



Newsletter

Year 01 Edition 06 - August, 2022

Welcome to the Brazilian Worker Center!

July was a hot month and we enjoyed every minute of it!

This month was such a memorable month for us. We started our Dreamers Summer Edition in full force and engaged our participants with interactive activities in multiple topics, from workers' rights to team building, and even an emergency preparedness course. This was an amazing and unique experience and our youth greatly enjoyed it.

Our team attended training sessions, such as the Rights and Benefits for Immigrants Summer Training organized by MIRA, and a training conducted by OSHA directed to our MIC collaborative, and we also participated in the 5th Annual Summer Institute: Workers' Rights in Today's New Normal hosted by Justice At Work.

We were proud of Andre Simões, BWC's Workers Rights and Research Coordinator, who represented our organization during his interview with the local Brazilian radio station Nossa Radio. André talked about important issues regarding workers rights and how these impact our immigrant communities.



And, in July, our BWC team enjoyed our first 2-day staff wellness trip! It was such a great opportunity to bond with our teammates and relax before coming back and continuing our great work.

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

Warm regards,

Lenita Reason

Executive Director of Brazilian Worker Center

Our Summer Dream



Our Dreamers Summer Program is here and we are so excited to engage our youth with activities that teach them to take care of themselves while also taking care of others.

Our participants consist of immigrant youth who reside in Boston. Our 20 participants have immigrated from different parts of Brazil and they speak both English and Portuguese. We are immensely grateful to the City of Boston - Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement for this partnership and for the opportunity to contribute to the betterment of our teens' future. By participating in this program, our youth is able to expand their network, learn new skills, and create meaningful connections that will greatly benefit them as they get ready to choose their career path.

Through this program we engage our youth with multiple topics such as: conflict resolution, engaging with authorities, public speaking, team building, immigration, mindfulness, bullying, abuse, workers rights, race and culture in America, personal networking and community service.

In addition to our regular roster of classes, this summer, we also included an emergency preparedness class. Due to recent mass shootings, we wanted to make sure that our children would be equipped with the necessary and basic first response knowledge and tools to feel safe in case of having to face such dire situations. Donkor Issa, an emergency preparedness instructor, who has extensive experience working with the Caribbean Youth Club, was invited by this organization to train the 250 Dreamers who are currently participating in the summer program.

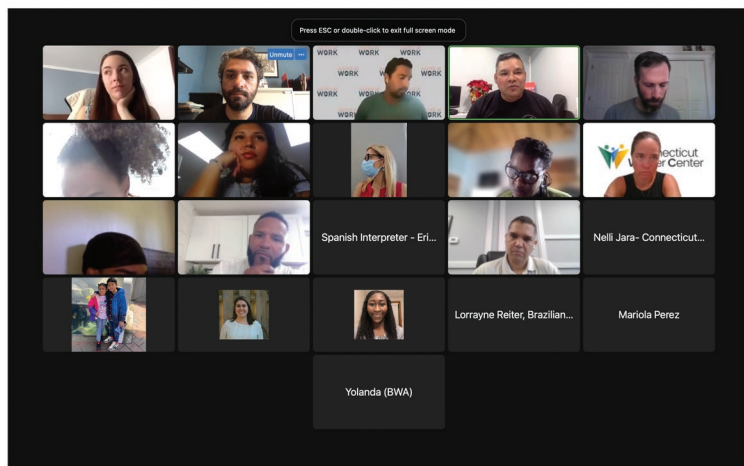
Donkor Issa was born in Los Angeles, California, raised in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and has lived in Roxbury since 1989. Donkor is a product of the Boston Public School system, having gone to the Jackson-Mann, the Phineas Bates, and then the Timilty Middle School as part of the Advanced Work Class (AWC). Donkor left the Timilty in 7th grade where he went on to St. Sebastian's School, an all-boy 7th-12th grade private school. He received his BA in English and Africana Studies from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester; he holds a Masters from Boston College in English Curriculum and Instruction along with a Masters degree in Special Education as well.



Donkor believes education is a transformative process that should liberate young people. He says, “education should be a reciprocal process where the educator and the scholar both transform throughout the process. The movie *Waiting for Superman* was not supposed to leave us feeling sad, rather it was a calling. Everyday I hope that I can continue to be the bridge between where students are and where they want to be.”

We are grateful for Donkor’s contribution to our Dreamers project. While we believe this training is necessary to empower our youth, we also hope that this type of emergency won’t be a part of America’s reality in the future.

If you are a Brazilian teenager between 14 and 18 years old and reside in Boston and are interested in joining our Dreamers project in the Fall, feel free to contact us at info@braziliancenter.org or by (617) 783-8001. All classes take place at 14 Harvard Avenue, 2nd floor, Allston, MA and are administered in Portuguese.



In 2022, after experiencing a couple of years marked by pandemic and social distancing, we are experiencing what we describe as “our new normal”. And the Brazilian Worker Center understands how important it is to support our community with the necessary knowledge and skills to navigate the nuances of this new reality.

The New Normal

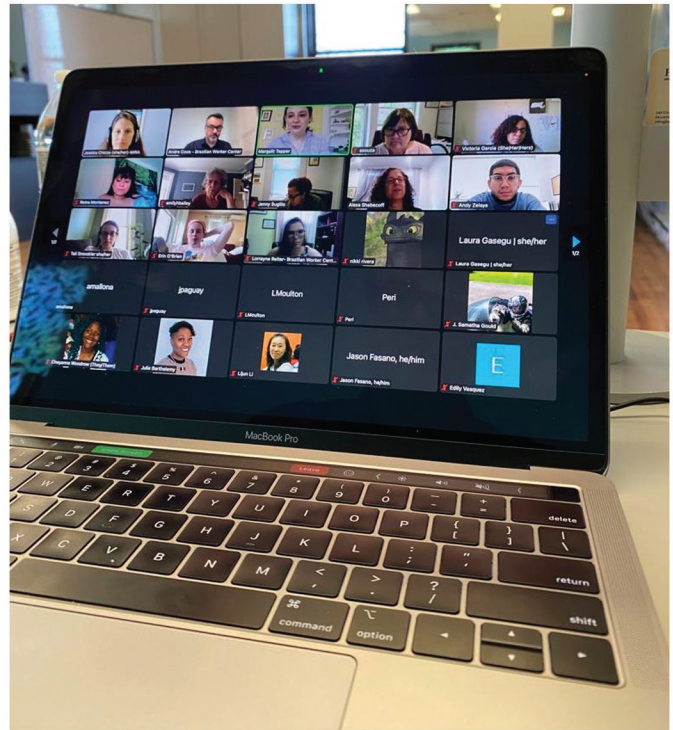
This is why it is so important for us to participate in events such as the 5th Annual Summer Institute: Workers’ Rights in Today’s New Normal. Every year, the BWC participates in the event hosted by Justice At Work and, this year, Lorrayne Reiter, Domestic Workers Organizer & Immigrants Defense Project Coordinator, and André Simões, Workers Rights & Research Coordinator, attended the event on behalf of our organization. Joined by other professionals, André and Lorrayne participated in a course about workers’ rights and related themes.

This was a great opportunity for our team and we look forward to attending next year’s edition.

Another day, another training

The Brazilian Worker Center is proud of the services that we provide to our immigrant community in MA. In addition to our services associated with workers rights, we can also assist immigrants with making phone calls with employers in response to wage theft cases and other types of injustice towards employees, as well as with referring immigrants to local private attorney partners and other organizations and agencies that can provide consultations when needed.

To keep our knowledge updated, it is important that we participate in training that can inform us about important updates regarding such topics. In July, Lenita Reason, BWC's Executive Director, Lorryne Reiter, Domestic Workers Organizer & Immigrants Defense Project Coordinator, and André Coco, BWC's Dreamers Project Coordinator, attended the Rights and Benefits for Immigrants (Summer Training - 2022) organized by MIRA.



This training was executed over four days (July 7th, 14th, 21st, and 30th) and covered the following topics: ABC' of Immigration, Rights and Benefits for Immigrants, Immigration and Families, and Immigration Policy Updates and the Work Ahead. During the training, we strengthened our foundational knowledge of basic rights afforded to immigrants and benefits that may apply to some immigrants as well as learned about some helpful resources that provide individuals to learn more about rights and benefits. Thank you MIRA for having us in the training.



Happy birthday!

July was a very important month for us at the Brazilian Worker Center. We celebrated the birthdays of two of our amazing colleagues: Lorryne Reiter and Alexandre Simões. Lorryne is our Domestic Workers Organizer & Immigrants Defense Project Coordinator and Alexandre is our digital entrepreneur. Congratulations, Lorryne and Alexandre! And thank you for being a part of our team!

Voicing our rights



In July, André Simões, BWC's Workers Rights & Research Coordinator, was a guest speaker at the local Brazilian radio station Nossa Rádio. During this interview, he talked about important topics associated with workers rights and responded to questions. It was such a pleasure to connect with our Brazilian community and to participate in this radio interview.

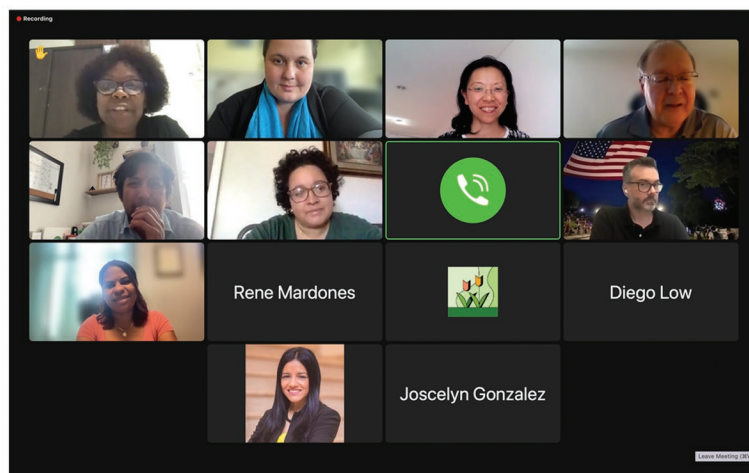
Thank you **Nossa Radio** for the invitation. We look forward to coming back soon!

Safety training and beyond

On July 14th, the Brazilian Worker Center participated in the training provided by OSHA to members of our Massachusetts Immigrant Collaborative (MIC). The collaborative, formerly known as the Boston Immigrant COVID-19 Collaborative (BICC)) aims to support immigrants in the City of Boston and surrounding communities.

We work together to alleviate our communities' issues by providing direct financial relief as well as provide them with capacity training. During the training offered on July 14th, we learned about OSHA's grants and ways of supporting workers with information about workplace safety.

Our Fall Prevention training and long standing partnership with OSHA was also acknowledged during the training. We are proud of the safety training we have been conducting over the past years and we look forward to continuing our partnership.



BWC Wellness Trip



From July 14th to 16th, the Brazilian Worker Center's team hosted our first staff wellness retreat. After an intense semester of work, our team gathered at a house in North Hampton, NH and used this time to relax, enjoy Brazilian barbecue, watch movies, ride bicycles, visit the beach and enjoy a bonfire. And we did not work! This was such a great bonding experience and, after this much needed retreat, our team felt relaxed and we were ready and excited to resume our work. Thank you Fish Family Foundation for helping us make this dream come true. We are immensely grateful for your generosity!



Coming soon



Would you like to improve your mental health and overall wellbeing? Are you an immigrant worker who resides in Boston? The BWC offers non-clinical mental health programs that aim to support the wellbeing of our immigrant community. Check out our upcoming health equity program, *Mulheres Vencedoras*. Our next cohort will start in August and participants will engage in mindfulness activities and have an opportunity to meet new people and create a stronger sense of community. If you are interested in registering for our upcoming program, call us at (617) 783-8001, email us info@braziliancenter.org or visit us at 14 Harvard Avenue, 2nd floor, Allston, MA.