

CARECEN

40th Anniversary Gala

NOVEMBER 16, 2023 | 6 PM | THE CRESCENT BEACH CLUB



Welcome to
CARECEN'S 40th Anniversary Gala

*Celebrating four decades of life-changing services
for Long Island's immigrants*



A MESSAGE FROM CARECEN'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ELISE DE CASTILLO

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe that it has been four years since CARECEN's last gala. In that time, we have faced a leadership change, a global pandemic, a new administration in Washington, and a dramatic increase in the number of asylum seekers arriving on Long Island. Any one of these would test an organization's strength. Combined, they have the potential to shutter even the most established institutions.

But, CARECEN has come out of the last four years stronger than ever. Our staff has grown from seven to 50, and this growth has increased exponentially the number of immigrants we are able to help and the ways that we are able to help them. Our holistic programs now provide support in every critical aspect of an immigrants' life: from legal, to food and housing, to education and job placement, to mental, physical and financial health. Quite simply – through our bilingual, bicultural team – CARECEN offers all of the services that immigrants need to rebuild their lives on Long Island.

As we have grown our programs, we have also increased our reach. We have expanded geographically, focusing services in both high-immigrant density communities as well as in remote areas where help for newcomers is limited, like on Long Island's East End. We have also engaged new communities to ensure that CARECEN is accessible to all immigrants regardless of country of origin or language spoken.

On this, our 40th anniversary, we are honored to look back on the legacy of the past four decades that laid the groundwork for our current success. Like the immigrants that we serve, the journey from there to here has been a long one. It has tested our resilience, but our dedication to our mission has been, and will continue to be, our north star. We are excited to celebrate this legacy with you all tonight.

In Solidarity,

Elise de Castillo, Esq.
Executive Director

A MESSAGE FROM CARECEN'S INTERIM BOARD PRESIDENT
AMY FLORES

Dear Supporters of CARECEN,

As Interim President of the Board of Directors of CARECEN and on behalf of its board members, I would like to extend my appreciation to all our 2023 honorees for their support and dedication to CARECEN's mission to empower immigrants through legal services, community education and advocacy.

Tonight, we celebrate our distinguished honorees and thank them for their commitment to changing the lives of our immigrant community and supporting one of our most vulnerable populations. We admire them for their professional achievements, leadership and service. We thank all of the individuals, and sponsors that have made our 40th Anniversary Gala possible.

Thank you for supporting us in our mission and impact as we strive to make Long Island a place that welcomes and values immigrants and their contributions in our region.

The Board would also like to recognize Executive Director Elise de Castillo, and the staff of CARECEN, and thank them for their efforts and dedication to the organization - with your help, we are changing and improving lives and our overall community to support new Americans in becoming full participants in social, and economic life.

I hope you enjoy our 40th Anniversary Gala celebration and the life changing impact we are making together for generations to come!

Thank you,

Amy L. Flores
Interim President of the Board of Directors

CARECEN provides legal services,
community education and advocacy
to Long Island's immigrants.

*We are proud to have lived
this mission for 40 years.*



A MESSAGE FROM CARECEN'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The United States is known as a country of immigrants and, as the board of directors, we embrace and support the diversity of Long Island. We are proud of CARECEN's 40 years of vital work on behalf of immigrants on Long Island, and the work we will continue to do for decades to come. Only through unity can we make Long Island a more just and welcoming place for all.



From top left: Blanca Villanueva, MPH - President; Gabriela Castillo, Esq. - Secretary; William O'Shea - Treasurer; Amy Flores; Juan Martínez; Own Naqvi; Ruth Silverman, PhD; Luis Vázquez; Lauris Wren, Esq.

CARECEN STAFF



CARECEN staff at Hofstra University's Celebration of Suburban Diversity.

Karina Aguilar, *Administrative Assistant*

Karla Alas Rivera, *Immigrant Community Navigator*

Beatríz Alemán Cisneros, *Paralegal*

Antonella Banegas, *IJC Justice Fellow*

Jenny Chévez Kessinger, *DOJ Accredited Representative*

Melanie Creps, *Community Programs Director*

Anthony Cruz, *Low Bono Supervisor*

Elise de Castillo, Esq., *Executive Director*

Márton Diószegi, *Community Educator*

María Dominguez, *Community Programs Associate*

Megan Elman, Esq., *Supervising Attorney*

Mohammad Nasir Erkin, *Finance Director*

Jessica Greenberg, Esq., *Legal Director*

CARECEN STAFF

Mayra Interiano, *Paralegal*

Chris Jackson, *Development and Communications Coordinator*

Pablo Jiménez, Esq., *Supervising Attorney*

Karen Krokowski Díaz Tobar, *Paralegal*

Gianela Liendo Fuentes, MSW, *Social Worker*

Claudia Lobos, *Office Coordinator*

Kriscia López Martínez, *Legal Programs Associate*

Andrea Madrid, Esq., *Supervising Attorney*

Austin McCabe, *ESOL Coordinator*

Julia Miller, Esq., *ONA Legal Counsel*

Vivian Morales, LMSW, *Lead Social Worker*

Raquel Morote, *ONA Legal Counsel*

Laura Mustakos, *ESOL Teacher*

Bridget Navas, *Paralegal*

Anna Nuñez, *Legal Coordinator*

Ferida Osman, *Law Clerk*

Andrea Parejo, Esq., *ONA Legal Counsel*

Leslie Pérez, *Job Coach*

Bryan Pérez, *Paralegal*

Fernando Ruiz, *Director of Operations*

Andrea Sacasa, *ONA Legal Counsel*

Mónica Sánchez, Esq., *Staff Attorney*

Katie Sandoval, *Paralegal*

Andrés Santamaría Cortés, Esq., *ONA Legal Counsel*

Marcia Suárez, *Paralegal*

Areeba Thakir, Esq., *Supervising Attorney*

Donna Vargas, MSW, *Social Worker*



Elizabeth K. Fonseca

in memoriam

The J.M. Kaplan Fund

Elizabeth Kaplan Fonseca was the daughter of immigrants, an accomplished painter, generous philanthropist, beloved mother, and proud resident of Long Island from the time that Suffolk County was truly rural.

Born in New York City in 1929, Elizabeth's family moved to East Hampton when she was a child. Elizabeth was well-traveled – volunteering with the American Field Service in Belgium at the end of World War II, studying painting in Italy, and living in Uruguay, the home country of her husband, world-renowned painter and sculptor Gonzalo Fonseca. However, although she traveled the world, Long Island always remained close to Elizabeth's heart.

Also close to Elizabeth's heart were immigrant rights. She was a trustee of the J.M. Kaplan Fund, a foundation established by her father which is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all New Yorkers – those born here as well as those who have chosen to make it home, including immigrants.

Elizabeth used her voice in the foundation to support immigrants rights organizations in New York City and Long Island to the benefit of tens of thousands of immigrants. She was known for her never failing to acknowledge the struggle of immigrants and those less seen, personally sponsoring undocumented immigrants on the East End, and supporting them through their quest for legal standing in the United States.



Kevin Thomas

New York State Senator

Kevin Thomas was elected in 2018 to represent the 6th District in Nassau County, becoming the first Indian-American in New York history to serve in the State Senate. He currently serves as Chairman of the Consumer Protection Committee and sits on the Banks, Finance, Health, Internet & Technology, Judiciary, and Local Government Committees. Prior to his election, Kevin served as an attorney and civic leader who spent his career fighting for families across New York State.

In the Senate, Kevin has successfully championed legislation to fight discrimination, protect consumers' private information from exploitation, expand economic opportunities, and combat the growing student loan debt crisis. As Chairman of the Consumer Protection Committee, Kevin has been the driving force behind several groundbreaking efforts to strengthen consumer privacy rights, including the New York Privacy Act (NYPA), the first comprehensive data privacy bill of its kind to be introduced in the state. The NYPA features an expansive consumer "bill of rights" and sets forth provisions for businesses to manage personal data responsibly and lawfully.



Saima Mohammad

Women for Afghan Women

Saima Mohammad's journey reflects her commitment to public health and humanitarian causes, shaped by early experiences as a child refugee fleeing conflict in her native Afghanistan.

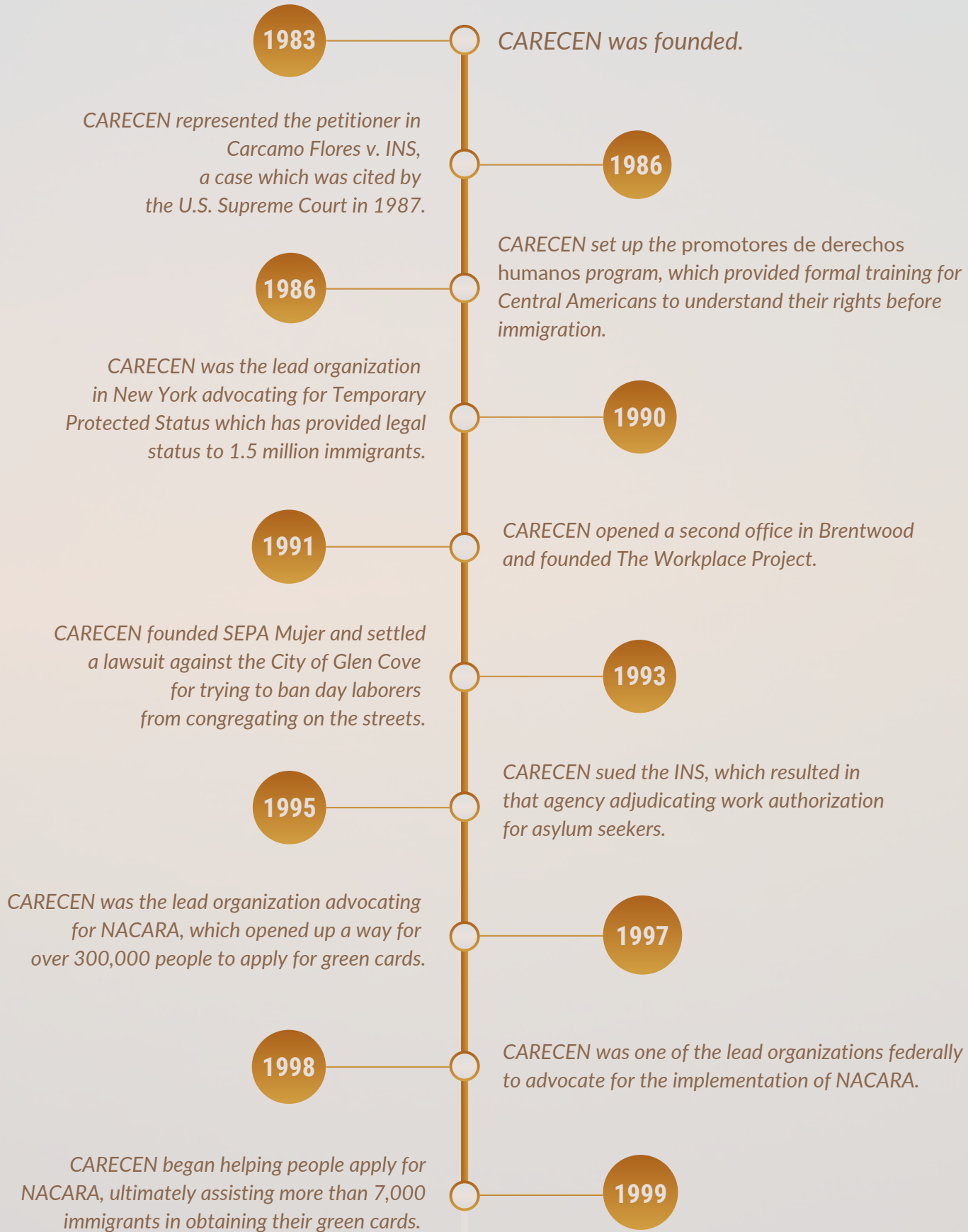
Throughout her career, Saima has embraced diverse roles. She worked as a medical officer at the University Teaching Hospital in Lusaka, Zambia, where she focused on pediatric care and addressed diseases like HIV/AIDS, TB, and Malaria.

One of her notable roles was as a UNHCR Field Officer in Jordan, as well as with UNHCR Afghanistan where she provided essential health services to asylum seekers as well as advocating for the rights of women and children.

Saima has also served as a consultant Afghan Advisor, offering insights into health, education, gender, culture, and religion. Her contributions include the dissemination of culturally sensitive health advocacy material and the provision of training in Afghanistan. Proficient in multiple languages, including English, Pashto, Dari, Urdu, and Arabic, Saima continues to engage actively in public health and humanitarian work.

Currently Saima works as a case manager for Women for Afghan Women and Family Justice Center, which is an opportunity for her to make a significant impact on the lives of those facing domestic violence.

CARECEN THROUGH THE YEARS



CARECEN THROUGH THE YEARS

2001

CARECEN, in coalition with other organizations, successfully advocated for El Salvador to be granted Temporary Protected Status.

CARECEN brought Nassau and Suffolk counties into compliance with the language access law for voting.

2002

2012

CARECEN created its DACA program, helping approximately 700 DREAMers apply for status in the first year.

CARECEN launched its Pathway to Citizenship program, which has helped more than 10,000 immigrants apply for naturalization.

2014

2016

CARECEN sued Nassau County Police Department over its ICE detainer policy, and won.

CARECEN launched its partnership with Immigrant Justice Corps, dramatically increasing our capacity to provide legal services to asylum-seeking families.

2018

2019

CARECEN sued the Trump administration over its public charge rule, and won.

CARECEN social work program began providing vital services to recently-arrived immigrant families.

2020

2023

CARECEN sued Nassau County Police Department over its language access practices.



LEGAL SERVICES



Members of CARECEN's legal team assisting recently-arrived immigrants with their asylum applications.

This year, CARECEN expanded our legal services to meet the urgent legal needs of immigrants on Long Island. We launched programs to help recently-arrived immigrants apply for asylum and to assist Afghan refugees obtain legal status. With a 26 person legal team, CARECEN is officially the largest immigration legal service provider on Long Island.

608

ASYLEES RECEIVING
LEGAL SERVICES

317

NEW U.S. CITIZENS

451

DACA, TPS
AND WORK AUTHORIZATION
APPLICATIONS FILED



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS



Members of CARECEN's Community Programs team at a staff event.

This year, CARECEN's community programs have provided vital new services to immigrants across Long Island. We have launched programs to help immigrant professionals obtain employment in their fields in the United States and expanded our educational and social work services to ensure that asylum seekers have access to crucial health, housing and education services.

402

IMMIGRANTS WHO
LEARNED ENGLISH

187

COMMUNITY EDUCATION
WORKSHOPS OFFERED

190

FAMILIES RECEIVING
SOCIAL WORK SERVICES



ADVOCACY

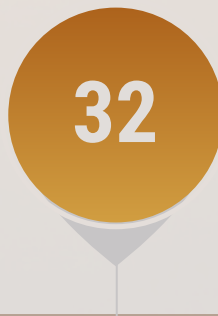


CARECEN's Executive Director Elise de Castillo announcing language access impact litigation.

This year, our advocacy initiatives helped make our region a more just and welcoming place for all Long Islanders. We fought for the needs of immigrants in the halls of government through legislative advocacy and in the halls of justice through impact litigation.



**ADVOCACY
INITIATIVES JOINED**



**ADVOCACY LETTERS
SIGNED**



**COALITIONS
MEETINGS JOINED**



*The J.M. Kaplan Fund would like to
thank the Central American Refugee
Center for honoring the legacy of our
Trustee Emeritus, Elizabeth K. Fonseca*



In Remembrance

ELIZABETH K. FONSECA

1929 - 2022



*Congratulations to CARECEN
for 40 years of heartfelt service
to the community.*

We love you!



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ERICK MARROQUIN

MARROQUIN LAW. P.C.

IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY
ABOGADO DE INMIGRACIÓN

Marroquin Law. P.C. is proud to support CARECEN on their 40th anniversary. Our lead attorney, Erick Marroquin, worked as an intern with CARECEN during law school. He continues to serve the immigrant community by assisting with their immigration legal matters.

We have offices in Long Island and Queens serving a diverse number of individuals and families.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CENTRAL AMERICAN REFUGEE CENTER
AND THIS YEAR'S HONOREES:

Elizabeth K. Fonseca, in memoriam, The J.M. Kaplan Fund

New York State Senator Kevin Thomas

Saima Mohammad, Women for Afghan Women

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and Fried Frank

are proud to support

CENTRAL AMERICAN
REFUGEE CENTER

and congratulates this year's honorees
on their extraordinary contributions

*"A society that will trade a little liberty
for a little order will lose both, and deserves neither."
~ Thomas Jefferson*

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• RABBI DR. RONALD L. ANDROPHY •

*Congratulations
to all of the
honorees*

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*With deep gratitude for the support that
CARECEN has given us
during the most difficult times.*



Familia Euceda Alvarez

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CARECEN

Congratulations

To All of Tonight's Honorees

"Bettering the lives of our members and all working people"

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338
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STRONGER | TOGETHER**

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The SISTERS OF ST. DOMINIC
of AMITYVILLE, NEW YORK

Join us in Celebrating the
40^h Anniversary Dinner
for CARECEN Honoring

Elizabeth K. Fonseca, *in memoriam*,
The J.M. Kaplan Fund
NYS State Senator Kevin Thomas
Saima Mohammad, *Women for*
Afghan Women

We appreciate their
continuing mission of
empowering Immigrant
Communities on Long Island
through legal services and advocacy.



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The Healthcare Education Project

would like to join to join CARECEN
in honoring and celebrating...

Elizabeth K. Fonseca

In Memoriam

The J.M. Kaplan Fund

Kevin Thomas

New York State Senator

Saima Mohammad

Women for Afghan Women



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at Hofstra University**

congratulates

**CARECEN-NY
on 40 years**

**of providing legal services and
community programming to
Long Island immigrants.**



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CARECEN'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY GALA



Matthew Silver
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CARECEN'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY GALA



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- *VAWA

HABLAMOS ESPAÑOL



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in honor of

Audrey O'Brien Fuentes



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Bruce Dunton

Judith Loebel

Karen Posey

Ruth Silverman

Larry Levy

Freda Wagner

Bob Keeler

Juan Martínez

Blanca Villanueva



Thank you for attending our 40th anniversary gala.
We look forward to seeing you in 2024!

#carecennygala



