

# CABRINI IMMIGRANT SERVICES OF NYC



## ANNUAL REPORT



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# MESSAGE FROM CIS-NYC'S BOARD CHAIR

Cabrini Immigrant Services Colleagues and Friends,

It is hard to believe that 20 years have passed since Cabrini Immigrant Services opened its doors in New York City. It has been a rewarding journey of faith, hope and charity. And many prayers.

I officially started my tenure as board chair on January 1, 2019, so I thank immediate past-chair Sr. Diane Olmstead for her dedication and work guiding the board of CIS-NYC over the past 3 years. Because of Sr. Diane's passion and support for the organization, we had very successful years during a time of transition.

At CIS-NYC we continue to closely watch and respond to the shifts in policy towards the immigrant population and will undoubtedly do so over the many coming years. Our goal is to provide vital services to our clients with excellence and to advocate for changes in policies that will help the newest Americans realize their dreams.

My own relationship with CIS-NYC started shortly after the organization was founded by Sr. Pietrina Raccuglia and the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. I was a social worker desperately looking to find help for immigrant families in need. CIS-NYC was one of the very few organizations willing to work with immigrant families, regardless of immigration status. Over the ensuing years CIS-NYC developed a program to train social workers, participated in committees to advise the Administration for Children's Services on immigrant issues, testified before the City Council and advocated with policymakers at City Hall, in Albany and on Capitol Hill to find solutions for addressing the needs of immigrants.

Now, besides legal services, family services and a food pantry we have launched initiatives to document immigrant voices and promote leadership development in the community. I hope you will keep reading to learn more about our 2018 accomplishments.

We look to a strong and bright future. ¡Si, se puede!



**ILZE EARNER, Ph.D., LCSW**  
Board Chair



# OUR MISSION

At CIS-NYC we aim to provide essential services to immigrants in the spirit of the 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, 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.**



# IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES

Encouraging civic participation, protecting the vulnerable, and uniting families.

Low income immigrants in New York City face significant barriers to high-quality legal representation and are often vulnerable legal service 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.

## 425 legal immigration consultations with immigrant families.

In 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.

## 206 new immigration cases opened.

In 2018 CIS-NYC took on nearly 50% of the legal cases that came to us. 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.

## 424 immigration applications successfully submitted to USCIS.

This included **61 DACA renewals**. As a result of these services, **101 immigrants** obtained their work permits & legal permanent status, allowing them to obtain better jobs, achieve their goals of financial stability & self-sufficiency, and contribute to our economy.

## 54 families reunified after years of separation.

## \$350k 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.



Sandra holding her parents' new Green Cards.

### Sandra's Story

"I came to the US from Colombia around 20 years ago to escape a dangerous and violent environment. I spoke little English and CIS-NYC guided me to navigate the complicated immigration process. I am so grateful to them for helping me obtain my green card, become a citizen, and change my life for the better. Recently, my sister and my parents joined me here so our family could be reunited after nearly two decades apart. CIS-NYC helped us with the process and protected our rights at critical moments. We were all very anxious but are now relieved as my parents received their green cards. We are already very happy with our new life in our new home country."



# FOOD PANTRY

Providing healthy, well-balanced & culturally appropriate food to local community members.

**867**

bags of food  
distributed on  
average per  
month.

**187,200**

meals worth  
of food  
distributed.

**1,667**

individuals  
served.

Over  
**10,000**  
visits to the  
Pantry.

**3,769**  
volunteer  
hours.

**329,829**  
pounds of  
food donated.

CIS-NYC's Client  
Choice Food Pantry  
operates every  
Tuesday from 9:30am  
to 12:30pm.



Photo: Diana Bejarano, Los Herederos, Inc.

# JUSTICE FOR IMMIGRANTS

Building power and leadership within the local immigrant community.

**400** community members engaged in JFI workshops, rallies, actions, and other events.



Over 50% of participants in 2018 were new members who had not participated in JFI in previous years.

**12** rallies, actions, press conferences and other advocacy events.

**10** off site Know Your Rights workshops and presentations.

We partnered with Trinity Church , Henry St. Settlement, University Settlement, Trinity Church Wall Street, FWD.us, PS 64, PS 142, and NY Psychotherapy & Counseling Center.

**13** on site Know Your Rights workshops.

We also co-hosted 5 additional workshops with our community partners including the New York Immigration Coalition, VIA, South Asians for America, and the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs.





# Leadership Development Program

In October 2018 CIS-NYC launched our first JFI Leadership Development Program with 14 participants from the local immigrant community. This is an eleven session popular education program designed to develop leaders who can take on ongoing leadership roles in the community organizing work at CIS-NYC. Participants engage in dialogue and learn 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 & rallies, presenting to their community members, conducting outreach, and more.



## DACAmented Voices

In Summer 2018 CIS-NYC partnered with **Los Herederos** to produce a new program called DACAmented Voices. This is a youth documentary storytelling institute that engages young DREAMers in the fundamentals of self-producing a transmedia short and using storytelling as a tool for community organizing and advocacy. Students learn to use key audio-visual equipment in a hands-on interactive setting. The 2018 program resulted in a variety of student produced multimedia documentation centered around the theme of “I’m not the only one.”

**Check out their work here: [bit.ly/DACAVoices](https://bit.ly/DACAVoices)**



# IMMIGRANT FAMILY PROGRAM

Strengthening and supporting immigrant families.

In 2019 nearly **250** families received case management and social support services at CIS-NYC. These services include guiding community members in accessing public benefits, comprehensive case-management and short-term crisis counseling to ensure that each family receives the support they need.

**6**

family trips & activities.

**247**

clients attended a family trip.



We also organize recreational family events throughout the year which allow families to spend quality time together with their community members, enjoy a respite from their daily challenges, and familiarize themselves with traditional American experiences. Family activities in 2018 included an Easter Egg hunt, a bilingual play, visits to the Bronx Zoo and Natural History Museum, a day at a water park, and our annual Christmas celebration and gift distribution.

**213**

children received gifts at our Christmas Celebration.

**800+**

toys, books & pieces of clothing distributed.





# Angel Fund Scholarship Program

CIS-NYC's Angel Fund Program provides scholarships and support to low-income immigrant students who are pursuing higher education. Scholarships can be used to cover any proven educational related expenses, such as tuition, fees, school supplies and books. Masters level social work interns provide each student with emotional support, educational guidance, and advocacy to help students attain their educational goals, navigate the US school system, and improve their quality of life in the United States. Each scholarship recipient is required to complete 21 hours of volunteer work at CIS-NYC, providing them with useful work experience.

In 2018 the Angel Fund Scholarship Program supported **20** students, providing them with **\$18,525** in academic scholarships. Students also participated in a support group for undocumented students that provided a space for students to share their challenges and gain tools for successfully navigating their educational experience.

“ I dropped out of college in my 2nd semester because I could not afford to pay tuition. But then I found the Angel Fund Scholarship, which provided me economic, legal & educational support. I finished my associates degree in small business entrepreneurship & I have been accepted at Baruch College for Real Estate.

**Cabrini is not only helping me accomplish my goals, but they are helping other people, too.**

My wife saw that is possible for an undocumented student to have a degree in the U.S., & is now going to college this semester for Paralegal Studies. ”

**ERNESTO, Angel Fund Scholarship Recipient**



Photo: Diana Bejarano, Los Herederos Inc.

# ESOL & ADULT EDUCATION

Providing immigrants with the tools to confidently communicate.

In 2018 CIS-NYC provided free English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and computer skills classes. Classes supported students in developing skills to more confidently interact with their doctors and their children's teachers, shop at different stores, explore new neighborhoods, and participate in their communities.

**92**  
students  
served.

**80**  
English  
students.

100% of ESOL students reported that they had been able to engage in essential activities that require basic English throughout the year as a result of the course.

**12**  
Computer  
Literacy  
students.

One student, Lisa, said that her newly learned skills have allowed her to more easily stay in touch with her family members who do not live in the United States. She said that she is now able to Skype with them and send emails to them in Chinese.



In June 2018 CIS-NYC's Board of Trustees made the decision to close the ESOL Program. Thank you to Joy Haas for her many years of service as the ESOL Program Coordinator!



# Rompiendo Las Aguas on Radio Maria



RADIO MARIA

*El primer y segundo jueves de cada  
mes a las 9 de la mañana  
Para escuchar: 712-832-8496*

En directo: <http://nys.radiomaria.us/escucha-en-directo/>

Si tiene alguna pregunta, contactanos a:  
[adiaz@cis-nyc.org](mailto:adiaz@cis-nyc.org) • 212-791-4590 ext. 100

Rompiendo Las Aguas began broadcasting on Radio Maria in 2015. The radio program's focus has been on bringing information and empowerment to listeners and in particular immigrants. The program has evolved over the years to address themes that affect all members of the Catholic community, including citizens. Currently, the program is live on Radio Maria NYC on the first two Thursdays of the month at 9am Eastern Time. The program also is re-broadcasted by the Red De Radios Catolicas online. Rompiendo Las Aguas is hosted by Angel Diaz who is a community leader and board member at CIS-NYC.

Over the past four years the program has covered a wide range of themes such as education, community organizing, child abuse, human trafficking, and drugs, and has hosted many guests, including: immigration lawyers, CIS-NYC staff members, government officials, religious leaders, lay leaders, and more.

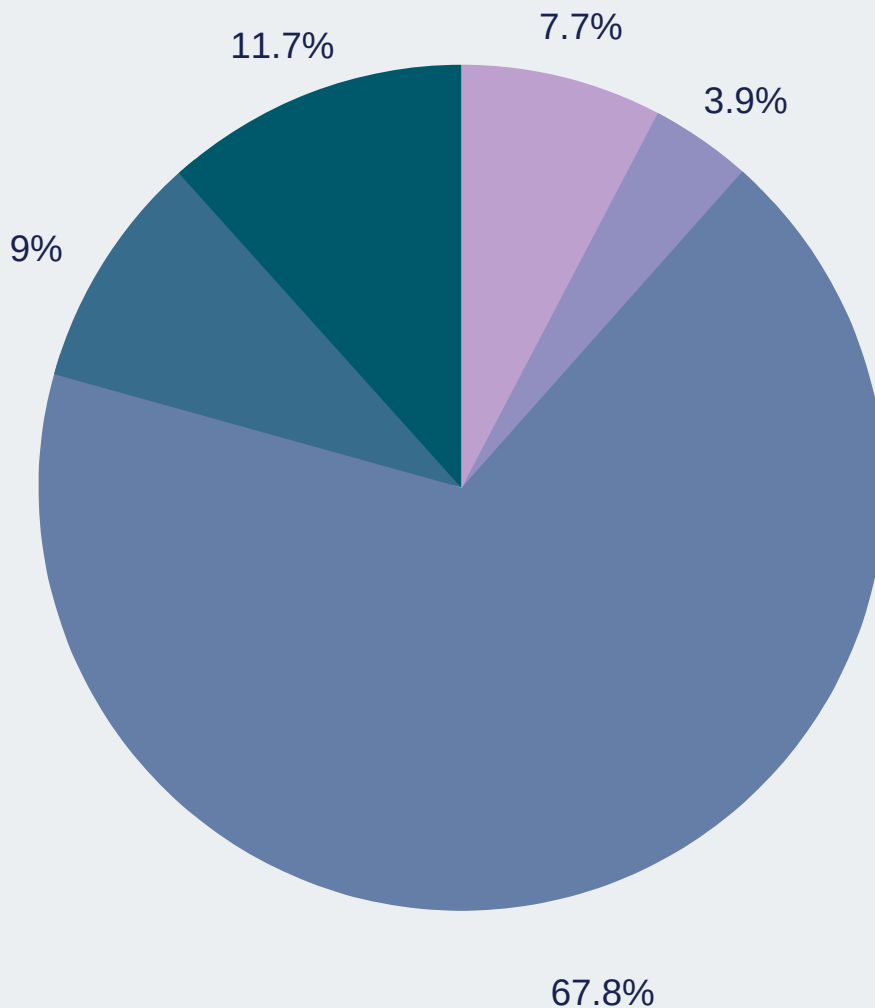













# FY2018 FINANCIALS



REVENUE SOURCE	%	AMOUNT
 Foundation & Corporation	67.8%	\$344,293
 Government	11.7%	\$59,192
 Annual Benefit Dinner	7.7%	\$39,032
 Legal Fees	3.9%	\$19,689
 Individual Donations	9%	\$45,848

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