



Newsletter

Year 01 Edition 05 - September, 2022

Welcome to the Brazilian Worker Center!

In the month of August, we continued our work to empower immigrants so that our community has the knowledge and skills to continue the fight for social, political, racial, and economic justice for all!

After 6 weeks of dedication and commitment, our BWC team has successfully completed the summer edition of our Dreamers project. During this time, we empowered 20 young Brazilian immigrants who participated in various classes at our headquarters. Thanks to the support received by the City of Boston, we celebrated the achievement of these young people who represent the future workers of our community.

We were also pleased to celebrate the women who participate in our Domestic Workers and 'Mulheres Vencedoras' programs who attended the first Women's Dinner since the pandemic.

In addition to continuing with our workers' rights workshops, the month was also marked by the first football tournament organized by the Building Justice workers'



committee, with the participation of several partner organizations!

Thank you to everyone who joined us and came to honor our event!

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

Dreamers in August



The Brazilian Worker Center is proud to have hosted a cohort of young Brazilian immigrants during yet another edition of the Summer Dreamers Fellowship Program. The program is an initiative in partnership with the City of Boston and other non-governmental organizations in Massachusetts. Our Dreamers consisted of young immigrants, between 14 and 20 years old, who participated in classes taught in Portuguese at the BWC. Through the project, they collaborated with each other and learned about marketing, finance, emergency preparedness, and other topics.

For Dreams to happen, we count on several partnerships and the support of our local MA community. This past month, our project has received the support of two local restaurants. On August 3rd, we had the donation of Alex's Kitchen, a Brazilian restaurant located at 107 Nichols Ave in Watertown, which provided a delicious lunch for our participants. On August 8th, our Dreamers greatly appreciated the generous donation of seven pizzas from Domino's pizza (@dominos).

In August, our youth also had the opportunity to learn a variety of topics from our facilitators. Our Immigrant Defense and Domestic Workers Coordinator, Lorryne Reiter spoke about immigrant rights; Jaime Zimmer, Executive Vice President of Five Rights Financial, spoke about financial education and Rony Jabour, Founder and CEO of United Safety Net, contributed, once again, with classes on Prevention of Building Falls, Infectious Diseases and protection against COVID-19. Our Dreamers project was also graced by the presence of Peter Barletta, Department of Labor Compliance Assistance Specialist (DOL - OSHA) and Adriane Queiroz, Program Assistant at (DOL - OSHA) USA; they came to honor and get to know our program during their visit. We would like to thank all who contributed to the Dreamers project Summer edition and we are grateful for our community's continuous support.



Interview to the Radio 'Nossa Rádio'



In support of the promotion of the Dreamers Fellowship program, the BWC's Safety and Health Project Coordinator, Gizele Bombardier, gave an interview to the local Brazilian radio station, 'Nossa Rádio', on August 5th. During her interview, she presented the purpose and importance of the Dreamers project, and she elaborated on ways that the project offers opportunities to the Brazilian immigrant youth and how it can impact our overall Brazilian immigrant community. If you are between 14 and 20 years old and want to know more about the Dreamers or if you are interested in joining our next Dreamers cohort, call (617) 562-1404 or come to our headquarters at 14 Harvard Avenue, 2nd floor, Allston.

One goal at a time



On August 20th, the Building Justice Committee of the Brazilian Worker Center together with our partner Justice At Work, organized for the first time, a football championship that brought together members from seven organizations that collaborate with us in the defense of workers' rights. The Soccer and Solidarity Championship was held at the American Legion Playground in East Boston and was the first ever Annual Football Tournament and Family Day. This event not only enabled integration and fraternization among all who attended, but also made it possible to strengthen ties between the participating organizations.

The partner organizations that attended the event were Centro Comunitário de Trabalhadores (CCT), Cosecha, Justice At Work, Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety & Health (MassCosh), Pioneer Valley Worker Center (PVWC of Springfield), Building Justice and Brazilian Women's Group, who did not bring a team, but was present throughout the event.

It was with great satisfaction that we celebrated the victory of the Building Justice team at the end. We would like to congratulate the organizations that received awards corresponding to second and third place, PVWC and Cosecha. We are excited for the next edition of the tournament and encourage everyone to follow the BWC on our social media to learn more about our upcoming events and programs.



The Women of the BWC

In August, we also had the pleasure of bringing together and celebrating the Brazilian women who participate in two BWC programs, i.e. Domestic Workers and Mulheres Vencedoras, during our first Women's Dinner since the pandemic. While participants who attend our Domestic Workers program learn about their labor rights and how to organize; immigrant women who participate in our 'Mulheres Vencedoras' program, mostly cancer survivors and women with chronic illnesses, are invited to engage in activities that encourage well-being and social interaction.

The Dinner was generously donated by local restaurants Sabor do Brasil, Oliveira's Deli, Pastelaria Vitória and The Cheesecake Factory. The event was also attended by cardiologist Filipe Moura, MD, PhD. After dinner, he gave a lecture on the importance of habits that help the health of the cardiac and overall body system. Our participants and the BWC would also like to thank Bella Mia Flowers, for presenting us and our participants with beautiful flowers and the author Alexandre Simoes, who kindly offered copies of his book during the gift giving portion of our event.

We would like to thank all the people and businesses that contributed for this event to happen and for your continuous support.



The Brazilian Worker Center treasures every opportunity to improve our ability to defend people's rights. For this reason, our team looks forward to participating in the Justice at Work Summer Institute every year, which offers us an invaluable opportunity to deepen our knowledge on issues related to workers' rights. This year's Summer Institute was hosted at the Justice at Work office and featured practical activities on how to organize and lead groups of workers to guarantee their labor rights. On August 19th, during the last day of the program, diplomas were distributed to all attendee organizers during a small celebration. Our Workers Rights & Research Coordinator, André Simões, and Domestic Workers Rights Organizer & Immigrants Defense Project Coordinator, Lorraine Reiter, attended the training. The BWC would like to thank Justice at Work for partnering with us for so many years and for inviting us to participate in the Summer Institute. We look forward to joining our partner organizations next year!

Workers Training

On July 30th, André Simões, our Workers Rights & Research Coordinator, led a two-hour training on labor law together with Fran Díaz. The event took place at the Somerville Worker Center and aimed to empower members of our Brazilian community through the knowledge of their rights as workers in Massachusetts. The BWC's Workers' Rights program is the flagship of our organization and represents our commitment to advancing social and racial justice for all members of our immigrant community. We thank everyone who participated in the event and invite everyone to follow the Brazilian Worker Center on social media and participate in the next labor workshops at our organization, located at 14 Harvard Street, second floor, Allston-MA.



A great loss

On August 31st, we lost a great volunteer and friend, Angela Sena. Angela had been actively engaged in the campaign led by the BWC to protect the rights of domestic workers for many years and, in 2014, she became a member of the Building Justice workers committee, composed by the BWC and Justice at Work, which organizes and empowers workers against wage theft. Angela was a warrior who bravely fought cancer at the end of her journey. But while her fight was not won at the end, her life was not in vain. Angela's passage through this world, her contributions to our battles against injustice, and her achievements have made the lives of everyone around her better and more meaningful, and for this, we will be eternally grateful. Angela, you will always be with us in our minds and in our hearts. May you rest in peace.