CIVIC provides diverse support to people in detention and their families to both ameliorate current suffering and set the stage in a thoughtful way for advocacy that will change the entire system. CIVIC’s mission is to end the isolation and abuse of people in U.S. immigration detention through visitation, independent monitoring, storytelling, and advocacy. The heart of CIVIC’s work is community-based and volunteer-run detention visitation programs. CIVIC visitors equip detained migrants with the tools to endure detention, pursue legal relief, and regain their freedom on a community-run alternative to detention. By 2025, we will have built enough momentum to successfully lobby Congress to defund detention and increase funding to true community alternatives to detention.
Getting Community Support to Detained Immigrants

• 141% growth in visitation programs in less than 3 years:

CIVIC focuses on establishing new visitation programs at the largest immigration detention facilities with the most vulnerable populations. With a 1200% increase in family detention this year, CIVIC focused on supporting communities near these facilities (that detain migrant mothers and their children!) to start and grow visitation programs. CIVIC’s visitation programs now operate in 40 immigration detention facilities.

Using Data to Reform the Detention System

• National online monitoring system launched & data tracking expanded:

We have piloted and begun to scale our national online monitoring system to record abuses, screen for forms of legal and advocacy-oriented relief, capture all forms of volunteer support, track transferred detainees between visitation programs, and document best practices for community-based alternatives.

• Leveraging federal government for scale:

Since 2010, CIVIC has been piloting hotlines at various immigration detention facilities, which allow people in detention to call CIVIC at no cost to them. The hotlines allow CIVIC to answer approximately 3,400 calls per detention facility per year with the support of an all-volunteer virtual call center. We are planning a full national scale up of our hotline support that will reach all 250 U.S. immigration detention facilities!

“I just spoke to my son through your hotline. That was a huge blessing. He was able to speak to his children. I also was able to connect him to a reporter with Telemundo for an interview. Thank you and may God bless all of you 100,000 times.”

“IT’s amazing to experience and witness this way of communication. It is a miracle. So many people calling to talk to their loved ones for the first time since they were detained.”

-CIVIC Hotline Advocate
Piloting Alternative Community Solutions to Detention

- Supporting visitation programs to build their capacity to secure the release of people from detention and track best practices for community support post release:
  - CIVIC successfully advocated for the release of 20 people from immigration detention last year, and raised over $10,000 to secure the release of 5 of these individuals.
  - CIVIC has successfully piloted the Post Release Accompaniment Program to provide transportation, hospitality and legal services to 120 people who were released from detention at the West County Detention Facility in California.
  - CIVIC’s affiliated visitation programs in New Jersey also have entered into formal MOUs with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) where ICE screens individuals for possible release and participation in a community alternative to detention program run by the visitation program volunteers. We are developing a section of our database to help these programs manage client support and track success of the community alternative program.

For the first time in almost a decade, Sylvester Owino celebrated his birthday outside of an immigration detention center cell. CIVIC launched a public campaign, pressuring ICE to transfer Owino to California, where he was eligible for a bond hearing. CIVIC then raised the $1,500 for his bond in less than 30 minutes. “CIVIC volunteers, are excited to help him re-enter into American society.” - Think Progress, March 2015

Building Public Awareness

By Marcela Castro

- Providing people directly affected by immigration detention with a platform to share their writings, art, and ideas
  - Recently launched “Words Beyond Walls” on the Huffington Post, providing people in detention with a mainstream platform to author poems, short stories, and articles.
Launched Direct Support Fund
Established a national fund to provide direct financial relief to people in immigration detention, recently released, and their families.

Conducted Evaluation of Visitation Network
Worked with U. of Washington to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of CIVIC and over 30 detention facilities.

Met with Sister Network in the U.K.
Toured immigration detention facilities in England and met with U.K. visitation programs.

Through Echoing Green support, Christina Fialho & Christina Mansfield visited England during the week that Parliament released the first-ever inquiry into U.K. immigration detention. We toured the Harmondsworth and Campfield House detention facilities, and we met with visitation programs across the U.K. We are excited to continue to work with, learn from, and share best practices with our sister visitation network, AVID!

Supported a Hunger Strike at Karnes Family Detention Center

Demanded an Independent Investigation into Second DEATH at Adelanto

Marched in Washington, D.C., Dilley (TX), Lumpkin (GA), Tacoma (WA), Elowah (AL), Adelanto (CA), and Bakersfield (CA) against family detention, the bed quota, and private prison expansion!

Released information on a GEO Group whistleblower, alleging constitutional violations!

CIVIC is Solving Systemic Communication Barriers
We have continued to fight for phone justice by (1) co-sponsoring A.B 1876 in California, (2) submitting a comment to the Federal Communications Commission, encouraging the agency to pass a rulemaking to cap intrastate phone calls, and (3) joining 19 other organizations in submitting an amicus brief in the Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit supporting the FCC efforts to regulate exorbitant inmate calling service rates.
CIVIC is Educating the Youth!

Christina Fialho spoke at CGIU in Arizona, where over 1,000 college students gathered.

Kids wrote to immigrants detained at the Etowah County Detention Center in Alabama.

CIVIC is Educating Congress!

**Congressional Hearing**
On the Immigration Crisis

Hosted by Congressman Joe Garcia and Congressman Ted Deutch

- Presented testimony on the immigration detention system at a Congressional Hearing hosted by Congressman Joe Garcia and Congressman Ted Deutch of Florida.

- Filed a complaint with the Office of Inspector General regarding the death of a Salvadoran national at the Adelanto Detention Center in California, which was referenced by Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren (D-Calif.) at a Congressional Hearing on ICE Oversight.

- CIVIC is working with a group of representatives on an open letter to Congress and on a long-term plan to investigate detention. Stay tuned!

**Advocates push to end detention of transgender immigrants -- and then all undocumented immigrants**

July 8, 2015 | Updated July 9, 2015 11:59 a.m.

- Endorsed a Dear Colleague Letter released by Reps. Michael Honda (D-Calif.), Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.), and 30 other congressional representatives calling on the federal government to end the practice of detaining vulnerable groups such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) immigrants.
Launched Defund Detention Campaign in Adelanto!

"U.S. Rep. Judy Chu speaks with community members and advocates of Defund Detention across the street from the Adelanto Detention Center on Monday. The group wants to stop the expansion at the high desert facility." - L.A. Times

NEWS

Adelanto: City Alters Ordinance to Protect First Amendment Rights of Protesters

The Defund Detention Campaign led a protest in front of City Hall in Adelanto. The City of Adelanto issued a citation to Vickie Mena, campaign organizer, during the protest.

"The First Amendment prohibits the government from arbitrarily restricting citizens from speaking out, particularly when it comes to core political speech like a protest directed at government officials. The city violated this critical protection by requiring Vickie and CIVIC to obtain a million dollar insurance policy..." - Michael Kaufman, ACLU Staff Attorney/CIVIC Board Member

Stopped GEO Group from building 3rd jail in Adelanto

Launched Group to Bolster Political Activism in Adelanto

Increased Oversight of Immigration Detention

The Defund Detention Campaign resulted in increased 1st Amendment protections for Adelanto residents, an upcoming vote for a moratorium on Adelanto prison expansion, and a governmental investigation into the Adelanto Detention Center.
CIVIC thanks the many donors, volunteers, and champions whose support has been integral to our growth and progress. These committed supporters are essential partners in our work to improve the lives of people in immigration detention and their families.

Our work this year would not have been possible without the support of the following partners:
The Y&H Soda Foundation
the Sparkplug Foundation
Firedoll Foundation
van Löben Sels/RembeRock Foundation
RESIST
Mass Humanities
Zellerbach Family Foundation

We would like to thank the following faith communities for taking up a special collection:
Neighborhood UU Church of Pasadena
UU Fellowship of Santa Cruz County
UU Church of Davis
UU Community of the Mountains
First UU Church of San Diego
First Parish Church of Brewster

And for sponsoring our storytelling projects!
First UU Church of San Diego
Irvine United Congregational Church
Neighborhood UU Church of Pasadena
UU Community Church of Santa Monica
Orange Coast UU Church
Friends-Amigos Fieles, Sacramento, CA Region
Hold Spirit Missionary Sisters
UU Congregation of Miami’s Social Justice Committee
Alliance for Immigration Justice at First Parish Brewster
Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service

We are grateful for the following corporate supporters:
BlackRock
IBM

We also recognize the generosity of the major donors who support our mission:
Sara Weiss
Liz Luckett
Kathryn Smith
Soledad Diaz
Francine Pascal
Katharine Gordon
Maria Reiger
Susan and Jerry Webman
John and Annie Rose
Kim & Craig Pastolove
Lisa Berkower and Mitchell F. Rubin
Samuel E. Fransus
Suzanne Llewellyn
John Lippman
Richard Grosbard

We take this time to remember, Reginald Saunders, who passed away peacefully this year at the age of 89. We are incredibly grateful for his generous support and encouragement since CIVIC’s establishment.

Every donation—large or small—helps CIVIC accomplish its goals. We especially would like to thank our Anonymous Major Donors who have changed the lives of so many, in such a quiet and generous way.