

2022 Annual Report





Dear Friends of Cabrini,

2022 was an incredible year of change and growth for Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC. In May, we relocated our offices to the St. Frances Cabrini Shrine in Washington Heights. While we were sad to say goodbye to our community and space in the Lower East Side, this new space has been a wonderful blessing to our organization. The new location is large, warm, and welcoming, with plenty of room to accommodate our growing staff and for our community to gather. Our Food Pantry moved along with us to Upper Manhattan and we began a partnership with the Church of the Good Shepherd. Together with the Church and incredible volunteers, we have established a thriving Food Pantry with a membership of 1,000 clients. We are incredibly grateful for all of our staff, volunteers, donors, and partners who made this transition seamless and enabled us to continue carrying out our mission.

Over the past two decades we have learned to be creative and flexible in order to continually meet the most urgent needs of our community as they arise: responding to increased ICE raids, attacks on DACA, a pandemic, and more. So in Summer 2022 when buses of asylum seekers began to arrive in New York from the Southern border, we were ready to respond. We were able to rapidly mobilize to welcome these new community members by meeting their immediate needs and providing ongoing support. All the while, we continued to serve the broader immigrant community in New York City, offering comprehensive immigration legal assistance, providing holistic case management support and counseling, educating our community, building new leaders, feeding our neighbors, and more. Throughout this report you will see the many ways in which we were able to impact the lives of our clients and community members with your support. We hope that you will continue to be a partner in this work in the years to come!

Ilze Earner

Board Chair

lavier Ramirez-Baron Executive Director

OUR MISSION

justice, dignity, and respect.



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 local immigrant families.

CIS-NYC's Staff Attorneys and Social Workers collaborate to ensure all who come to CIS-NYC are provided with legal orientation and education, connected with vital resources, and supported through the often grueling and discouraging legal immigration process. As a result of receiving legal services at CIS-NYC, our clients have increased access to vital benefits and life-changing opportunities, such as access to higher paying jobs, education, consistent healthcare, family reunification, and more.

- 723 immigration legal consultations.
- **309** new immigration **cases opened**, including **105** cases to protect the most **vulnerable immigrants** (TPS, SIJS, Asylum, VAWA, and DACA cases).
- **16 families reunited** after years of separation and 66 new cases opened to help additional families reunite.
- **548** immigration **applications** successfully **submitted** to USCIS.
- 99 work authorizations obtained.
- \$536K saved in legal representation fees.



In our 2020 annual report we told the story of Celina who, along with her daughter, was granted asylum in March 2020 after a years-long and arduous journey. Since 2020, CIS-NYC's legal team has continued to support Celina and her family, assisting her in successfully submitting her adjustment of status application and petitioning for both her husband and stepson. Celina recently received her lawful permanent resident status, and in a year's time, she will be eligible to apply for citizenship and she can't wait to apply. Her daughter Emily who is currently in the fifth grade is thriving in school, and is now fluent in English. She hopes to one day attend college and major in mathematics.



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SOCIAL SERVICES



Through our Case Management Program, CIS-NYC supports our clients in navigating and accessing services related to healthcare, employment, education, nutrition, mental health, and housing. With the support of our staff, CIS-NYC's clients are empowered to access the resources and opportunities they have a right to, without fear.

CIS-NYC's case management services are complemented by mental health services, which provide a safe and culturally sensitive space for our clients to process and heal. We provide short-term crisis counseling, and in 2022 we held psychoeducational support groups for immigrant women and parents. In these groups, clients learn about a range of topics and coping tools, discuss their shared experiences, offer one another mutual support, and build community.

- Over 250 clients received case management support.
- Case Managers made over **800 referrals** to vital resources and services.
- 28 clients received short term crisis counseling over the course of more than 150 sessions.
- 126 individuals participated in our support groups. Over the course of the year we held 33 group sessions.



"I want to say "thank you" to Cabrini Immigrant Services and to my counselor, Ivonne, for helping me to change my life. I also want to tell others who are suffering in silence to look for help; to go to a therapist does not mean that you are crazy, but that you want to find peace and tranquility in your

ERICEL'S STORY

- Ericel

Ericel came to CIS-NYC after realizing that he needed support with his mental health. He came from a difficult background, having experienced poverty, abuse, drug use, the challenges of immigration, and workplace exploitation. He was angry, isolated, and distrustful, but without health insurance he struggled to find the necessary support. His wife learned about CIS-NYC's free counseling services and through his work with a counselor at CIS-NYC, Ericel says that he has started to heal his traumas, forgive himself and his family, and see life differently. He has learned important coping skills, such as meditation, and has been referred to a psychiatrist for additional support. He has also attended CIS-NYC's parenting support groups, received legal support from CIS-NYC's lawyers, and now volunteers at our Food Pantry on Saturdays.

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WELCOMING NEW ARRIVALS

CIS-NYC rose to the challenge at the end of Summer 2022 when we began to see an increase in asylum seekers arriving in New York City from the Southern border. Individuals and families started to show up at our door, seeking friendly faces in a city where they had little support. We quickly expanded our services to meet these clients' immediate needs by providing clothing, personal hygiene items, metro cards, and gift cards. We also offered basic legal consultations and supported them in navigating and accessing essential services and resources.

 Between August and December 2022 CIS-NYC provided these services to 179 new arrivals.

 Distributed 122 gift cards and 122 metro cards.

 Distributed clothing and personal hygiene items to 138 clients.

SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAM SPECIAL INITIATIVES

Angel Fund Scholarship

CIS-NYC's Angel Fund Scholarship Program provides scholarships to low-income immigrant students who are pursuing higher education. Students also receive ongoing support from our social work team throughout the school year. We distributed \$8,400 in scholarships to 9 immigrant students in the Spring 2022 semester and \$6,450 to 11 students in the Fall 2022 semester.



Christmas Gift Distribution

In December we held our annual gift distribution and celebration where we distributed 222 toys and 70 jackets/ pieces of clothing to 111 children. We also distributed \$3,200 worth of gift cards. The 60 families who participated enjoyed face painting, arts and crafts, games, food, and of course the presence of Santa!



Family Trips

In July 2022, we took 36 clients to the Bronx Zoo, where they got to experience a day of exploring with family and friends.



ANDREA'S STORY

"Cabrini is my family; they have embraced and supported me. They've never given up on me and have always found a way to help me navigate my way through difficult situations in this country. Thank you for the opportunities you have given me as an immigrant, and your support to me as an adolescent, to continue my education."

- Andrea

Andrea left El Salvador at 15 years old in order to reunite with her family after being separated for nine years. After graduating highschool in the Bronx, she wanted to pursue higher education but learned that she was not eligible for scholarships because of her immigration status. CIS-NYC helped her to apply for college and awarded her a scholarship through our Angel Fund Program. Through her required volunteer work at CIS-NYC, Andrea discovered her passion for Social Work and she is now a student at LaGuardia Community College studying Human Services and Mental Health. Over the years CIS-NYC has also supported Andrea and her family through counseling, support groups, financial assistance, case management, and legal services, ensuring that they have felt supported throughout their journey of reunification and establishing a life in the U.S.

FOOD PANTRY



CIS-NYC's Food Pantry provides healthy, well-balanced packages of food to clients from our local community, ensuring that their most basic needs are met. Upon our relocation to Upper Manhattan in May 2022, our Food Pantry formed a partnership with the nearby Church of the Good Shepherd, where we distribute food on a weekly basis.

- 12,398 packages of food distributed.
- •1,033 packages of food distributed on average per month.
- Over 265,000 meals worth of food distributed.
- An average of **700 families** in need served each month.

Throughout the year we offered a range of additional services and resources during pantry service hours, including: information about COVID vaccinations, flu vaccine vouchers, job readiness resources, support accessing health insurance, and SNAP enrollment. Our pantry also began composting in 2022 with the support of GrowNYC!



JUSTICE FOR IMMIGRANTS



The Justice for Immigrants Program (JFI) aims to engage our multigenerational immigrant membership in educating their communities, developing leadership skills, building community resilience, and advocating for a more humane immigration system.

Nearly 150 community members participated in JFI activities throughout 2022. These activities included:

- 10 virtual educational workshops on important topics such as student rights in public schools, workers' rights, immigration basics, and more.
- 21 membership meetings where members learned about campaigns, shared resources, supported one another, and built power as a community.
- 17 campaign and advocacy activities such as rallies, bridge takeovers, creative actions, press conferences, trips to Albany, and meetings with elected officials. In 2022 we supported the #FundExcludedWorkers campaign and #Coverage4All, in addition to continued advocacy for broader immigration reform on the federal level.





Fostering New Leaders

26 individuals participated in a two-day leadership training in collaboration with our partners at Envision Freedom Fund. This training included discussion of systemic oppression and the history of migration, as well as training in practical skills for community building, navigating legislative solutions, and storytelling.

In 2022 three JFI members had the opportunity to develop their leadership skills as JFI Fellows. They were trained to do outreach, took on leadership roles during actions, facilitated membership meetings, and took on other responsibilities within the group.

JFI Members Speak Out

JFI member, Socorro, participated actively in the #FundExcludedWorkers campaign, advocating for an expanded Fund for Excluded Workers and unemployment benefits for excluded workers at rallies, marches, and press conferences. In January, with the support of CIS-NYC's Community Organizer, she told her story at a press conference, sharing: "I am here today because my family was one of the thousands of families that was impacted by the pandemic and who didn't receive assistance from the government due to our immigration status...The pandemic continues, while we remain excluded from the safety net, even though we pay taxes and contribute to the New York State economy. I am here to demand an additional 3 billion dollars for the Excluded Workers Fund and a permanent unemployment program so that we are no longer excluded.'

SPECIAL PARTNERSHIPS





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,

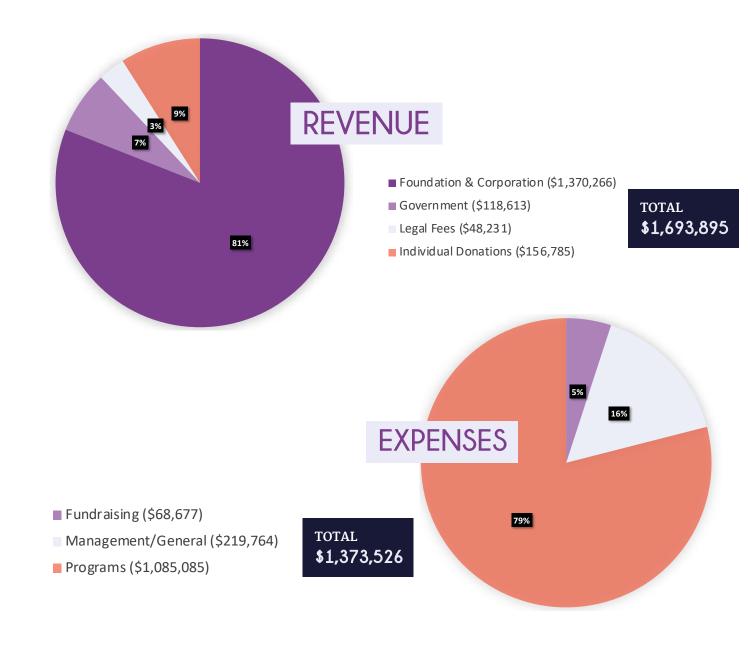
and in particular immigrants. Rompiendo Las Aguas is hosted by Angel Diaz who is a community leader and board member at CIS-NYC. The program airs every Thursday live on Radio Maria NYC at 9am and is rebroadcasted online by the Red of Radios Catolicas. In 2022 they had expert guests on to speak about immigration, religion, housing rights, COVID-19, and more. <u>Learn more and listen HERE bit.ly/CIS-RLA</u>.



SOLIDARITY PROJECT WITH SANT'EGIDIO

In 2022 CIS-NYC established a formal partnership with the Community of Sant'Egidio to establish a homeless outreach program. This program provides individuals experiencing homelessness in Midtown Manhattan with weekly meals, accompaniment, and support in accessing essential resources and services. Often these individuals have many different Case Managers throughout the year and can easily fall through the cracks; for many, Sant'Egidio was their only consistent source of support throughout 2022. In 2022 volunteers delivered nearly 18,000 meals, interacting with and providing support to as many as 350 individuals each month. *Learn more HERE bit.ly/SolidarityProject.*

FY 2022 FINANCIALS



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THANK YOU TO OUR

GENEROUS DONORS

- \$500,000 AND ABOVE -Mother Cabrini Health Foundation

- \$100,000 - \$499,999 -New York State Department of Labor Eric Lauffer & Giovanna Randall

- \$50,000 - \$99,999 -Emergency Food and Shelter Program (Food Bank for NYC)

- \$30,000 - \$49,999 -G. A. Ackermann Memorial Fund Cabrini Outreach Australia

- \$10,000 - \$29,999 -Community Food Connection Catholic Charities Archdiocese of NY Dorothy Mahoney Rasmuson 2013 Revocable Living Trust

- \$5,000 - \$9,999 -The Debra Carroll and Donald **DuFord Family Foundation** Food Bank for New York City Cabrini Mission Foundation New York Bar Foundation Charles H. Flynn Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program Alex Avitabile The Riverside Church in the City of New York

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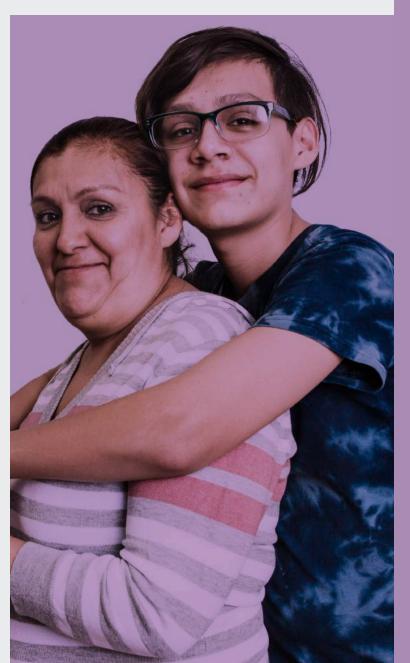
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