2015 was a year of growth and change for us. As the year began we launched our immigration legal services program. During the year we opened 348 cases and by the end of the year four clients had become US citizens and 38 more were on their way to becoming citizens.

Our family services program moved to the YWCA building in Bremerton and we strengthened our partnership with them. During the year we served 154 people in our monthly medical clinics operated by volunteer doctors and nurses. With the help of the community, Poulsbo-North Kitsap Rotary, and Bainbridge Grace Episcopal Church we were able to serve 54 people in our dental clinics. We continued to assist clients in meeting basic needs and connecting to educational and social services resources.

The strength of our community is in its people. In 2015 volunteers donated over 5,500 hours of service to KIAC. In December we began a partnership with Leadership Kitsap called Community Conversations. The intent is to bring community members together to promote meaningful contact and get to know each other better. As we move into 2016 we anticipate a year full of opportunities to build a more just, sustainable and connected community.

The Kitsap Immigrant Assistance Center is a 501(c)3 Non-profit. We are primarily funded by community donations. To find out more about us and to support us visit our website at www.kitsapiac.org.
A Year of Growth

Family Services

Family services served 358 people and families in 2015. People continued to present us with myriad ways to serve them. In addition to continuing our medical clinics and starting our dental clinic, we provided ESL practice workshops for clients working on improving their English. We also started a citizenship workshop. These are designed to help people who are preparing to take the citizenship exam learn more about the United States and how they can participate when they become citizens.

Co-locating with the YWCA is helping ensure that our shared clients have all the services they need in one convenient place.

Legal Services

Our legal program opened in December of 2014. We provide immigration services to people who could otherwise not afford them. The vast majority of our clients would not have been able to get the legal help we provided without our program. We started 2015 with 30 cases and opened 348 more during the year. Immigration cases typically take months to years to reach a conclusion but in November we celebrated our first client gaining US citizenship. It was a proud day for her and us and an emotional experience watching her take the oath of allegiance. She registered to vote on the same day.

Responding to calls for our services in Forks and Belfair, we held legal clinics there and continue to work with clients from both areas. During the year several young DREAMERS gained DACA status which gives them the ability to work legally to support their continuing studies. Many of our clients have their own small businesses and we helped many of them improve their business through better financial management.