



CARECEN

Annual Report

CENTRAL AMERICAN
REFUGEE CENTER



20

22

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A Message from Our Leaders

Since 1983, CARECEN has served as a beacon of hope for immigrants across Long Island. It is an honor for us to be able to help thousands of immigrants each year, and nothing we do would be possible without the dedication of our donors, volunteers, staff, and board members, who work tirelessly to advance our mission. We are deeply grateful for your support.

2022 was a year of community.

Whether engaging with new communities, working in the community, or creating community, during 2022 CARECEN connected more meaningfully to those around us. We deepened our relationships with the immigrants we already serve while also forming connections with new communities. After two years of working in a remote world, we enthusiastically returned to schools, libraries and civic centers across Long Island to ensure that our services were accessible to as many immigrants as possible. We also strengthened the network of nonprofit organizations in our region so that we may all better serve our immigrant communities.

On behalf of everyone at CARECEN, thank you for your ongoing support of and belief in our mission. Thank you for being part of our community.



Blanca Villanueva, MPH
President of the Board



Elise de Castillo, Esq.
Executive Director



Our Mission

CARECEN empowers immigrants on Long Island through legal services, community education, and advocacy.

Story of 2022

2022 was a year of **community**. CARECEN returned to the community, engaged new communities, and created community here on Long Island. And the impact was huge.



Story of 2022

1,212

Immigrants
received legal
services

2,057

Immigrants
received educational
services

128

Immigrants
received social
work services

Focus Areas

351 immigrants

438 students

86 children

40 community
partners



Applied for
citizenship



Learned
English



Received
gifts through
our Holiday
Toy Drive



Engaged in
sharing
resources

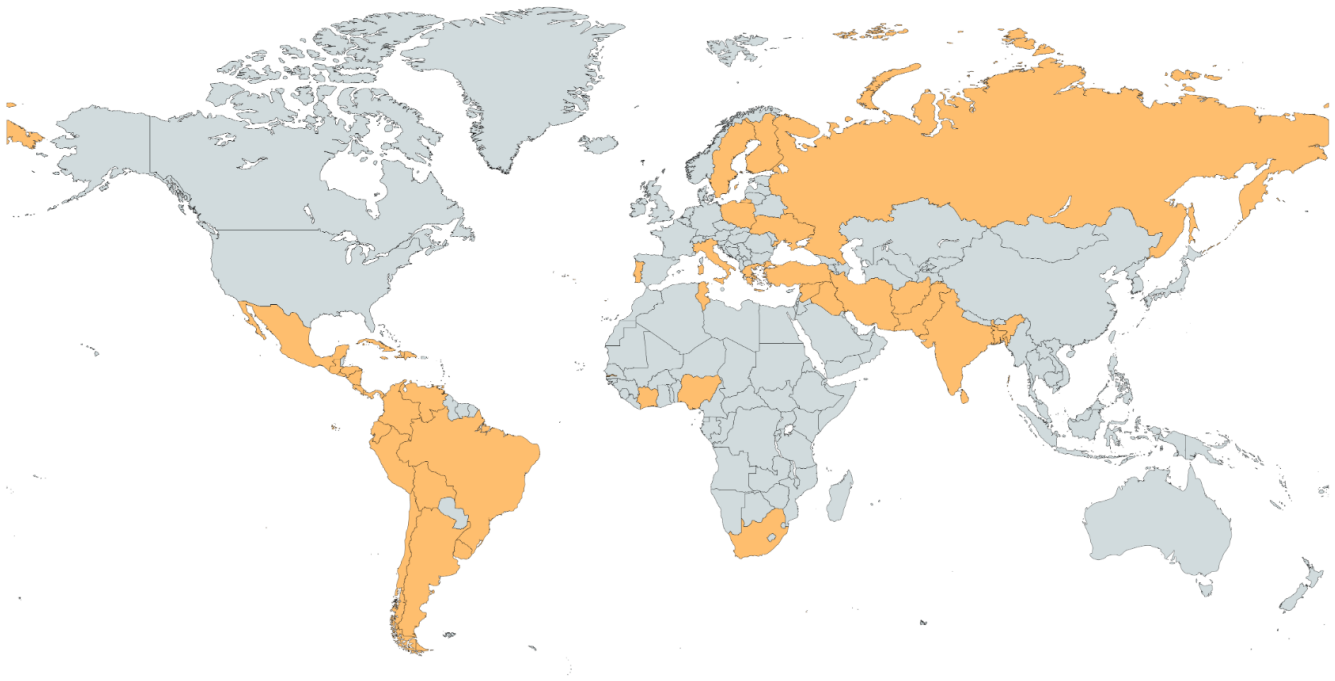
Return to the Community

While the pandemic allowed us to innovate and find new ways to connect with immigrants, in 2022 we were glad to be able to reconnect with our community in the best way possible: in person. CARECEN met with immigrants in our offices and other safe spaces across Long Island to provide them vital services in a way that allowed for human connection and strengthened our bonds with the communities we serve.



Engaging New Communities

But, 2022 wasn't just about returning to the communities we have worked with for decades. It was about engaging with new communities. This year, we served immigrants from 13 new countries, primarily across Asia and Africa.



North & Central America

Costa Rica
El Salvador
Guatemala
Honduras
Mexico
Nicaragua
Panama

South America

Argentina
Bolivia
Brazil
Chile
Colombia
Ecuador
Peru
Uruguay
Venezuela

Caribbean

Cuba
Dominican Republic
Haiti
Jamaica
Trinidad and Tobago

Africa

Ivory Coast
Nigeria
The Gambia
Tunisia
South Africa

Europe

Finland
Greece
Italy
Portugal
Poland
Russia
Sweden
Ukraine

Asia

Afghanistan
Bangladesh
Iraq
Iran
India
Pakistan
Phillipines
Syria
Sri Lanka
Turkey



Engaging New Communities

In 2022, we developed new programs to respond to the needs of immigrant communities that we had not previously served. We helped Venezuelans fleeing hardship who wished to make their homes on Long Island apply for permission to enter the United States. We launched a new program to help Afghans seeking refuge obtain safety through legal status. As our services expanded so did the countries that our clients come from.

In 2022, CARECEN also engaged the community of English language learners on Long Island. Through our new ESOL program, CARECEN empowered new Americans through adult English language classes, helping them learn the language skills they need to thrive in their new communities on Long Island.

Creating Community

CARECEN is dedicated to making Long Island a place where immigrants are able to put down roots and contribute to the long-term growth of our region. The realization of this mission is reflected in our staff and volunteers, more than 50% of which previously received services through CARECEN. The support they received from CARECEN made it possible for them to continue building power in our immigrant communities as part of the CARECEN team. They are a testament to the value of welcoming immigrants because their contributions will benefit Long Island for generations to come.



Bryan
Volunteer

"I was inspired to join CARECEN because they helped my parents when they needed it the most. They helped navigate them through the proper channels in order to begin the process of living in a new country."



Juan
Volunteer

"One of the reasons that motivate me to be a volunteer was I have the opportunity to help others in my community."



Cristian
Volunteer

"My parents and I became citizens thanks to CARECEN. As a volunteer, it is an honor for me to help the immigrant community the same way that CARECEN helped us."

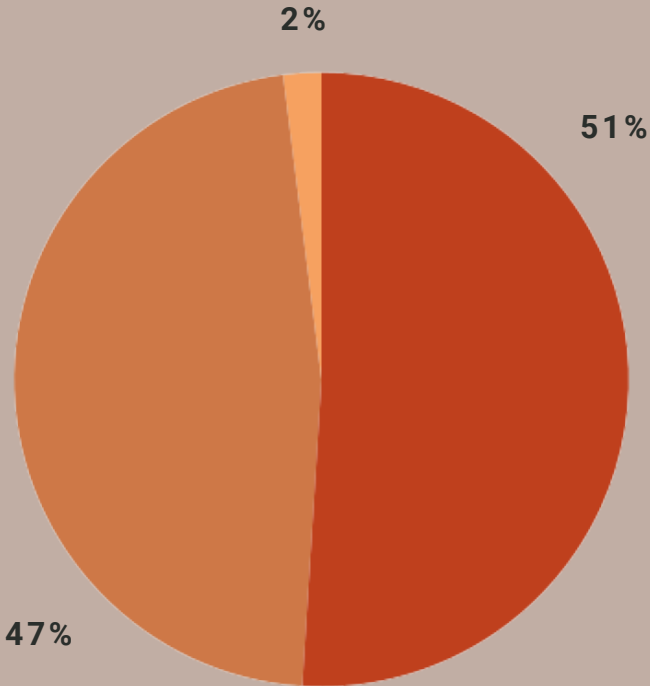
Creating Community

CARECEN doesn't only build power in immigrant communities through our direct services. We also build power through our work alongside other organizations on Long Island that are dedicated to improving the lives of immigrants in our region. Through workshops, roundtables, and other initiatives, we increase these organizations' capacity so that they may better serve new Americans on Long Island.

In 2022, CARECEN launched the Immigration Collaborative of Long Island, a coalition that brings together dozens of organizations from across the region to ensure that we are working collectively to respond proactively to the needs of Long Island's immigrants.

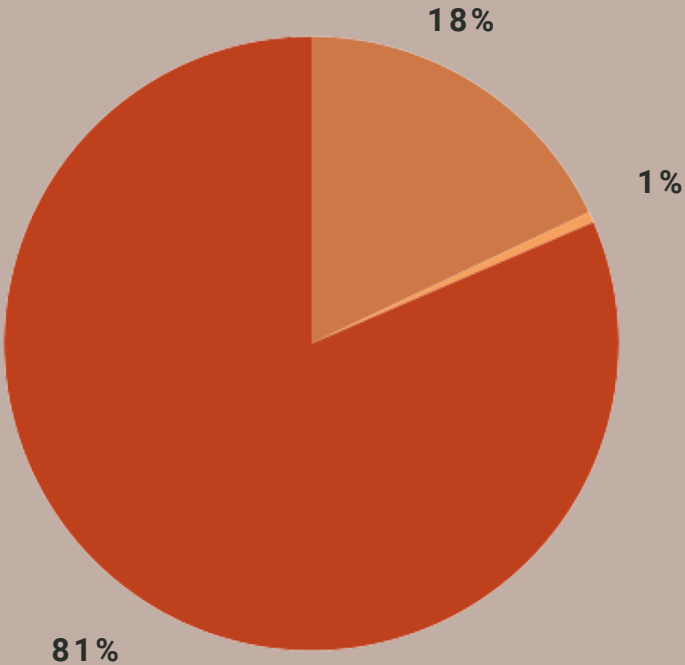


CARECEN FY22 Financials



Revenue

- Government
- Foundations
- Individual



Expenses

- Program
- Administrative
- Fundraising

Our Staff

Karla Alas Rivera

Immigrant Community Navigator

Beatríz Alemán Cisneros

Paralegal

Emerson Argueta, Esq.

Supervising Attorney

Gabriela Calahorrano, Esq.

ONA Suffolk Legal Counsel

Jenny Chévez Kessinger

DOJ Accredited Representative

Melanie Creps

Community Programs Manager

Elise de Castillo, Esq.

Executive Director

Márton Diószegi

Community Educator

Megan Elman, Esq.

Supervising Attorney

Mohammad Nasir Erkin

Finance Director

Rosa Gómez

Administrative Assistant

Jessica Greenberg, Esq.

Managing Attorney

Mayra Interiano

Paralegal

Christin Jackson

AmeriCorps VISTA

Pablo Jiménez

ONA Suffolk Legal Counsel

Roshii Jolly

ESOL Teacher

Karen Krokowski Díaz Tobar

Paralegal

Claudia Lobos

Administrative Assistant

Austin McCabe

ESOL Coordinator

Julia Miller

IJC Justice Fellow

Vivian Morales, LMSW

Social Worker

Rebecca Reed

Chief Operations Officer

Fernando Ruiz

Director of Operations

Andrea Sacasa

IJC Justice Fellow

Mónica Sánchez

Staff Attorney

Andrés Santamaría, Esq.

ONA Nassau Legal Counsel

Steven Vivas

DOJ Accredited Representative

Emma Winkley

Development & Communications
Coordinator

Our Board

Matthew Alevy

Thomson Reuters

Abner Alvarenga

eXp Realty

Jonathan Cantarero, Esq.

Herman Law

Gabriela Castillo, Esq.

Nassau County School

Amy Flores

JP Morgan Chase

Bill O'Shea

SecurityScorecard

Ruth Silverman, PhD

Nassau Community College

Luís Vázquez

LI Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Blanca Villanueva, MPH

The Advocacy Institute

Lauris Wren, Esq.

Hofstra Law School

Volunteers

Junior Alcantara

Veronica Alvarenga Hon

Miranda Askey

M'leigha Buchanan

Nicolle Castellanos

Cristian Castillo

Anna Cruz

Kyle DiPietrantino

Matthew Gopaulchan

Daryl Gordon

Dayana Guerrero Uribe

Cesia Hernandez

Robert Horn

Jack Immanuel

Zachary Jackson-Gomes

Sarah Klueber

Sarah Lage

Gianela Liendo Fuentes

Jeimy Maravilla

Juan Medina

Joseph Niver

Ferida Osman

Bryan Perez

Rafael Rivas

Johanna Singh

Anna Veintimilla

Ana Verastegui

Margarita Verdejo

Amanda Vesey-Askey

Julius Wool

Jessica Yao

Maria Zoco Ostiz

Institutional Donors

Bethpage Federal Credit Union	The J.M. Kaplan Fund
Children's Village	Long Island Community Foundation
Congregational Church of Manhasset	Marty and Dorothy Silverman Foundation
Daniel J. & Edith A. Ehrlich Family Foundation	New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services
East Meadow Jewish Center	The New York State Interest on Lawyer Account Fund
Fidelity Charitable	New York State Office for New Americans
The Fred and Gilda Nobel Foundation	New York State Office of Court Administration
FWD.us	Paypal
Garganigo, Goldsmith & Weiss	Roslyn Presbyterian Church
Give Lively Foundation	The Schaefer Giving Fund
Givinga Foundation	Thomson Reuters
Hispanic Federation	Tortora Sillcox Family Foundation
The Horace and Amy Hagedorn Fund	Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock
IBM	
Immigrant Justice Corps	

Individual Donors

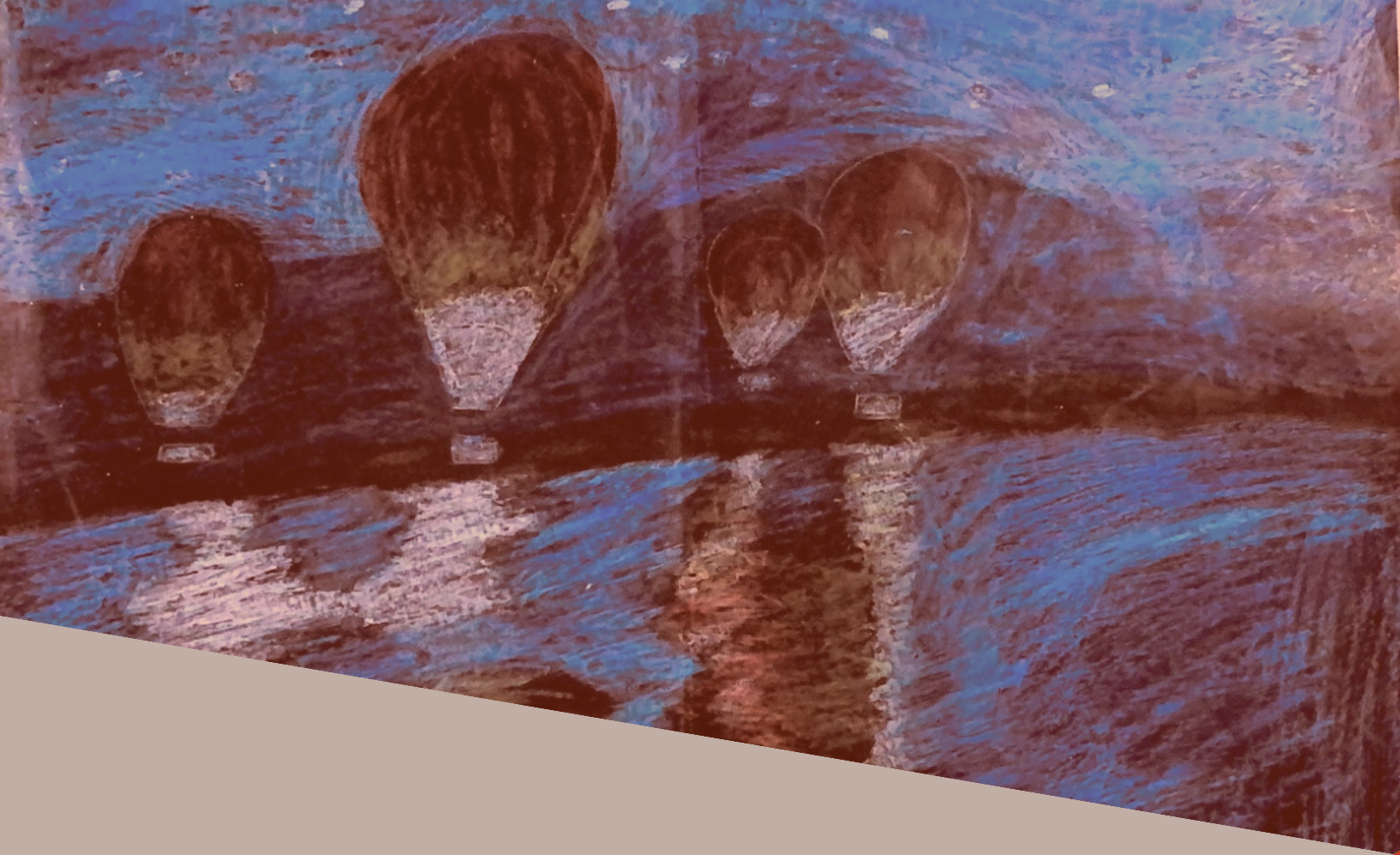
Matthew Alevy	Michael Hirschhorn	Gilda Ramos
Karen and Cary Alevy	Theresa Horvath	Thomas Rinaldi
Elizabeth Alvarez	John Hyland	Oren Root
Wolstan Brown	Toby & Howard Kaye	Michelle Santantonio
Jonathan Cantarero	Robert & Judith Keeler	Dolores Schaefer
Jose Carranza	Fitratullah Khan	Robert Siegel
Gabriela Castillo	Faroque Khan	Ruth Silverman
Edmund Crotty	Chuck & Patsy Koppeis	Michael Singer
Richard Elinson	Naomi Leszkiewicz	Vito Stabile
Ring Family	Lawerence Levy	Paul Todaro
Ed and Roz Feinberg	Robin and Barry Lindenberg	Margarita Verdejo
Risa Fenster	Judith Loebel	Blanca Villanueva
Robert Fuentes	Judith Ludwig	Susan Vogell
Frank Fumelli	Joan Malin	Freda Wagner
Ann Getman	Meredith Nash	Barbara Warren
Halona Gropper	Rob and Destiny Novak	Liza Wilson
Janet Grossman	Abel Nunez Aguilar	Julius Wool
Jane Gullong	Bill O'Shea	Lauris Wren
Marianne & Larry Gumbs	Judy Rabinovitz	Jeremy Yocum

And so, the story of 2022 comes to a close. We are proud to reflect on this year where community was at the center of all of our work. As we prepare to embark on our 40th year, we will carry this focus on community forward with us, just as we have for the past four decades.

We don't just believe in our mission, we live it.

And we hope that you will continue to live it with us.





Drawing by 14-year-old Enhamuddin

The drawing depicts hot air balloons in Cappadocia, Turkey where, after fleeing Afghanistan, he is living as a refugee until he can be reunited with his family in the United States.



CARECEN

**Central American
Refugee Center**

CONTACT

www.carecenny.org

516-489-8330

info@carecenny.org

@carecenny