2016 Annual Report

A Year of Challenges

2016 was a challenging year for immigrants to the United States. It was a testing time as well for those of us working to ease their pathway in, help them meet basic needs, and assist as they overcome unique barriers to lead productive lives here. In our 12th year as the only local agency devoted exclusively to immigrants, KIAC rose to meet these challenges. As a result, we ended the year in a stronger position to face the obstacles ahead.

Throughout the year, the presidential election created an atmosphere of heightened fear and uncertainty among the immigrant population. And in February, one of the key tools for immigrant assistance—the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans (DAPA) program—was placed on indefinite hold by federal court injunction. We also faced a large influx of unaccompanied minors across the southern border, chiefly from Central America.

KIAC turned these obstacles into opportunities by:

♦ Expanding our outreach to the immigrant community;
♦ Doubling our volunteer immigration legal assistance team;
♦ Moving Legal Services into larger office space and adding paid staff time;
♦ Increasing client matters handled at the Family Services Center by 19%;
♦ Expanding citizenship class hours at the Family Services Center;
♦ Adding new collaborations with other community agencies; and
♦ Laying the groundwork for administrative and structural changes in 2017.

KIAC’s work has not gone unnoticed. The Kitsap Human Rights Council awarded its 2016 Linda Gabriel Award to Ray Garrido and Martitha May, directors of our Legal and Family Services programs. Kitsap Community Foundation named Board Member Dorothea Lintz a 2016 Philanthropist of the Year. And, Leadership Kitsap showcased KIAC clients and services in a video and sponsored a community conversation on immigration.

Please join us in a look back at a truly remarkable year!
Highlights

About Our Clients

In 2016 KIAC helped 746 immigrants adjust to life here and attend to a broad range of needs (see next page). Our clientele was up 30% from 2015.

Clients hailed from 34 countries; 82.2% arrived from Guatemala or Mexico. Fifty-five percent were women, and 66% met federal guidelines for poverty.

Our volunteers donated 6,882 hours, and we formed new partnerships for services.

Milestones

- 103 attended medical clinics
- 97 received clothing
- 34 filed federal / state taxes
- 30 received green cards
- 30 earned U.S. citizenship
- 27 attended dental clinics
- 25 achieved DACA status
- 11 received business licenses
- 2 juveniles gained SIJS status

E's Journey

Born in a Central American village, E. was a teen at a time when the government was powerless to control gangs. Terrified after her father was killed and she was harassed by a gang, E. fled to the U.S. where she was placed in removal proceedings. As E. was a minor, she was placed with a Washington resident (S.) who came from her village. To avoid deportation and qualify for a green card, E. needed Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) before her 18th birthday. This required court documents, affidavits from relatives and legal representation so E. could be formally assigned to S.’s custody. In a race to achieve this, KIAC partnered with a local attorney and Northwest Immigrant Rights Project. The day before E.’s 18th birthday, the court granted custody. E. has applied for permanent residency. The fast action of KIAC and our partners probably saved her life.

2016 Income $107,160

- Donations 43.2%
- Fees 14.0%
- Grants 42.8%

2016 Expenses $85,073

- Admin. 11.4%
- Family Services 32.8%
- Legal Services 55.8%

Programs

Family Services Client Needs

- Medical Clinic .................................. 103
- In-Kind Assistance ......................... 98
- Legal - Immigration ........................ 89
- Legal - Other .................................. 84
- Education ..................................... 81
- Understanding Bills ........................ 79
- Medical - Other ......................... 60
- Immunizations ............................. 29
- Dental Clinic ................................. 27
- Dental Inquiry .............................. 23
- Physical Therapy ........................... 23
- ESL Info ...................................... 22
- Citizenship Tutoring .............. 20
- Interpreting .................................. 20
- Family Problems/ DV .............. 16
- ID (Passport/Drivers L./ etc) ........ 16
- Housing ...................................... 14
- Public Benefits Assistance .... 13
- Taxes .......................................... 7
- Work Related .............................. 6
- Foot Treatment ...................... 5
- Volunteering ............................ 1
- Total ......................................... 836

Legal Assistance - New Cases

- Naturalization .............................. 90
- Taxes/Business License/Employment 49
- DACA/DAPA .............................. 45
- Green Card .................................. 42
- Family Unity ............................... 40
- Various Other Immigration .... 31
- Victim Support ........................... 10
- Total ......................................... 307

Mission Statement

KIAC is committed to the wellbeing of immigrants and the development of a rich multicultural community. We work to empower, educate and integrate immigrants through advocacy and social justice.

West Sound Free Clinic staff join KIAC staff and volunteers at a monthly medical clinic hosted by KIAC at the YWCA. Physical therapy and podiatry also were available in 2016.

Collaboration is key to KIAC's services. The LDS Church donated these backpacks, filled with school supplies and notes from the church children. Legal Coordinator Lirio Webb said immigrant children sent back notes of gratitude.