



## Newsletter

Year 01 Edition 03 - May, 2022

### A Word by Lenita Reason Executive Director of the Brazilian Worker Center

April was such a busy month for the Brazilian Worker Center. My team and I are very excited to share updates about our work!

We kick started this month with our bi-weekly Know Your Rights workshop, followed by the launching of the 4th edition of our Dreamers project, funded by the City of Boston. In April, we also implemented two Susan Harwood OSHA programs on health and workplace safety: our Fall Prevention and our Infectious Diseases and COVID-19 training.

The Brazilian Worker Center had the privilege to attend the Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers (MAPS) Gala event, which celebrated the 52nd anniversary of the organization.

On April 29th, we were also present at the Lawyer for Workers Center event, which was hosted by Justice At Work and the National Legal Advocacy Network (NLAN).

And, of course, we were there, front and



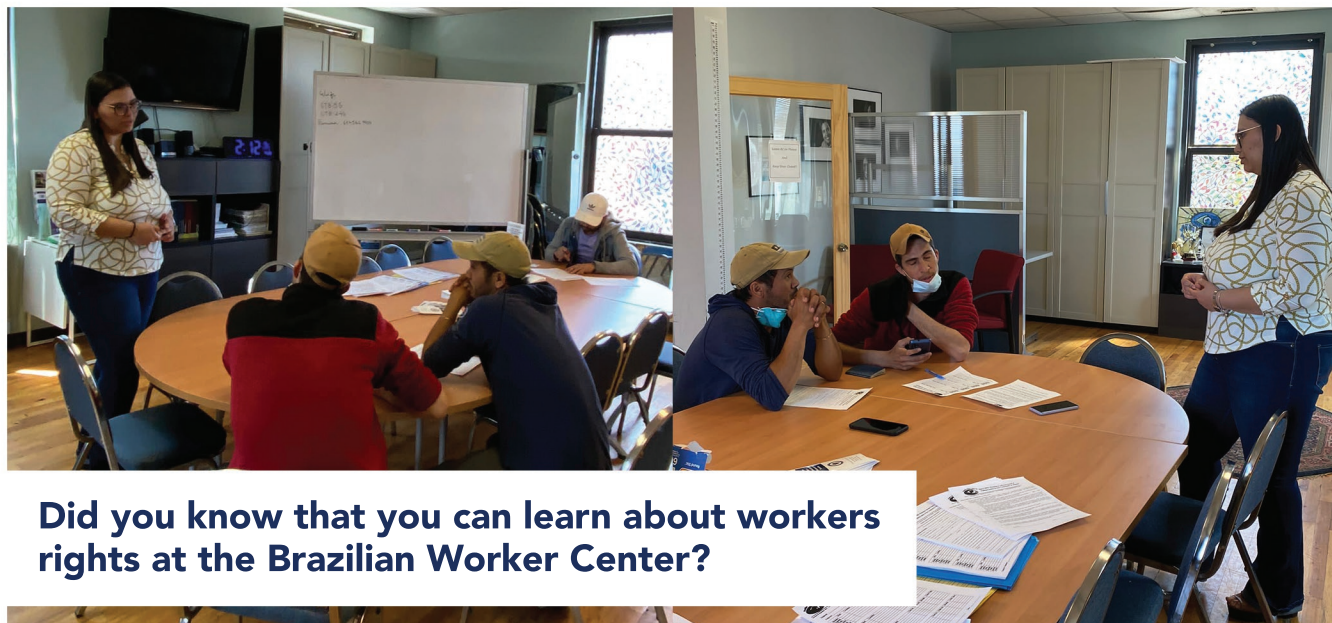
center, on May 27th - Lobbying Day - at the Massachusetts State House to promote the passing of the Wage Theft Bill and back to the State House again on April 28th to honor the lives of deceased workers on Memorial Day.

Such a busy month! Check out our April newsletter and learn more about the Brazilian Worker Center and our accomplishments.

Warm regards,

**Lenita Reason**  
Executive Director  
Brazilian Worker Center

## Know Your Rights and Thrive!



### Did you know that you can learn about workers rights at the Brazilian Worker Center?

We are proud to be part of our immigrant community and to have the opportunity to empower immigrant workers in Massachusetts with important knowledge about their rights. On April 1st and April 23rd, our Worker's and Immigrant's Rights Coordinator, Lorraine Reiter, led our Know Your Rights workshop at the Brazilian Worker Center in Allston.

Thank you to our fellow immigrant workers for your support over the years and we are excited to continue sharing relevant information and resources about your rights. Are you interested in attending one of our Know Your Rights workshops? Email us at [info@braziliancenter.org](mailto:info@braziliancenter.org) or give us a call at +617 783 8001.



### Building Brazilian Bridges

Brazilians are known for being good hosts and, on April 7th, our team had the opportunity to welcome our guest, Dr. Marcio de Oliveira, Titular Faculty of Sociology at the Federal University of Paraná at the Brazilian Worker Center. Dr. Oliveira is a CNPq researcher and Coordinator at the Cátedra Sérgio Vieira de Mello/UFPR.

As part of our efforts to strengthen our ties with our Brazilian community in Brazil, we discussed ways to share our knowledge associated with foreign groups in host countries and build an international partnership to continue to provide mutual support and knowledge sharing practices between our respective institutions. Building Bridges is an essential component of our work and we look forward to continuing to build and strengthen our international connections with other Brazilian groups and the global community.



## Every opportunity starts with a Dream!

The Brazilian Worker Center is proud to continue our partnership with the City of Boston for the execution of our Dreamers project in April and May of 2022! In this project, we are joined by specialists in multiple fields such as labor rights, digital marketing, work readiness and team building, among others, to empower immigrant youth with the necessary skills and knowledge to navigate the transition between their countries of origin and American culture and society.

On April 7th, we launched the 4th edition of our Dreamers project with 15 immigrant youth who attended a Know Your Rights class led by Lorraine Reiter. In the following weeks, the Dreamers group participated in Work Readiness and Team Building training with BWC's Director of Development, Anna Barbosa, Mental Health and Wellness training by Dr. Andrea Ruf, and started a project that will culminate in the creation of 3 startups that will provide services to support our immigrant community. The Community Service project was guided by Alexandre Simões, digital entrepreneur.

We are thankful to all our amazing instructors who contributed to our project in the month of April and we are very proud of our youth's accomplishments. We look forward to sharing more information about our Dreamers project very soon!



## Massachusetts speaks Portuguese too!

On April 9th, the Brazilian Worker Center had the privilege to attend the Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers 2022 Awards Gala in Cambridge. We are honored to have been invited and to join our vibrant Portuguese speaking community for such a special occasion. Among the illustrious attendees present at the event were Rita Mendes, Brockton City Council, Margareth Shepard, Framingham Deputy, Paulo Pinto, MAPS Executive Director and Carlos da Silva, Plymouth County Commissioner. The event was a great success and we are proud of our Portuguese immigrant community for our efforts to keep our language and culture alive in Massachusetts.

## Safety first!

In April, we began the second trimester associated with two Susan Harwood OSHA training: Fall Prevention for Construction Workers and Infectious Diseases and COVID-19, a training for restaurant, domestic, and construction workers. These trainings are very important as they not only support the dissemination of invaluable information about safety to our immigrant communities but are also made available in their native languages, i.e. Portuguese and Spanish. We are glad to have worked with OSHA for over 10 years, promoting health and safety for workers.



## An Alliance for Dignity and Unity

The Brazilian Worker Center is proud to support the National Domestic Workers Alliance and to have been selected as one of the participants in the 2022 Dignity Unity Power Institute. Starting in April, we will engage in a series of training that aim to form powerful organizations, leaders and movements and we are excited to continue participating in these year-long trainings until October 2022. In April we attended four orientation sessions held by the Institute. This is such an amazing opportunity to meet our fellow workers and strengthen our network in support of social justice for all. We look forward to continuing our participation in the training in the coming months!

## We fight for justice, one coalition at a time

On April 27th, the Brazilian Worker Center team led by Lenita Reason, BWC's Executive Director and co-chair with AFL-CIO, participated in the lobby at the MA State House to promote and advocate for the passing of the Wage Theft Bill. We were proud to stand alongside members of our immigrant worker community on this day as we stand for worker's rights to be paid fairly for their jobs in the community.

This type of organizing efforts is imperative to transform our community and we are proud to continue to engage in actions for the development of a just society for all. We would like to thank all BWC team members and our fellow immigrants who joined us to fight for this cause and we are excited to continue to share our coalition's accomplishments in the coming months!

## Putting Justice to Work



Friday, April 29th, was a busy day for us at the Brazilian Worker Center! We had the pleasure to participate in the Law for Worker Center event promoted by Justice At Work and National Legal Advocacy Network (NLAN), and network with many lawyers in the field. Our Executive Director, Lenita Reason, opened the event by highlighting Worker Centers' legal needs and how partnerships work. In the afternoon, she led a panel that discussed step-by-step procedures to compose and pass Bills and how to work with government agencies. This panel was led by Lenita alongside lawyers Audrey Richardson (GBLS) and Mark Pedulla (DOL). Thank you J@W and NLAN for this opportunity and we look forward to participating in this event again in the future!

## A Day to Remember



On May 30th, the Brazilian Worker Center joined MassCOSH, AFL-CIO, and the Greater Boston Labor Council and various members of our Boston community in front of the Massachusetts State House to pay our respects to workers who passed away while at work. An important day to remember and reaffirm our commitment to workers' rights and our stance on safety conditions for workers in the workplace. We thank our fellow workers and partnering organizations for their dedication to this cause and we are proud to stand alongside you in the fight for the betterment of work conditions for all.

