



AMERICAN GATEWAYS

Legal Services for New Americans

ANNUAL REPORT 2010

AMERICAN GATEWAYS is a non-profit organization that provides immigration legal services and education to secure justice for new Americans and enrich Central Texas communities.

In 2010, American Gateways delivered \$1,136,985 worth of services benefiting 16,833 people, an increase of 6,199 people more than in 2009, or 58%. These statistics demonstrate the difference we made in the lives of immigrants in need. Yet it is the personal stories of immigrants overcoming obstacles to build new lives in the U.S. that continue to inspire us.

When an immigrant leaves an abusive spouse and establishes her legal status separate from her abuser, when a man who was tortured because of his religion in his nation of origin is able to worship freely in Texas, or when communities see immigrants as trusted neighbors rather than

feared outsiders, we know we are making a difference.

Despite our effectiveness, governmental and institutional funding dropped from being 3/4 of American Gateways' budget in 2009 to 2/3 of our budget in 2010, and IOLTA funding for legal aid (derived from interest on lawyer trust accounts) has fallen by 75% statewide. In response, our board of directors strengthened efforts focusing on individual giving, enhancing our annual gala, and expanding our *pro bono* network. We have begun a long-

range shift toward being a community-supported institution, and we will need and depend upon the continued support of our constituents.

The board of directors of American Gateways extends

appreciation to everyone who contributed to helping those we serve in 2010. You helped us deliver better services to more people far more efficiently.

Last year American Gateways served more immigrant women in need—nearly 11,000—than we served in total of either gender in 2009.



Dear Friends and Supporters,

In 2010, American Gateways helped more people in need, educated more community groups about immigration, and engaged more volunteers than ever before. We are very grateful to everyone who helped us secure justice for immigrants and enrich communities in Central Texas.

Throughout the past year, day in, day out, our devoted staff and dedicated volunteers worked diligently to provide immigration legal services and education benefiting 16,833 people, 58% more people than in 2009. Because of what we accomplished together, today fewer immigrants remain in abusive relationships, fewer asylum seekers are held unnecessarily in immigrant detention centers, and fewer misconceptions about immigration poison our community.

Even as anti-immigrant legislation is considered at the Texas Legislature, population growth surges in Central Texas, and we mount our long-term transition away from diminishing government funding and toward a broad base of community support, we are confident that growing numbers of people will stand with us to ensure justice for immigrants and enrich Central Texas communities. Thank you for all that you do to assure access to justice for those least able to afford it.

Sincerely,

Oliver Bernstein
Board President

Chris Jimmerson
Executive Director

Statement of Activities

Fiscal Year 2009-2010

Support and Revenue

Grants	\$610,440
Contributions	\$363,335
Client Fees	\$93,051
Net Fundraising Events	\$45,956
Other	\$97

Total Support and Revenue \$1,112,879

Expenses

Program Services	\$1,083,035
General / Administrative	\$41,392
Fundraising Expense	\$12,558

Total Expenses \$1,136,985

Change in Net Assets (\$24,106)

Legal Services

	2009	2010	% Change
Clients Served	4,587	7,666	+ 67%

Outreach and Education

	2009	2010	% Change
Attended Presentations	6,047	9,167	+ 52%

Total	10,634	16,833	+ 58%
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Volunteers

	2009		2010	
	Volunteers	Hours	Volunteers	Hours
Pro Bono Attorneys	51	1,572	70	1,192
Other Volunteers	48	1,295	86	4,523

Financial information is from the period September 1, 2009, through August 31, 2010. Statistical information is from the period January 1 through December 31, 2010.

Our Programs and Accomplishments

Representing Immigrant Survivors of Abuse

We assist immigrant survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, and other violent crimes in applying for immigration benefits under the **Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)** and the **Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (VTVPA)**. We help survivors of abuse self-petition for legal permanent residency through VAWA, or apply for a U-Visa or a T-Visa under VTVPA. Our efforts provide battered immigrants with the tools necessary to leave an abusive situation, recover from crisis, and become their own advocates. **In 2010, this program benefitted 1,984 people.**



group. **In 2010, this legal program benefitted 4,968 people. Additionally, 8,642 people re-ceived our legal orientation and *pro se* workshops.**

Understanding Immigration

American Gateways conducts outreach, education and training for immigrants, the general public, governmental agencies, other non-profit service providers and community groups, private attorneys and law enforcement on immigrant legal issues and advocates on behalf of immigrants. **In 2010, we gave 341 presentations for 8,642 detained immigrants, and an additional 22 outreach presentations for 425 people.**

Assisting Asylum Seekers & Detainees

We offer legal representation to asylum seekers and detainees, and conduct educational rights presentations for people detained in immigrant detention facilities in Taylor and Pearsall. Asylum may be available for immigrants who fear returning to their country of origin because they have experienced or fear they will experience persecution based on their race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social



Citizenship and Family Reunification

We provide low-cost legal assistance to relatives of U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents who are eligible to immigrate through family-based petitions. Family reunification is the underlying core of this program. We also assist and encourage residents to become citizens, informing them of the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship. **In 2010, 714 people were served in this program.**

Volunteers Make Our Work Possible

In 2010, 70 *pro bono* attorneys gave 1,192 hours of legal services for the benefit of American Gateways' clients.

An additional 86 volunteers gave 4,523 hours of service.

All told, 156 volunteers gave 5,715 hours of volunteer service in 2010.

Client Demographics			
Ethnicity	2009	2010	% Change
White (Non-Hispanic)	2.01%	0.96%	- 52.24%
Black	20.87%	4.74%	- 77.29%
Hispanic	73.30%	92.81%	+ 26.62%
Native American	0.35%	0.25%	- 28.57%
Asian and Pac. Islander	3.19%	1.04%	- 67.40%
Other	0.28%	0.33%	+ 17.86%
Gender	2009	2010	
Female	56.73%	64.12%	
Male	43.27%	36.01%	

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Oliver Bernstein, *President*
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Benicio Diaz, *Staff Attorney - San Antonio*
Claudia Gonsalvez, *Screening and Referral Specialist*
Natalie Hansen, *Staff Attorney and Pro Bono Coordinator*
Becca Holtz, *Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator, Legal Case Worker*
Stephanie Kolmar, *Staff Attorney*
Holly Miranda, *Accredited Representative*
Sarah Slattery, *Legal Case Worker*

INTERNS AND LAW CLERKS, SUMMER 2010

Robert Brothers, Martha Buttry,
Lisa Dreyfus, José Galvan, Samuel
Liebl, Victoria Mendoza, Alyssa
Parsley, Adriana Rodriguez, Esmeralda
Tinajero, Cecilia Venegas

MAJOR FUNDERS

September 1, 2009 — August 31, 2010

Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld,
LLP
American Immigration Lawyers Association—Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico Chapter
Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services and Presbyterian Church USA
The Meadows Foundation
Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division
Office of the Texas Attorney General
Texas Access to Justice Foundation
Texas Health and Human Services Commission
The University of Texas School of Law
Legal Orientation Program, Federal Department of Justice through the Vera Institute for Justice
And many others

AMERICAN GATEWAYS 3rd ANNUAL GALA

Held June 2, 2010, at the
Long Center for the Performing Arts

SPECIAL THANKS

Sterling Affairs Catering

Ghulam Farid Nizami

GOLD SPONSORS

Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, L.L.P.

Baker Botts, L.L.P.

The Fowler Law Firm

Nelly Herrera and Paul Parsons

Lawyer Referral Service of Central Texas

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Gina Hinojosa and John Dinisi
Tara and Philip Menchaca
Maura Powers and Judge F. Scott
McCown (Ret.)
David Sheppard
Madison Sloan
York, Shah, M. Wood & R. Wood

THE THANKS OF OUR CLIENTS

"We are forever grateful for the help we received in this great country where you gave us the possibility to establish our new life in liberty!"

"For me, all of you are fantastic people! Angels sent by God to liberate us from anguish!"

"Everyone who works here is excellent and thank you very very much for the help and information you offered me!"

"I thank you with all of my heart! If I was not so lucky to be offered your services, I would be in a bad situation!"

"I never thought that my 10 years of domestic abuse would have a happy ending! Thank you to all for your help! Now nobody violates me and my right to live freely. I am a new woman with goals for the future, I want to learn, and all of this is because of this organization!"

www.americangateways.org

I LIVE HERE,
I GIVE HERE™

