



Newsletter

Year 01 Edition 05 - July, 2022

Welcome to the Brazilian Worker Center!

June is over but the work continues. And what a busy month for the Brazilian Worker Center!

We celebrated the major victory associated with the passing of the Work and Family Mobility Act, an incredible accomplishment led by the coalition Driving Families Forward, and our local supporters and partners after 20 years of hard work and commitment.

The BWC hosted our training for domestic workers, and also celebrated the Graduation of our Mulheres Vencedoras and Mindfulness LatinX projects and the closing ceremony of our Dreamers project for immigrant youth. So many projects, and so many victories!

We are proud of our participants and of our team for all this amazing work.

Our team has also participated in workshops and training led by partnering organizations, such as the WILD Summer Institute, Leadership training for women and the Labor Law Workshop. We also participated in a local fair for Brazilian businesses and entrepreneurs organized by CDLE, joined our monthly meeting in support of the Building Justice project and were invited to attend a meeting hosted by the



US Department of Labor Solicitor's Office.

We also celebrated our partnering organizations such as MIC's second year anniversary and the Salt of the Earth Award Ceremony hosted by the CLU.

Check out our July newsletter to learn more about the Brazilian Worker Center and our amazing accomplishments.

Warm regards,

Lenita Reason

Executive Director of Brazilian Worker Center

We Dream, We Act



On June 4th, 2022, the Brazilian Worker Center and our group of Dreamers attended the Migrant Stories Day. The event took place at the Boston International Newcomers Academy (BINCA), a local public school where students from the eight organizations that make up Dreamers got together and spoke about why people come to the United States. Participating Dreamers represented multiple nationalities and their countries of origin included Haiti, Honduras, Brazil, and Jamaica. Lenita Reason, BWC's Executive Director, and André Simões, Workers Rights & Research Coordinator, led a lecture on worker's rights. This event was an incredible opportunity for immigrant youth to share their experiences, network, and learn about important topics that greatly impact their families lives in the USA. The BWC is a proud partner of the City of Boston and we look forward to hosting July's Dreamers cohort at our facilities in Allston, MA. Are you interested in learning more about the Dreamers project? Follow us on social media @brazilianworkercenter to learn more about our project.

BWC in Marlborough



On June 5th, 2022 Anna Barbosa, BWC's Director of Development, and Andre Simões, Worker's Right & Research Coordinator, participated in a Brazilian Chamber of Commerce, also known as the Câmara Dirigentes Lojistas Empreendedores (CDLE) event in Marlborough. This event was a trade fair intended to connect Brazilian entrepreneurs, companies, and organizations. Several Brazilian traders presented their products and the event allowed for further building and strengthening of Brazilian business and organization networks in the Greater Boston Area. Anna and André tabled alongside other companies and organizations led by Brazilians from the Marlborough area. They distributed materials and pamphlets about the Brazilian Workers Center so that more people in the region could become familiar with our programs and services. The BWC would like to thank Rafaela Garreta, President of the CDLE and Patricia Vega, District Director of Marlborough, for the invitation and we look forward to participating in future events!



Mindfulness LatinX

In June, the BWC implemented our first Mindfulness LatinX program for Portuguese-speaking immigrant workers in Boston! Throughout the month of June, Fabiano Ferreira offered three sessions in total (June 7th, 15th, 27th) that focused on behavioral changes necessary for adapting to new challenges. More specifically, the first two sessions discussed tactics for strengthening mentalities for facing the challenges of immigrant women. Issues covered in these sessions included self-esteem, relationships, self-criticism, attachment, aesthetic standards, self-sabotage, and negative thoughts. The third session focused mostly on post-pandemic emotional management in which lectures and group activities covered techniques for dealing with stress, finding new meaning, and restructuring routines. The Mindfulness LatinX project was a success and it had a positive impact on the lives of participants. Program attendees were able to share their stories and learn invaluable techniques to nurture their mental health. The Brazilian Worker Center would like to thank the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) for contributing to our program! We look forward to hosting our Mindfulness LatinX program in 2023!



Happy Birthday, MIC!

On June 9th, 2022 Lenita Reason and Gizele Bombardier attended a Breakfast event celebrating two years of the Massachusetts Immigrant Collaborative (MIC). MIC is a coalition of 15 partner organizations that formed at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in April of 2020. These partner organizations work closely with the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Advancement from the City of Boston to support the state's immigrant population. Lenita opened the event by recapping some of the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic posed and the ways in which this coalition worked diligently to meet the needs of Massachusetts' immigrant communities. The Brazilian Worker Center is proud to be a co-founder of this coalition and we look forward to continuing our partnership and work.





Victory at Last!

Also on June 9th, the immigrant community achieved a massive victory as Massachusetts became the 17th U.S. state to allow driver's licenses for residents regardless of immigration status. The Brazilian Workers Center's Executive Director, Lenita Reason, has acted as co-chair with Chrystel Murrieta Ruiz, SEIU 32BJ of the Driving Families Forward coalition that has been working tirelessly to get this bill passed. Earlier this year, the House of Representatives passed/voted the bill on February 16th and the Senate passed it on May 5th. Governor Charlie Baker vetoed the bill the next day. Fortunately though, because of the bill's overwhelming support in the State legislature and all of the advocating by local immigrants and organizations, both the House and Senate voted to override the Governor's veto, making the bill law. Starting July 1st, 2023 eligible immigrants in

Massachusetts will be able to apply for and acquire driver's licenses. This was a major victory for the Driving Families Forward, the BWC, and for our immigrant MA community and the BWC will be ready to support members of our community with information about how to obtain a driver license in the coming months.



On June 13th, the Brazilian Worker Center joined the representatives of the Driving Families Forward coalition at the State House of Massachusetts for a symbolic signing of the bill. This was a historic moment and represented a well deserved victory for the coalition and for the immigrant community in Massachusetts. We, at the BWC, are immensely proud of our Executive Director, Lenita Reason, for her unwavering commitment to this coalition as a co-chair and we congratulate her for this incredible accomplishment.

On June 18th, the Driving Families Forward co-chairs Lenita Reason, BWC's Executive Director, and Chrystel Murrieta Ruiz received a special recognition from the City of Boston for their joint leadership on the Driving Families Forward Coalition. With this certificate of recognition in hand, the Brazilian Workers Center celebrated this victory of making it law that all immigrants can drive in Massachusetts!

BWC's Monthly Team Meeting



On June 13th, the Brazilian Workers Center team held our monthly team meeting. During our meeting we discussed several topics associated with the programs, services and operations of the organization, distributed new assignments, and checked the progress of our work. The BWC is growing fast and we are excited about what the future holds for us! If you would like to know more about our organization and team, check out our website at www.braziliancenter.org

Labor Law Workshop

On June 16th 2022, Lenita Reason, Lorraine Reiter, and Andre Simões attended the Massachusetts Immigration Collaborative (MIC) in-person Labor Law Workshop. The event included a picnic lunch followed by a two-hour workshop led by the Justice at Work team. Justice at Work is a workers-rights focused legal non-profit in Boston founded in 2011. The organization not only counsels and represents workers whose rights have been violated, but they also offer training and work closely with partner organizations, such as the Brazilian Worker Center. The workshop focused on how to strengthen the capacities of MIC's coalition organizations on the labor rights of immigrant workers and the legal framework that protects these workers.

Dreamers Fellowship Project

That same day, Gizele Bombardier, Finance and Program Coordinator, and Andre Coco, BWC volunteer, participated in the Dreamers Fellowship Project's Conflict Resolution Training. The Dreamer's Fellowship Project supports immigrant youth in Boston to ensure that they have access to opportunities regardless of immigration status. The project provides skills and resources, and the Brazilian Workers Center offers workplace preparation to these young people so that as they enter the labor market they are equipped to identify a safe workplace and protect their rights. The Conflict and Resolution Training focused on educating and training people within organizations to identify and resolve conflicts within the organization or in their work with community members. The training lasted four hours and included self-reflective as well as group exercises in which participants were able to increase their own awareness of their relationship to conflict and interact with others to examine their conflict triggers and reactions. By exploring the root of one's individual response to conflict, participants are better able to empathize with others who may be demonstrating aggressive behavior. Through a trauma-informed approach, participants were encouraged to understand the root causes of behavior and were given exercises that they can utilize in their organization.

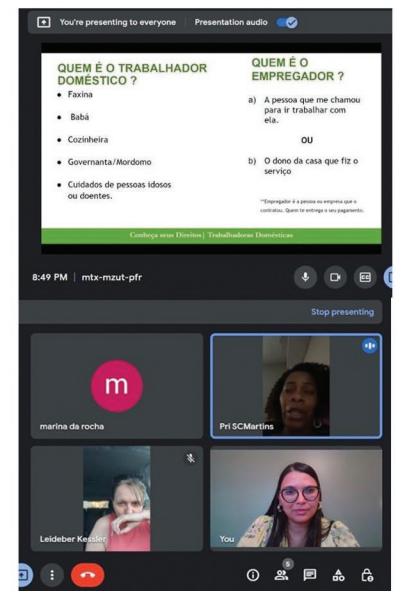
Nossa Lenita!



On June 17th, Lenita Reason participated in an interview with Giovanna Locatelli for Nossa Rádio USA. Lenita discussed the process of passing a law that grants access to drivers licenses regardless of immigration status as well as the continued work to prevent wage theft, two areas that the Brazilian Workers Center has been actively involved in for several years. We are grateful for the opportunity to participate in the Nossa Rádio broadcasting and we look forward to continuing to update our immigrant community about important information regarding the BWC's services, our coalition work, and other important topics for our community.

Training for Domestic Workers

On June 17th, Lorraine Reiter and Vanessa Liberato led a Training for Domestic Workers at the Brazilian Workers Center. The training covered topics such as Massachusetts' minimum wage, the Domestic Workers Bill of rights, and tips on how to protect yourself at work. Lorraine, Vanessa and the participants discussed the international day of domestic workers and talked about other services that the Brazilian Workers Center offers. Our BWC training takes place monthly and offers domestic workers in the region a great opportunity to learn about important information that can affect their work as well as a place where they can also exchange experiences with one another. We look forward to continuing our training sessions in the coming months! If you have any questions or if you are interested in joining our Domestic Workers workshops, please contact us at 617 783-8001, via social media at @brazilianworkercenter or visit us at 14 Harvard Avenue, 2nd floor, Allston, MA.



Salt of the Earth

On June 29th, Anna Barbosa, BWC's Director of Development, and Andre Coco, BWC's volunteer, attended the Community Labor United's 16th Annual Salt of the Earth Awards at the InterContinental Hotel in Boston. Lee Matsueda, Community Labor United Executive Director, opened the event with welcoming remarks, followed by a performance by Jason Morena, and the award ceremony. The event was attended by representatives of local worker centers and organizations. The Brazilian Worker Center would like to thank CLU staff and board for their anniversary and for their great work.

Dreamers' Graduation at the BWC!



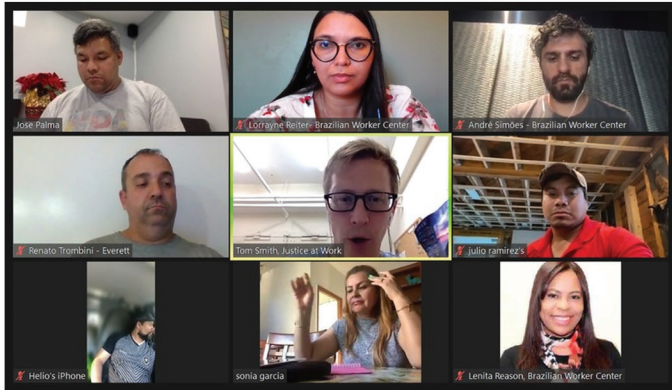
On June 18th, the Brazilian Workers Center hosted a graduation ceremony for the young students involved in the Dreamers Project. The students shared presentations about the community service projects they developed during the program. Each group shared information about what the project aimed to accomplish, why it was important for the community, and how they planned to continue working on the projects after program completion. Their presentations were recorded and were later shared with potential angel investors who may support their projects after their graduation. We at the BWC are proud of our Dreamers and we look forward to continuing supporting their projects throughout the year!

Mulheres Vencedoras

On June 18th, the immigrant workers who were participating in the BWC's Mulheres Vencedoras project attended a silent retreat led by Dr Andrea Ruf. Mulheres Vencedoras is a women-led project developed and implemented by the Brazilian Worker Center, Inc. This mindfulness-based project intervention aims to disseminate the importance of mental health and wellness among immigrant workers who may experience chronic health issues, including cancer, anxiety, among others. On June 27th, the BWC's hosted the graduation ceremony for the women who attended the program and we were also joined by Renato Castelo, who represented the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement (MOIA). The BWC would like to thank MOIA for their support and we look forward to implementing our next edition of the Mulheres Vencedoras project!



Building Justice Workers Committee



On June 22nd, the Brazilian Worker Center participated in the Building Justice workers committee monthly meeting. Building Justice is a project led by the BWC in collaboration with Justice At Work (J@W). The group meets monthly and in June, Lenita Reason, Andre Simões and Lorraine Reiter joined the group's monthly meeting to discuss important topics associated with wage theft cases, the new City of Boston's Ordinance and how it may impact immigrant works, updates associated with

coalition work, a soccer tournament in August for immigrant workers and their families, and potential new wage theft cases. Building Justice is a project that aims to address wage theft cases among immigrant workers in MA and the BWC is proud of the work that we have been doing. We look forward to sharing more updates about our work in the coming months!

WILD Training



On Saturday, June 25th, the Brazilian Workers Center participated in the virtual leadership training led by the WILD Summer Institute. The training was offered as a 2-day training, with the virtual training implemented on June 25th and the in person training on June 26th at the Quinsigamond State Park at the Regatta Point site. During the training, we learned important information about the GIG economy and its implications for workers, the MA ballot initiative on GIG work and its personal and political impacts, FSA Facts and Myths, among others. We also have the opportunity to network with incredible women who are performing invaluable work and greatly contributing to the empowerment of women in the State. We are proud to collaborate with WILD and we look forward to future training!

OSHA visit BWC



On June 28th, Lenita Reason and Gizele Bombardier along with other Worker Centers attended a meeting at the JFK building US Department of Labor. The meeting was an invitation from the US Department of Labor Solicitor's Office. Seema Nanda, OSHA's Solicitor of Labor, traveled from DC to Boston to understand the challenges that workers face in Massachusetts. On the same day, Natalia Tracy, Senior Policy Advisor, organized a meeting with OSHA region 1 staff including Jeff Erskine, Deputy Regional Administrator, Stephen Nee, Labor Liaison, David Doll, Assistant Area Director, Ameer Bhatt, Industrial Hygienist and, Galen Blanton, Regional Administrator. The BWC is proud of our long-term partnership with OSHA for over 10 years via implementation of our Susan Harwood Fall Prevention for Construction Workers program and the Infectious Diseases and COVID program. For more information about our Susan Harwood programs, visit us at 14 Harvard Avenue, 2nd floor, Allston, MA, check out the website at www.braziliancenter.org or follow us on social media @brazilianworkercenter.

Also on June 28th, Lenita Reason and Gizele Bombardier attended the State of Massachusetts Health Care breakfast event at MCLE. Panelists in the event included key members of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing, including Senate Chair Cindy Friedman, of Arlington, and House Chair John Lawn, of Watertown, who discussed the state of MA health care in light of initiatives to bring reform with Katie Lannan of the State House News Service, as well as health care leaders who discussed others critical needs. This was an important event as it shared relevant information about issues that impact workers' health, such the pandemic, burnout, access to health plans and the importance of mental health.

MA Health Care

