



20 *years*
Cabrin
IMMIGRANT
SERVICES NYC

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Cabrini Immigrant Services Colleagues and Friends,

Each year we begin working on the annual report with the start of the new year; it's a quiet time after the holidays and naturally seems to allow for reflection and review. I was supposed to have written this letter a couple of months ago. Then the COVID-19 pandemic happened and like many, I too, was frozen with anxiety, fear and not knowing. The uplifting letter I had planned to write seemed oddly dissonant in the context of a global public health crisis.

One of the phrases we heard many times in many places during the early days of the pandemic was "We Are All in This Together." That sounded comforting because as humans, we want to know that we are not alone, that our experiences are universal and at the very least, someone is there to witness. My family and I have been together during this dark time of the pandemic; sheltering in place, being careful to wear a face mask in public and practicing social distancing. We are fortunate, however, it is also very clear that not everyone is in the same boat.

Immigrants, as they have been throughout our history, are more likely to be 'essential workers' – in retail, grocery stores and other services that remain open to the public. They cannot work from home. Others are even less fortunate, with restaurants closed, domestic and child care services not needed, many more immigrant families are out of work. And many of them are ineligible for unemployment or assistance under the CARES Act. Our food pantry is witness to the urgent needs of these families as they struggle to survive during this crisis.

These are uncertain times. I need us, I need you, to make the ideal of "We Are All in This Together" to be more than words. Please, now is the time to donate to Cabrini Immigrant Services so that our dedicated staff – who are essential to the families we serve – can do their work. No amount is too small, no gesture is too little. **We are all in this together.**

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, sweeping loop followed by a horizontal line.

ILZE EARNER, Ph.D., LCSW
Board Chair

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of Cabrini,

In 2019 we celebrated the 20th anniversary of carrying out our mission to welcome, support, and empower the most vulnerable immigrants in our community. Over these two decades we have remained committed to following the teachings and legacy of Saint Francis Xavier Cabrini.

Despite the challenges we have faced, our organization and our community have made significant progress in the past two decades. If the last 20 years have taught us anything, it is that meaningful change is possible when immigrants have a voice in shaping the policies and programs that touch their families. In the face of many obstacles and attacks, immigrants have taken action—leading their allies—to create real change that ultimately benefits not only the immigrant community, but our nation.

The impact and stories you will read about in this 2019 Annual Report demonstrate the commitment and passion the staff at CIS-NYC have for welcoming and supporting immigrant families. It is clear that we can accomplish great things when we are driven by the common goal to expand opportunity for all. As we build on our legacy and look to our future, we are confident that the pillars of our organization—high-quality legal representation, access to education and essential services, civic participation and community building—will lead to a brighter future. We hope we can count on your support for our next 20 years of impact.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JAVIER RAMIREZ BARON". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and "R".

JAVIER RAMIREZ BARON, LMSW
Executive Director

OUR MISSION

At CIS-NYC we aim to provide essential services to immigrants in the spirit of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, Patroness of Immigrants. Since our inception in 1999, CIS-NYC has worked with the immigrant community all over New York City, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, country of origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or immigration status. We are committed to empowering immigrants, their families and their communities through education, access to essential services, civic participation, and community building. We strive to work together with the immigrant community to create a more inclusive society by fostering justice, dignity, and respect.

Cabrini treats you like family. You walk in & they greet you with such kindness, they make you feel welcome, & they try to provide you with as much information & as many resources as they can.

Sandra
CIS-NYC Community Member



IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES

Low-income immigrants in New York City face significant barriers to high-quality legal representation and are often vulnerable to legal services scams and other abuses. At CIS-NYC we aim to bridge this gap in services by providing low-cost, comprehensive, and competent legal services to the local immigrant community.

512 legal immigration consultations with immigrant families.

During each consultation, families were provided with legal orientation and education and connected with vital resources and information, including: referrals to medical & mental health providers, housing assistance, & financial services, enrollment in educational programs, information about immigrant rights, and more.

221 new immigration cases opened.

If CIS-NYC is unable to take a client's case, we make internal referrals to our other programs and external referrals to trusted community partners to ensure that all of their legal, social, emotional, and practical needs are met.

413 immigration applications successfully submitted to USCIS.

Including 86 DACA renewals, 113 Employment Authorizations, 25 naturalizations, and 25 fee waivers.

29 families reunified in the U.S. after years of separation as a result of the work of CIS-NYC's immigration legal services team.

415k saved in legal representation fees.

By receiving services at CIS-NYC, clients are able to access high-quality legal representation that might otherwise be unattainable to them due to inordinate fees.



I tried several other lawyers before Cabrini, but I found that at times they treated me as if I was a criminal, they

were very expensive, & they didn't provide me the comfort of knowing that my problem would be resolved.

When I came to Cabrini I encountered professionalism & courteousness.

They gave me a sense of hope.

Between 2010 & now, Cabrini helped me to obtain my Green Card & later to become a citizen of the United States of America. Cabrini to me is a place of hope.

Kirk, Legal Services Client



IMMIGRANT FAMILY PROGRAM

CIS-NYC strengthens and supports immigrant families through a range of social supports and activities, including comprehensive case management, short-term crisis counseling, support groups, recreational trips for families, support for students, and our annual holiday celebration.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

136 individuals attended family trips to the Bronx Zoo, the Children's Museum of Manhattan, the Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular, and a water park.

112 children attended our holiday celebration & received **over 350** toys, books and clothing items.

SOCIAL SERVICES

24 parents participated in a **10** week psychoeducational support group for parents.

120 families received case management services.

ANGEL FUND SCHOLARSHIP

CIS-NYC's Angel Fund Scholarship provides scholarships and support to low-income immigrant students who are pursuing higher education.

18 students received ongoing social support and **\$21,375** in scholarships to cover school-related costs.



I first came to Cabrini because I needed help finding medical care. I was afraid because of my immigration status. Cabrini staff not only helped me to find a doctor but also taught me how to navigate the system & taught me about my rights as an immigrant mother. I also received emotional support & counseling. Now my family, my husband, my daughter, my son, & I all feel empowered with knowledge about our rights & I feel happy knowing that we belong to this community.

Monica, Community Leader



FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry at CIS-NYC operates weekly and provides healthy, well-balanced and culturally appropriate food to local community members in need. We use a Client Choice method of food distribution, which promotes dignity and agency to help each family get closer to reaching the ultimate goal of self-sufficiency.

2,752 families served throughout the year.

196,344 meals worth of nutritious food distributed.

909 well balanced bags of food distributed on average per month.

4,632 volunteer hours contributed by community members & allies.

369,952 pounds of food donated by our generous donors.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES & RESOURCES:

The CIS-NYC Food Pantry offered a range of additional services and resources during the pantry service hours. These included: Library card registration with the New York Public Library, registration for free vision exams & free prescription glasses with Kress Vision, blood pressure & glucose screenings with the Institute for Family Health, job recruitment for the 2020 Census, and more.



Last year I joined the Food Pantry as a volunteer. We work like a team. As a volunteer I have been able to help a lot of people. Over time, all of the volunteers have become like family members to me.

Lisa, Food Pantry Volunteer &
Cabrini Community Member



JUSTICE FOR IMMIGRANTS

JFI builds power and leadership within the NYC immigrant community and creates social and political change through workshops, civic participation, leadership development, network building, and outreach.

15 on-site Know Your Rights workshops & other community events.

10 off-site workshops facilitated or hosted in collaboration with community partners.

We partnered with Emma Lazarus High School, Henry Street Settlement, VIA, Lower East Side Preparatory High School, Latinas on the Verge of Excellence, and others.

9 rallies, actions, press conferences, & other advocacy events.

We mobilized to defend our community against attacks on immigrants such as changes to public charge, advocated for a permanent solution for Dreamers, and fought for (and won!) Drivers Licenses for all.

2 DACA Renewal Clinics & 1 Family Emergency Planning Clinic.

With support from FWD.us and our generous donors, we were able to provide scholarships to cover the \$495 DACA Renewal Fee for 45 individuals.

10 immigrant community leaders actively led & planned the activities of JFI.

Over 350 community members engaged in JFI's community organizing & education activities.



Years ago I started attending JFI meetings where I learned about my rights & how my voice counts regardless of my immigration status. Now I am one of the JFI leaders. I did not have the opportunity to go school in Mexico & for a long time I felt lost because I couldn't understand what was happening around me. Through JFI I have learned a lot. In every meeting I learn something new & learn more about my rights as an immigrant, as a parent, & as a worker.

Felipe,
Community Leader





LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

In April 2019 twelve community members graduated from our inaugural JFI Leadership Development Program. Participants completed the 11-session popular education program where they learned about topics ranging from the history of immigration in the U.S. to how to share their story with the press. Leaders also put their learning to practice by participating in legislative visits and rallies, presenting to their community members, and conducting outreach. Upon graduation, the participants formed two leadership committees where they play an active role in planning JFI's community education and campaign activities.



DREAMTELLERS DOCUMENTARY INSTITUTE

In Summer 2019 CIS-NYC partnered again with **Los Herederos** to produce the second round of our youth documentary storytelling institute (formerly known as DACamented Voices). In this institute 5 young Dreamers learned about the fundamentals of self-producing a transmedia short, podcasting, and using storytelling as a tool for community organizing. Students learned how to use key audio-visual equipment in a hands-on setting. The program resulted in 2 short films and 4 short podcast episodes.

Check out the students' work here:
<https://bit.ly/DreamTellers>



ROMPIENDO LAS AGUAS on Radio Maria

Rompiendo Las Aguas is a radio program supported by CIS-NYC that began broadcasting on Radio Maria in 2015. The radio program focuses on bringing information and empowerment to listeners, and in particular immigrants. Rompiendo Las Aguas is hosted by Angel Diaz who is a community leader and board member at CIS-NYC.

Learn more at: www.radiomariasp.org/shows/rompiendo-las-aguas

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

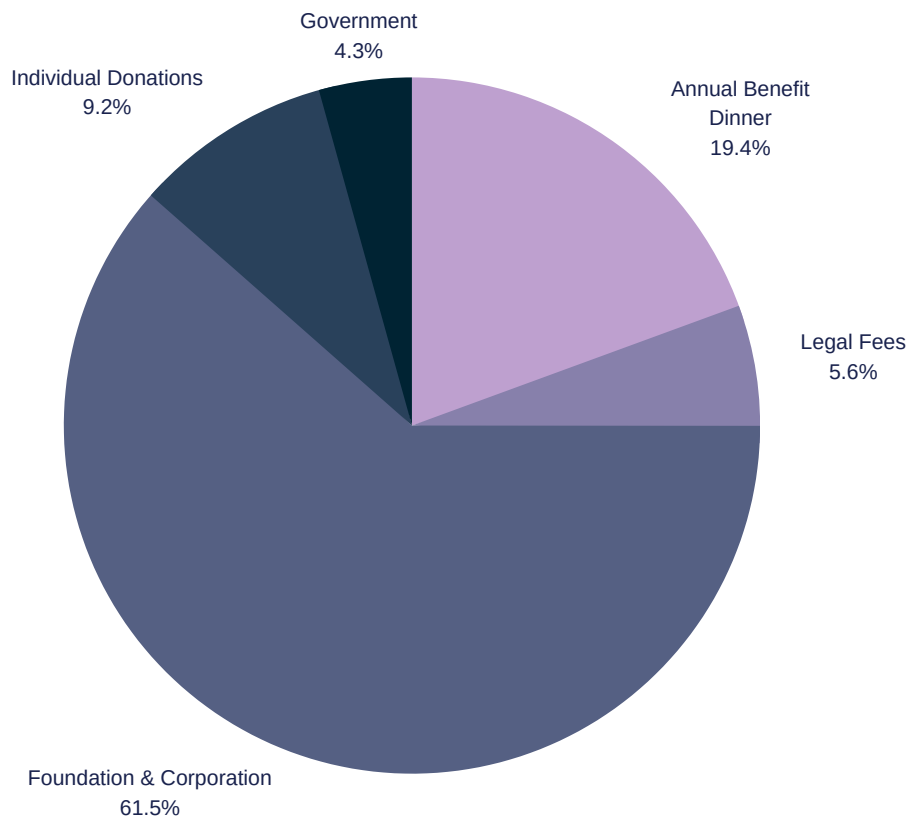
On April 2nd 2019 CIS-NYC celebrated our 20th Anniversary at our annual “Heart of Cabrini” Benefit Dinner in the company of nearly 200 generous supporters at the Manhattan Penthouse on Fifth Avenue in NYC. “Heart of Cabrini” awards were presented to three honorees for their commitment to supporting and advocating for the immigrant community in the spirit of Mother Cabrini. These awards were presented to: Hon. Barbara A. Lee, former Board Member and Volunteer ESOL Teacher at CIS-NYC; Frances Liu, Vice President of Strategy at Citi Community Development; and Jessica Garcia, Assistant to the President at the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union.

Photos and stories from CIS-NYC’s clients and community members (shown throughout this report) were on display throughout the space, giving guests an opportunity to get to know them and learn about the impact CIS-NYC has had on their lives over the past 20 years. The night came to a close with a surprise mariachi performance, which had guests dancing on their way out!



CIS-NYC is thankful for the support of the many generous donors who made this celebratory event possible, including the event sponsors: the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Royal Business Bank, Citi, the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, The Ricca Family, Ignatian Volunteer Corps, and Margaret Alade.

FY 2019 FINANCIALS



REVENUE SOURCE	%	AMOUNT
<div></div> Foundation & Corporation	61.5%	\$197,871
<div></div> Government	4.3%	\$13,867
<div></div> Annual Benefit Dinner	19.4%	\$62,466
<div></div> Legal Fees	5.6%	\$18,034
<div></div> Individual Donations	9.2%	\$29,587

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\$25,000 and above

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