"Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope." – Robert F. Kennedy
Planting Seeds of Hope...

The Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center (PIRC) was formed in 1996 in response to the indefinite detention of the refugees of the Golden Venture with the purpose of providing access to justice to the most vulnerable immigrants in our community. PIRC gives legal assistance to vulnerable immigrants who have fled persecution and await immigration hearings in the York County Prison and the family detention center in Berks County, and to immigrant victims of violence who live in our communities with their families and children. PIRC educates immigrant victims about their rights and advocates for access to laws that offer them protection from further violence. PIRC staff works with the most vulnerable immigrants in our community, giving voice to their stories and planting seeds of hope where before there were none.

Message from Executive Director

Dear Friends,

In 2014, I was again struck by the vulnerability of the individuals we serve, particularly the children. No child is born thinking he or she will be a victim of violence or held in detention. In 2014, PIRC served over 1800 vulnerable children and adults in immigration detention and in our communities, working to restore the promise of a life lived in safety.

PIRC's staff works with immigrants who are often at their greatest point of despair and vulnerability. Through education, advocacy, legal assistance and representation, PIRC provides work authorization, lawful status, and relief from removal. Life changing impact that plants the seed of hope in the hearts of the people we serve.

This year's annual report shares the many services offered and individuals impacted by PIRC's work in 2014. I encourage you to read about this impact in the words of two individuals we helped this past year.

This report also highlights the tremendous support PIRC received in 2014 from pro bono attorneys, law school and university partners, interpreter and translator volunteers, and professional volunteers. The time and talent of volunteers multiplied the impact of our organization, making it possible to serve many more immigrants than would otherwise be possible. And importantly, our funders and donors continued to provide support making it possible for us to continue our good work.

Together, we made a profound difference in the lives of many. We hope you will join us in 2015 in creating hope and promise in the lives of vulnerable immigrants.

Mary Weaver

The Golden Venture refugees made the long and difficult journey from China to seek asylum, with their journey ending in York, Pennsylvania. Since PIRC's founding in 1996, PIRC has provided free legal services to vulnerable immigrants fleeing persecution who have traveled to York and south central Pennsylvania from countries all over the globe.
2014: Board of Directors

Angus Love, Esq. (President)
Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project

Andrew Mahon, Esq. (Vice President)
Law Office of Troy Mattes

Elodia Barajas-Zepeda (Secretary)
School District of the City of York

Richelle Hamberger, CPA (Treasurer)
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Public Defender’s Office

Russ Wert
Edward Jones

Staff

Mary Weaver, Executive Director

Detained Programs

Amara Riley, Managing Attorney
Selby Abraham, Staff Attorney
Matthew Lamberti, Staff Attorney
Joseph Cackley,
Protection Advocate Coordinator

Community Programs

Diana Locke, Managing Attorney
Sarah Martin-Torres, CPIP Coordinator
Marissa Mowery, Legal Advocate

Development/Administration
Elizabeth Miller, Development Manager/Office Manager
Angelica Ramos, Office Assistant
...for Futures of Promise

"After I received that legal document, doors I never knew existed opened up for me, opportunities came. I was able to get a state issued id, social security card. I am able to register my children for school. I was able to obtain medical insurance and apply to jobs, I can even apply to colleges, something I thought would never happen to me..." PIRC Client

PIRC's work creates hope and opportunity for vulnerable immigrants. Hope often emerges when an individual who has fled abuse or persecution can access protections available to them under U.S. law. Protecting asylum seekers from removal back to countries where their lives would be in danger, or helping victims obtain a work card or a green card restores the promise of a better future for them and their children. With lawful status, previously closed doors are opened to opportunities for better wages, education, financial stability, access to healthcare, and personal safety... opportunities for futures of promise.

Towards a Future of Promise... Andrei’s Story

Andrei Pranovich (fictional name) found himself in detention at the York County Prison at the end of a journey that was at once familiar and uniquely his. Back in his country of origin, Andrei placed a high value on education and pursued his studies, earning a bachelor's degree and an advanced degree in business management. In 2005, he became politically active in his Eastern European country and began protesting the government's oppressive policies. As a result of his political protests, Andrei was repeatedly subjected to threats, unlawful arrests and detentions, and attacks and torture by various government officials, including the KGB. Although Andrei had enjoyed successful employment, the repeated targeted abuse by the KGB made Andrei's employers feel unsafe and he was fired. Unable to find employment anywhere and desperate to support himself and his wife, Andrei became involved with cybercrime.

To escape the abuse, Andrei and his wife fled their country for the Czech Republic. A few years later, his cybercrime caught up with him and Andrei was arrested and extradited to the United States for prosecution. In 2012, he was convicted and sentenced to time in prison. After serving his sentence, Andrei was transferred to immigration detention to wait for his deportation hearing. In 2012 Andrei represented himself before the immigration court, telling his story of persecution by the KGB. Because of his cybercrime, Andrei could not request asylum, but requested and was granted relief from deportation under the Convention Against Torture ("CAT"). The government appealed the decision to not remove him and his case was sent back to the lower court for a second hearing. During this time, PIRC staff met with Andrei and was able to represent him on a pro bono basis. In March 2014, Andrei was again granted relief under the CAT. However, the government appealed the decision a second time, and Andrei remained detained. Finally, and a few months later, the appeal was dismissed. In October 2014, more than two years after his immigration detention began, Andrei was released from detention. Since then Andrei has led a productive life. Finally free from the threats and acts of torture and with the ability to remain in the U.S., Andrei has been able to focus on his important goals of finding employment and pursuing education. He currently works as a paralegal in a law office, has built a supportive community, and has registered for online educational courses.
PIRC Continues to Develop Partnerships to Broaden Impact

PIRC continues to build on partnerships with law schools and universities in the region, including Widener University School of Law, Villanova University School of Law, University of Pennsylvania Law School, Penn State Dickinson School of Law, and Franklin & Marshall College to provide valuable learning experiences. In 2014, PIRC worked with students on a variety of projects to educate others about representation of immigrants and immigrant rights.

- PIRC partnered with Penn State Dickinson School of Law to develop two immigration law toolkits for pro bono attorneys. These toolkits, covering two forms of relief from removal, contain relevant statutory and case law, sample affidavits and briefs, post-hearing issues, and relevant articles.

- PIRC also provided substantial input on a 3rd Circuit Immigration Blog, developed by the Penn State Dickinson School of Law. The blog contains summaries of precedential and non-precedential Third Circuit immigration opinions related to immigration detention and relief from removal.

- With the help of an F&M student, PIRC is making pro se materials for detainees at the York County Prison and Berks County Residential Center easier to read and navigate. During the year, law students assisted with research on country conditions and forms completion workshops.
Planting Seeds of Hope...
protecting vulnerable immigrants from future prosecution

Programs for Detained Immigrants

For many immigrants in detention, the only information they receive about their rights or possible legal options is through PIRC's education. PIRC is one of only 18 service providers in the United States to offer the Legal Orientation Program (LOP) to immigrants in civil detention. The LOP educates immigrants on immigration law, immigration court procedure, and the potential for legal remedies. PIRC provides LOP services to the 700-800 immigrants in detention at the York County Prison and the 75-90 family members detained at the Berks County Residential Center, on average each day. Through this education, PIRC seeks to empower immigrants so that they are better able to have their voices heard by an immigration judge.

- In 2014, PIRC helped over 1,700 individuals at the York County Prison and the Berks County Residential Center to understand their rights and prepare for their hearing before an immigration judge;
- The LOP helps detained immigrants move through the Immigration Court on average 11 days faster than defendants who do not receive this pro se education; and
- Detained immigrants who participate in the LOP are in detention on average of six fewer days.

PIRC, and the private attorneys who work pro bono with PIRC, represent Vulnerable Persons in Detention, many of whom have fled persecution and torture and are seeking refuge in the United States. Legal representation is critical to a successful defense against removal, as a legal advocate can navigate the nuance and limitations of existing immigration law and leverage legal protections to form a critical advantage in an individual's defense. With legal representation, asylum applicants are more than three times more likely to be granted asylum than those without legal representation. The impact of this direct representation and advocacy is measured in lives changed. In 2014, 56 detained immigrants were provided with direct representation either through a PIRC staff attorney or a pro bono attorney from our community.

Education and Outreach

PIRC offers a wide range of educational and outreach activities to empower community members with knowledge about representing undocumented individuals and immigrant rights. In 2014, PIRC provided, in partnership with county bar associations, five Continuing Legal Education (CLE) classes, training 92 attorneys. Additionally, PIRC assisted with a legal clinic helping 16 community members apply for Naturalization and conducted outreach with community organizations and agencies, reaching 317 providers in the community.

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1, 2 The Vera Institute of Justice, Report Summary May 2008.
Hope for a better life... Sakura's Story

"I met my husband in Angola when I was just 16 years old. He seemed like a good person and my family was very poor. I thought that marrying him was my best chance at having a better life, but after we got married, he changed. For the next 12 years he treated me like a slave... like trash, like a pig and like a dog. We came to the United States with our three daughters and the abuse got even worse. Our visas expired and my daughters and I had no legal immigration status. I was afraid to report the abuse to the police—I didn’t think they would help me and feared that I might even be deported if I reached out for help.

Finally, in 2011 I was so afraid of my husband that I took my daughters to a friend’s house. She helped me to report the abuse to the police and get connected with Safe Home. With help from advocates at Safe Home and MidPenn Legal Services I got a protection order and cooperated in the criminal case against my husband. Shortly after that I met with an attorney from PIRC who told me that my daughters and I could be eligible for the U Visa. They took my case and we worked together for several months to prepare my application. I started to feel like I had people on my side and that I wasn’t completely powerless. In 2013 my case was approved and my daughters and I now have legal immigration status/our green cards. Now, I am able to work legally and support myself and my daughters. I felt like a huge weight has been lifted off of my shoulders."
Planting Seeds of Hope...
providing immigrant victims and their families safety and opportunity for a better life

Programs for Immigrants in Our Community

Immigrant victims are often afraid to report the abuse they are suffering out of fear that if they come forward, they will face deportation and separation from their children or parents. They are often unaware of the protections available under U.S. laws that allow them to remain in the country with their loved ones. PIRC’s Central Pennsylvania Immigration Project (CPIP) works within the community to educate victims and service providers about the rights and available legal protections for immigrant victims, some of the most marginalized individuals in our society. CPIP works to secure these protections for immigrant victims by providing free legal services to indigent, immigrant victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and other serious crimes in nine counties in south central Pennsylvania and helping them to obtain work authorization and lawful status.

- Lawful status is life changing. Lawful status creates educational and employment opportunities that positively impact victims, their children, and the community.
- PIRC partners with seven victim services agencies to ensure victims receive the counseling, shelter, and assistance they need.
- In 2014, CPIP provided direct representation to 137 immigrant victims and family members and to date has helped 238 immigrant victims and 67 family members to obtain immigration status and work authorization. In the households of these immigrant victims there were over 144 U.S. citizen minor children who benefited from the increased safety and financial stability created by lawful status.
- Counties served: Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry, York.

CPIP Partners

| YWCA of York/York County | Domestic Violence Services/
| YWCA of Hanover, Safe Home/
| York County | Lancaster County
| Survivors, Inc./ Adams County | Lancaster YWCA/Lancaster County
| Women in Need (WIN)/Franklin
and Fulton Counties | Harrisburg YWCA/Dauphin County
| York County Bar Association | Pennsylvania Coalition Against
| Domestic Violence
| Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape |
"Human Beings, indeed all sentient beings, have the right to pursue happiness and live in peace and freedom."
– 14th Dalai Lama
Planting Seeds of Hope...
giving voice to the stories of children and their parents in family detention

Programs for Families in Detention

They flee violence, kidnappings, extortion, and threats on their lives. Mothers, fathers, and their young children often travel hundreds of miles to reach the U.S. from places as far away as China, Iraq, Syria, Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador. They reach the U.S. southern border and ask for refuge from the violence and suffering that has overtaken their lives. They speak about the persecution of gangs or clans in power and about the corruption and ineffectualness of local government and law enforcement to protect them. They arrive seeking refuge, but they have no documents. So they are detained.

In the summer of 2014, the Obama Administration changed immigration policies and began detaining all families – regardless of whether a border agent or asylum officer found their story of fear to be credible. Some of these families are held in detention in Pennsylvania, just outside Reading. None of the family members detained have a criminal history. They wait in detention for months, along with their children ranging in age from 12 days old to almost 18 years old, to tell their story by videoconference to an Immigration Judge.

PIRC meets with the mothers and fathers after they arrive in detention and listens to their stories. PIRC’s Protection Advocate Initiative Coordinator advocates for family members through education about their rights, assistance with non-legal needs, and coordination of available community resources. PIRC staff also provides Legal Orientation Program services, providing education about available legal options and court procedures to prepare family members for their hearings. And PIRC works to match families with pro bono representation when possible. Since March 2012, PIRC has provided services to more than 380 families at the family detention center.

Language Access

What is Language Access? It is the ability for individuals who have a limited ability to speak, read, or write in English to receive assistance in accessing important services. Limited English proficiency is consistently identified as a barrier for vulnerable immigrants accessing legal and social services. PIRC’s nine multilingual staff members provide language access by ensuring that each of the vulnerable immigrants we help can understand and access our services by communicating with them in either English or their native language. PIRC advocates for language access for detained immigrants and for immigrant victims of violence and works for systems change within the community through training and education. Language access recognizes that to access justice victims must not only have their story understood, but they must also understand the legal process that protects them.
Light of Liberty Award Recipients

Law Firm - Akin Gump Strauss Hauer and Feld LLP
Community Programs Attorney – Andrew Mahon, Esq.
Detained Programs Attorney – Elizabeth Hoffman, Esq.
Volunteer Interpreter/Translator – Michelle Diaz
Professional Volunteer – Dr. Judy Eidelson
Planting Seeds of Hope...
working with volunteers to create futures filled with promise

In order to broaden our service reach, PIRC works alongside amazing individuals who volunteer their time with the united goal of providing access to justice. Private attorneys from York, Berks, Lancaster, Dauphin, and Cumberland counties and the Philadelphia region, in addition to law students from the Widener University School of Law, Villanova University School of Law, University of Pennsylvania Law School, and Penn State Dickinson School of Law have been instrumental in providing legal representation and case assistance on a pro bono basis to vulnerable immigrants. In 2014, these attorneys and law students donated hundreds of hours totaling more than $180,000 of in-kind professional services. This figure does not communicate the immeasurable value of their work, which in the last year has helped individuals obtain legal status, secure humanitarian relief, and start new lives.

To support the pro bono efforts of these attorneys and law students, PIRC provides unique training and resources, matching pro bono attorneys with mentoring attorneys and volunteer interpreters. We hear from pro bono attorneys that providing representation for a vulnerable immigrant is both rewarding and a learning experience. If you have an interest in helping in this way, please go to our website at www.pirclaw.org to learn more.

Volunteers outside of the legal community also assist the individuals we serve in a number of ways. In 2014, community members generously donated their talents in order to provide assistance with medical and psychological care and evaluation, interpretation and translation, and marketing and administration.

Each year, PIRC holds the Light of Liberty Awards Reception to recognize and honor the many community members who volunteered their time to ensure access to justice for vulnerable immigrants. The 2014 award winners went above and beyond to give voice to stories that would have otherwise gone unheard.

Volunteer Spotlight

Throughout PIRC's work we identify many survivors of torture and other forms of severe human rights abuses at the York and Berks county detention facilities. Many of these individuals seek humanitarian protection in the U.S. due to the abuses they've endured in their home countries that have caused psychological trauma. Communicating the existence and impact of this trauma to an immigration judge, however, can be a difficult task. With proper documentation via forensic evaluations, experiences of trauma can be included in an individual's case often making the difference between an individual remaining in the U.S. or being returned to a country where his or her life will be in danger. Judy Eidelson, Ph.D. has supported PIRC's work throughout the past few years by generously providing pro bono forensic evaluations for detained immigrants who are challenging their deportation.

Throughout her volunteer time with PIRC, Dr. Eidelson spent hours meeting with detainees and creating written evaluations that could be included as evidence in cases. In 2014, Dr. Eidelson provided a pro bono evaluation for a detained individual from Somalia who had suffered persecution due to his membership in a certain clan. Her evaluation was a positive factor in his grant of asylum. Dr. Eidelson's work has made it possible for detained individuals to communicate the impact of the abuses they have suffered, and strengthens their cases for humanitarian relief. This year's recipient of the Light of Liberty Professional Volunteer Award is an incredible example of the difference volunteerism makes in the lives of the people we serve.
Economic Impact of PIRC's Services

The Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center devotes 90.9% of funding to program services. PIRC's funding is additionally "put to work" by leveraging in-kind donations that represent 24% of total PIRC revenue.

2014 Revenue:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public/Government funding</td>
<td>$482,401</td>
<td>82.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual Contributions</td>
<td>$9,139</td>
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<td>Private Foundations and Contributions</td>
<td>$93,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
<td>$2,886</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sub-total</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Kind</td>
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<tr>
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2014 Expenditures:

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Support Services/Management/Ops</td>
<td>$37,188</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$12,830</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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Donations to PIRC benefit our Community

The York County Bar Foundation commissioned an impact study in 2013 to assess the economic benefits of money spent on civil legal services in York County. The results of this study show that every $1 invested in civil legal services, including the services of PIRC, creates a $9 return or benefit to the community. This economic benefit is the result of increased wages when an immigrant becomes work authorized; increases in tax revenue; cost savings from a reduction in domestic violence related costs such as shelter; and the economic multiplier effect of having more dollars circulating in the local economy.

Donors

In 2014, we were again grateful for the tremendous support from donors and funders. Our funders and donors allow us to continue our good work. Each vulnerable immigrant served is indigent and does not possess the resources to access our life changing services. Funding from generous organizations and individuals make this access possible.

Individuals

Anonymous
James and Suzanne Bruzga
Diane Elderkin
Angie Eveler
Jill Family & Nicholas Stapp
Rosanna Felix
David and Jennifer Freedman
William Gierasch
Clasina Houtman
Jessica Kurtz
Angus Love
Andrew Mahon
Ronald Nath
Jayesh Rathod
Charles and Toni Rausch
Patricia Reed and E. Nute
Henry Rhoads
Laura Smith
Justin Tomevi
Hon. Craig Trebilcock and Family
Hon. John Uhler
James Wade
Francis Weaver
Mary Weaver
Laurie Weist
Robert and Judith Woods

Private Foundations, Corporations, and Other Organizations:

- York County Bar Foundation
- Gladfelter Insurance
- William and Mildred Kaplan Foundation
- Law Foundation of Berks County
- Berks County Bar Association
- Philadelphia Bar Foundation
- Rehmeyer Trust Foundation
- Round Hill Presbyterian Church
- American Immigration Lawyers Association Philadelphia Chapter
- Holberg Design
Thank you for bringing promise to immigrants most in need of hope.

PIRC relies on the hard work of volunteers to accomplish our mission of providing access to justice to vulnerable immigrants. Throughout 2014, community members donated their experience in medical and psychological care and evaluation, legal representation, interpretation and translation, and marketing and administration. With the time and talent of these volunteers, PIRC was able to provide critical services to individuals in need. Thank you to all of the volunteers who took time in 2014 to assist our organizations and the clients we serve!

2014 Pro Bono Attorneys & Volunteers

Roble Alshine
Marla Axelrod, Esq.
Taylor Bare
Jeffrey Boogay, Esq.
Megan Bremer, Esq.
Moriah Julia Briar
Valerie Burch, Esq.
Wendy Chan, Esq.
Eugene Creany, Esq.
Shamaine Daniels, Esq.
Michelle Diaz
Vanessa Díaz
Carol Anne Donohoe, Esq.
Judy Eidelson, Ph.D.
Farhiyo S. Elmi
Jill Family, Esq.
Sarah Filone
David Freedman, Esq.
Conchita García
Brennan Giangrasso, Esq.
Joseph Gordon, Esq.
Rosalyn Groff
Mark Harmon-Vaugh
Lauren Hartley
Joseph Hohenstein, Esq.
Elizabeth Hoffman, Esq.
Katelyn Hufe, Esq.
Akansha Kalra, Esq.
Steve Koehler, Esq.
Robert LeFevre, Esq.
Andrew Mahon, Esq.
Mayra Medina
Marissa Mowery
Leanne Miller, Esq.
Rebecca Munschker
Timothy Norton, Esq.
Tatiana Pakula
Daniel Pell, Esq.
Michele Pistone, Esq.
Michelle Pokrifka, Esq.
Daniel Puskar, Esq.
Alison Razet, Esq.
Morgan Reed
Laura Smith, Esq.
Katie Snyder
Rosina Stambaugh, Esq.
Justin Tomovi, Esq.
Matthew Varzally, Esq.
Subha Viswanathan, Esq.
Shoba Sivaprasad Wadhia, Esq.
Ellen Weaver
Jason Wei, Esq.
Stephen Werner, Esq.

As illustrated with each of the maps throughout this report, PIRC serves vulnerable immigrants seeking refuge from violence and persecution who make the long journey to our community from countries all over the world. PIRC and our supporters share in these journeys, planting seeds of hope for futures of promise.

PIRC
Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center
Educating, advocating, ensuring access to justice
www.pirclaw.org

The Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization, under the United States Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). The official registration and financial information of the Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1(800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.