a kind of torture,"* said Yu Wang, who came to the United States on student visa and now has a U.S. citizen wife and child. In recalling the year in immigration detention and the 50 days he spent in solitary confinement at the Otay Detention Center, Yu explains, *"ICE doesn't want your family to know what's going on. There was one time I wanted to call my wife. ICE denied my phone call request for four days without any reason. ICE told me that 'you refuse to fly, I will keep you like this forever, unless you give up, unless you go back to China right away."* Under the current model of immigration detention, there is no oversight mechanism that effectively addresses or prevents human and civil rights abuses. ICE contracts with a vast network of private prisons and county jails to detain people, and ICE does not enforce any unifying operation standards for these contracted facilities. Even ICE's Performance-Based National Detention Standards (PBNDS) are merely internal agency policy and do not carry the force of law. Only ICE monitors compliance with these standards, without any third-party, independent oversight. As a result, abuses generally go untold and unrecorded.

"CIVIC and its network of over 30 volunteer-run detention visitation programs offer the only consistent community presence inside the U.S. immigration detention system. This presence not only ends the immediate isolation people in detention experience, but also provides an informal system of independent oversight in which those in detention, as well as friends, family, and community members, make the public aware of the abuses in immigration detention and hold the government accountable." – Echoing Green

Support Us!

CIVIC seeks to end the isolation and abuse of people in U.S. immigration detention. We envision a world without immigration detention, and we have an ambitious plan for 2014-2015 to continue to support people in detention and their families, keep the public informed, and hold our leaders accountable.

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, we rely on our generous donors and funders for support so we can in turn realize our mission. You can partner with CIVIC to:

- Provide people in immigration detention with a connection to the outside world by expanding our pro bono hotline
- Roll out our IBM-created monitoring system and make select information available in real time so that the public is promptly informed about the detention system and can hold government decision makers accountable
- Rally immigrant rights advocates in defense of people in immigration detention and their families by launching CIVIC's first annual month of awareness in November 2014
- Expose the United States gruesome immigration detention industry by creating more videos featuring the stories of people currently in immigration detention
- Fight for more transparency in immigration detention by filing civil rights complaints with the Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
- Shape a new immigration detention narrative by launching CIVIC's blog on the Huffington Post

MAKE A DONATION TODAY
Email Christina at CFialho@endisolation.org or
call 385-212-4842
www.endisolation.org/donate

- Launch our new Defund Detention campaign (www.defunddetention.org) to build on our work last year to end the immigration detention quota and stop the expansion of immigration detention facilities, including the Adelanto Detention Center that is slated to be the largest immigration detention facility in the country by the end of summer 2015
- Continue to build and strengthen immigration detention visitation programs by conducting volunteer trainings, detention facility tours, speaking engagements, and CIVIC's second annual visitation convention

Connect with Us!

CIVIC uses social media tools, including Facebook, Twitter, and Youtube to connect with our friends, clients, donors, and communities. We also have an active list serv, and monthly national conference calls for visitor volunteers and people directly affected by immigration detention.

Connect with us and stay on top of all we have to offer! Subscribe to our e-newsletter via our website so that you can receive sneak peeks, volunteer profiles and information on all that's new and inspiring at CIVIC.

Thanks to Our Supporters!

Thanks to our generous donors and sponsor, CIVIC was able to reach many of our goals for 2013-2014 and uphold our mission. We especially would like to thank Echoing Green Foundation, Y & H Soda Foundation, Sparkplug Foundation, Cal Humanities, RESIST, the Cal-Pac Conference of the United Methodist Church, Chester County Community Foundation, and Mujeres Unidas y Activas.

We also recognize the generosity of the major donors who support our mission: Sara Weiss, Reginald S. Saunders, John and Annie Rose, Susan and Jerry Webman, Samuel E. Franusic, and Katharine Gordon. We especially would like to thank our Anonymous Donor who has changed the lives of so many, in such a quiet and generous way.

Every donation—large or small—helps CIVIC accomplish its goals. We take this time to specifically recognize members of CIVIC's \$100 Donors Campaign who have given a donation of \$100 or more: Lisa Berkower and Mitchell F. Rubin, Simon Lipskar, Melissa Mariaschin, Nora Louise Hamilton, Margaret Y. Zumwinkle, Michael Sullivan, David Mansfield, Helio and Therese Fialho, Joann Rooney, Toni Snow, Anthony Chang, Maria Hernandez, Barbara Marcus, Lila Rose, Caterina Rose, Michael Majchrowicz, Lauren Majchrowicz, Grisel Ruiz, Kristina Schlabach, Karen Vance, Mary Helen Doherty, and Nicholas Weiss.

A huge shout out to CIVIC's Board Member Jonathan Godbout and IBM for their pro bono support in building CIVIC's monitoring system. Big thanks also to all the sponsors and donors of CIVIC's first national visitation convening. It was an exciting 2-day event, and we look forward to continuing the conversation and shaping the direction of the national movement.

*"Immigration detention is a place that makes you break your heart. Every time that you have something else or something different that you could do to distract your mind, the officers always come and take your options to be free . . . The only thing I could count on was that I would have a visit from a CIVIC volunteer each week."
 – Marcela Castro spent her first night in the United States at an immigration detention facility. She was detained at the James Musick Facility for over six months, after claiming asylum at a U.S. airport.*

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 P.O. Box 40677, San Francisco, CA 94140

Give us a call
 385-212-4842 (385-21-CIVIC)

Check out our new campaign page at
www.defunddetention.org