A Message from ILAP’s Leaders

Dear Friends,

In 2015 ILAP staff and volunteers helped 1,952 low-income immigrants, from each of Maine’s 16 counties, get work authorization, reunite with family members, gain asylum protection, and become U.S. Citizens. ILAP is the only organization in Maine that provides all of these services, and our work is critical. Getting work authorization and legal status is the first step towards self-sufficiency and building a new life in the United States.

In 2015, we continued to grow our pro bono asylum panel to 140 volunteer attorneys. In 2015, our pro bono attorneys donated 4,008 hours of their time, valued at $925,562, representing 178 asylum seekers. Dozens of volunteers also helped us conduct intake, complete immigration applications, and provide administrative and development assistance.

During the year, 1,183 immigrants and service providers attended 47 education and outreach events conducted by ILAP staff. We provided monthly workshops for pro se asylum seekers, in collaboration with the University of Maine School of Law and the Justice for Our Neighbors Program. The workshops covered topics including: how to complete your asylum application, how to document your case, and how to prepare for your interview. ILAP staff were also actively involved in advocacy to retain general assistance benefits for asylum seekers and other immigrants.

Thank you for supporting ILAP in this important work.

Warm regards,

Susan Roche, Esq.
Executive Director

Jennifer Archer, Esq.
Board President

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Philip Mantis, Esq., Asylum Coordinator Attorney
Olivia Orr, Office & Development Associate
Loretta Prescott, Development Director
Susan Roche, Esq., Executive Director
Christina Starr, Clinic Paralegal
Barbara Taylor, Esq., Senior Staff Attorney
About ILAP

OUR MISSION
The Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project helps low-income immigrants improve their legal status and works for more just and humane laws and policies affecting immigrants.

OUR VALUES
Social Justice, Integrity, Respect, Fairness, Collaboration, Sustainability

OUR PRIORITIES
As the demand for ILAP’s services grows, we are focusing on our highest priority areas:
Keeping people safe from violence and persecution
Helping families stay together.
Helping immigrants obtain economic security.

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2015 VOLUNTEERS
In addition to ILAP’s 120 pro bono attorneys, we were lucky to have dozens of volunteers and interns who helped with administrative, legal, and development work.

45 volunteers helped make CeleSoiree 2015 a success
15 rotating volunteers interviewed new clients during ILAP’s weekly “Intake”
ILAP in 2015

**OUR SERVICES**

ILAP staff and *pro bono* attorneys provided full legal representation to 322 individuals.

1,630 individuals were served through ILAP’s Immigration Clinic.

140 *pro bono* attorneys donated 4,008 hours of time representing asylum seekers.

ILAP clients originated from all 16 counties in Maine.

ILAP served clients from 95 different countries.

1,952 Mainers received direct legal assistance from ILAP.

**OUR CLIENTS**

1,183 immigrant community members and service providers attended outreach events.

**OUR OUTREACH**

ILAP collaborated with dozens of entities state-wide, including city governments, hospitals, and schools.

ILAP staff conducted 47 education and outreach events throughout the state of Maine.
Your support in 2015 helped generate results like these:

- A Syrian college student, unable to return home because of the chaos of war, gains status to remain and work in the U.S. until peace is restored back home.

- A young teen who crossed thousands of miles alone to escape violence in his home village in El Salvador, finds a welcoming school, training for a profession, and stable legal status in Maine.

- An Ethiopian mother discovers the child she thought had perished, is alive, and is able to be reunited with her child in the United States.

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Carmen Sanchez, Peru

Carmen Sanchez was the special guest speaker at ILAP’s annual fundraising event, CeleSoirée, held on March 18, 2016 at Ocean Gateway in Portland. She courageously shared her story with attendees, to help them gain a deeper understanding of ILAP’s impact. Originally from Peru, Carmen lived a comfortable life with her family and owned her own successful business. All of that changed when she thought she found true love. She met a man from the United States who seemed like the perfect match for her. As the relationship grew more serious, she decided that she wanted to start a new life with the man who had charmed her. Carmen left everything behind and traveled from Peru to Maine, where she planned to settle into married life.

However, Carmen soon realized that she had entered an abusive relationship. She felt trapped and alone; she lost sense of who she was. She was thousands of miles away from her home, her family, and her network of support. She knew that she had to seek help, but she wasn’t sure where to turn. Fortunately, after receiving a referral from Family Crisis Services, she found ILAP.

At first, Carmen was a bit wary of meeting with a lawyer. She wasn’t sure if she would be able to adequately express what she had gone through. Those feelings disappeared when she met with her lawyer and explained her situation. She said, “The lawyer listened to me carefully and believed me. That was the most important thing [to me].” Carmen’s path to citizenship was a long and emotional process, but she was pleased to have the support of her lawyer throughout it all. March 18th was more than just a chance for Carmen to share her story; it was also the day she became a U.S. Citizen.

“Citizenship means everything to me. I am now a part of this country and I have a role to play. What ILAP means to me is protection, support, and home. We are all one community now. One family.”

---

Client Story

Carmen Sanchez shares her story at ILAP’s 12th Annual CeleSoirée
2015 Revenue & Expense Report

From ILAP’s audited financial statement, year ended 12/31/2015

REVENUE

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundation Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fees and other revenue</td>
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<tr>
<td>*In Kind Contributions</td>
<td>$928,962</td>
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<tr>
<td>Events</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
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EXPENSES

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<th>Category</th>
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<td>Supporting Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$1,627,730</td>
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<tr>
<td>Change in Assets</td>
<td>$15,054</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*In Kind Contributions and Program Expenses include the value of donated hours of pro bono attorney time, $950,000.
2015 Development Highlights

The Cotsirilos Family Foundation made a three year match grant of $10,000 annually to ILAP in 2014. For the second year of funding, ILAP secured $10,000 from another family foundation and $10,000 through an increased grant from the Sam L. Cohen Foundation to meet the match.

***

ILAP’s online campaign on the CrowdRise platform was a segment of our Annual Appeal and raised just over $8,000. Today’s fundraising environment demands a broader based appeal than the traditional mailing and event model, and we are grateful to those who chose to click through to support ILAP.

***

CeleSoirée, ILAP’s single annual fundraising event, raised a record-breaking $17,500 during the evening’s service auction, which goes directly to services for our clients.

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