



Newsletter

Year 02 Edition 11 - January, 2023

2023 a year of opportunities!

The year is starting, and the Brazilian Worker Center is proud to reinforce its commitment to continue fighting for the rights and growth of the Brazilian community in Massachusetts.

2023 will be a significant year for us. This year we will put into practice one of the most outstanding achievements that we have had in recent decades: the right to have a Driver's License.

The fight was long and full of ups and downs, but now we will be able to move forward and give families the possibility of making everyday life easier and safer for everyone. As co-president of the Driving Families Forward coalition, the Brazilian Worker continues to dedicate all its efforts to implementing the law, which comes into force in July.

Because of all these changes, we believe this will be a year of great opportunities, encouraging everyone to pursue the dreams they think are worth fighting for.



In this newsletter, we bring you the highlights of our work in December and add one novelties: the birthdays of the month

Once again, we thank you for your support and trust, and we hope that 2023 will be filled with good surprises, good health, and renewed hopes!

Lenita Reason

Executive Director Brazilian Worker Center
Co-Chair Driving Families Forward Coalition
Co-Chair Wage Theft Coalition

SUPPORT FOR AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP



Providing services to the community is a priority for the Brazilian Worker Center. For almost three decades, our goals have been to facilitate access to information and guarantee the rights of immigrant communities. One example was the American Citizenship Clinic that we conducted in partnership with MIRA (Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition) in December. With the support of our staff, represented by Lorrayne Reiter, Andre Coco, and Andre Simoes, 13 people received guidance to apply for US citizenship. The free service aimed to offer support from lawyers specialized in citizenship processes.

FEATURED LATIN WOMAN

The Brazilian Worker Center always supports affirmative action in favor of minorities and immigrant communities. In December, one such event was the Second Continental Meeting of Afro-Latin American Studies (ALARI) at Harvard University. Our Executive Director, Lenita Reason, and Finance & Office Manager, Gizele Bombardier, accompanied the panel “Agência de Mulheres Negras e o Impacto da Desigualdade” (in English: Black Women's Agency and the Impact of Inequality), mediated by Juliane Oliveira Nunes, a Ph.D. student in Social Anthropology at the National Museum (UFRJ). The meeting brought together more than 250 researchers with research projects on racism and racial inequality in Latin America. Some of the panels dialogue with programs carried out by the BWC, mainly those related to domestic workers and women cancer survivors.



RADIO INTERVIEW

To publicize our work and share important information, we are constantly conducting interviews with the Brazilian media. In December, we received an invitation from Nossa Rádio USA to discuss the activities carried out in favor of the community. Journalist Giovana Locatelli welcomed Lorryne Reiter, Coordinator of the Immigrant Defense and Domestic Workers' Rights Departments, and Andre Simões, Coordinator of the Worker's Rights Department, at the radio studio.



OUR ACHIEVEMENT IN THE BOSTON GLOBE

It is gratifying when our work is recognized. The Brazilian Worker Center is very grateful for all the awards and certificates that recognize the important work that we do for our community. The Boston Globe, for example, published an article at the end of November highlighting the decisive participation of the BWC in the approval of the Driver's License. The trajectory and behind-the-scenes details of the coalition that worked on the campaign were also mentioned in the article. Our Executive Director Lenita Reason, co-chair of the Driving Families Forward coalition, says the space given by the newspaper shows the value of this fight and the impact of the achievement in all immigrant communities in Massachusetts.

DREAMERS GRADUATION

Another group of young Brazilian teenagers completed the Dreamers Fellowship program in 2022. In December, the Brazilian Worker Center celebrated the Dreamers accomplishment and delivered 15 certificates of completion for participants. The Dreamers developed their own startups, where they put into practice what they had learned in classes and workshops. The Dreamers presented their projects at the graduation event and will now dedicate themselves to continue working on their startups for another three months. Our goal is to have the youth present their startups to potential investors.



TOY DISTRIBUTION

Same as in previous years, this December, the Brazilian Worker Center distributed free toys to children in the community during Christmas. The action was supported by deputy Michael Moran and Anabela, organizer of The Allston Brighton Toy Drive. Hundreds of toys were delivered to Brazilian families, making the kids' Christmas more cheerful.





ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

In December, the Brazilian Worker Center gathered the Board of directors to present an overview of 2022's activities and discuss the plans and budget for 2023. Attendees included: our Executive Director, Lenita Reason, and the Board members: José Venâncio (President), Renato Trombini (Vice-President), Cristina Brinkhoff (Secretary), and Geisalberto de Oliveira (Member). The BWC's management and staff also participated in a fraternization lunch.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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Piera Varim

Yoga Instructor

DEC

7

Lenita Reason

Executive Director

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11

Erika Souza

Board Member

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Gizele Bombardier

Finance & Office Manager