We are Resolute: we stand with Immigrant Families

ANNUAL REPORT 2017
In 2017, new immigration policies that are focused on detention and deportation have had a broad and significant impact on all immigrants in Pennsylvania who are noncitizens. This expansion of the detention and removal system has resulted in families being separated at the border and in our community. PIRC has witnessed a sharp increase in the need for services and has responded through increased education, advocacy, and representation:

**Dear Friends,**

The year 2017 was a year of change for immigrants and their families. New administration policies have made immigrants and their families more vulnerable to family separation. And families like Marcos’ (see his story), and their employers and the community, are suffering as a result.

PIRC remains resolute.
We stand with immigrant families.

We are grateful for your support – through words, acts of volunteerism, and financial assistance. You have made it possible to serve more vulnerable immigrants in 2017 than in any other year in PIRC’s history, helping immigrant parents like Marcos and their children remain together in the community.

Let us know what you’re thinking. Follow us on Facebook or connect by email at info@pirclaw.org. Together we create futures of hope for vulnerable immigrants and families.

Kind Regards,

Andrew Mahon
Board President

Mary Studzinski
Executive Director

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Ryan Brunink  Managing Attorney/Legal Orientation Program
Christina Powers  Managing Attorney/Detention Representation
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**DEVELOPMENT/ADMINISTRATION**

**INCREASED EDUCATION IN DETENTION**

In 2017, PIRC’s Legal Orientation Program (LOP) provided services to more than 2,450 detained immigrants. PIRC provides LOP services at both the York County Prison, which detains immigrants from communities across Pennsylvania, and the Berks County family detention center. LOP services include Group Orientations, Individual Legal Orientations, and Self-Help Workshops.

Number of detained immigrants served:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>1900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1700</td>
</tr>
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<td>2014</td>
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**INCREASED SERVICES TO IMMIGRANT SURVIVORS**

In 2017, the Immigrant Survivors Project (ISP) experienced another year with a high level of services. PIRC’s ISP provided direct representation to 253 immigrant survivors, and 65 of their family members, who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. In the households of these survivors, 239 U.S. citizen children also benefited from the stabilization and security that immigration status provides.

**INCREASED DIRECT REPRESENTATION**

PIRC identifies the most vulnerable immigrants in detention for pro bono representation and refers cases to PIRC’s legal staff or to pro bono attorneys and law schools. In 2017, PIRC provided direct representation to 41 detained immigrants, pro se assistance to 49 detained immigrants, and mentored pro bono attorneys representing 19 detained immigrants.

Through the National Qualified Representative Program (NQRP), PIRC is the designated legal services provider for detained immigrants in removal proceedings deemed not competent to represent themselves before the immigration court.

**LAUNCH OF THE COMMUNITY DEFENSE SERVICES**

In 2017, PIRC launched the Community Defense Project, offering community legal clinics, supporting the need for increased LOP services, and providing advocacy for families and their loved ones in detention.
Marcos*, a working father of two young children, had no idea he was at risk of being held in immigration detention. Yet under current expanded immigration enforcement policies, immigration enforcement officers showed up at his home and took him into custody.

When Marcos came to the United States, he met and became friends with Valerie*, a U.S. citizen. They married and had two young children. Valerie told Marcos she would file the applications for his green card, but after their marriage, she started hitting and punching him, verbally abusing him, and threatening to have him deported. Despite the abuse, Marcos worked hard to ensure that his children were taken care of.

As Marcos witnessed the impact of his wife’s abuse on their young children, Marcos sought help. One of PIRC’s Immigrant Survivors Project advocates listened to Marcos and told him about the laws that protect victims of domestic violence. PIRC filed applications for Marcos, and he received a temporary lawful status while he waits for his green card.

In August 2017, Marcos received a traffic ticket, which he paid. Before the changes in enforcement policies, his temporary legal status would have protected Marcos against immigration detention and deportation. But under expanded enforcement, Marcos—a domestic violence survivor, and father of two—was taken into custody and detained at the York County Prison.

An attorney from PIRC’s Detention Programs advocated for Marcos, and he was granted bond. Marcos was released from detention and has been reunited with his children and returned to work and his home!

We believe families belong together.

Despite the abuse, Marcos worked hard to ensure that his children were taken care of.

In 2017, PIRC’s Detention Programs were able to prevent Marcos from being detained for his traffic ticket. PIRC’s Immigration Legal Services Program represented Marcos in his green card application, and he received a temporary status.

2017 AT A GLANCE

Revenue
- Government $364,204
- PA IOLTA $182,000
- Foundations $75,667
- Donations $47,570
- In-Kind Contributions $294,816
- Other Income $249

Expenses
- Program Services $914,178
- Administration $14,675
- Fundraising $38,553

Total Revenue $964,506
Total Expenses $967,406

ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR
James Gillespie, Esq.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR
Dr. Suzan Greenberg

LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR
Chan and Associates

CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE: ORGANIZATION
The Mildred and William Kaplan Foundation

CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE: INDIVIDUAL
James and Denise Wade

INTERPRETER OF THE YEAR
Ahlam Mohammed

VOICE OF COURAGE
Tatiana Mabiala
Thank you

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Silas Ruiz-Steele
University of Connecticut
Erin Varley
Villanova Law Clinic
Russ Wert
Sandra Wolf
Choy-Foong Wong
Throughout this report, we’ve changed the names of those we serve to protect their identity.

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