



Newsletter

Year 02 Edition 13 - June, 2023

Above all, in defense of workers

May was a month full of activities, achievements, and the great engagement of the Brazilian Worker Center with the community. In all our actions, we defend workers' rights with the aim to give voice and a seat at the table to communities that are silenced and whose contributions to this country are not valued or recognized.

As we started the month, the Dreamers Program students participated in the Labor Day March, an essential civic act for young people. We also paid our respects to fallen workers on Workers Memorial Day and supported a special lecture on workplace safety.

Our team developed and performed an online seminar about Immigrants' Rights and disseminated our work at a school fair in Everett. We were guests on a local TV show and discussed the Driver's License for Immigrants in two podcast episodes. This gave the BWC visibility and increased our reach to inform the community about their rights and the latest news about implementation of the Driver's License law.

On the political side, we, as members of a



coalition, participated in a public meeting at the State House to defend more protection for workers through a bill to improve work safety. And finally, we are very grateful and proud to receive the award at the "We Are Boston 2023" event in recognition of our co-leadership in the Driving Families Forward Coalition.

We continue to count on your essential support for our mission to fight for social, economic, and political justice. Let's go forward together on this journey!

Lenita Reason
Executive Director
Brazilian Worker Center



Dreamers participate in the Worker's March

One of the objectives of the Dreamers Fellowship Program is to provide students with authentic experiences outside the classroom and to prepare them for the challenges of adult life. With that in mind, the Brazilian Worker Center took them on May 1st to participate in the traditional Labor Day March. According to Andre Côco, a volunteer who coordinates the program, the activity was part of the Civic Engagement curriculum and was intended to show young people the importance of taking to the streets to claim their rights.

Several organizations participated with signs and flags, marching from East Boston to Chelsea. Every year the BWC joins the march, and this time, it also had three more members of the staff: André Simões, Cristini Abreu, and Lorrayne Reiter.

Dreamers Fellowship is a youth program created by BWC, Centro Presente, and Caribbean Youth Club in partnership with the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement (MOIA) - City of Boston.

Workers' Memorial Day honors accident victims

The Brazilian Worker Center was present at the tribute on Workers' Memorial Day, an event organized by MassCOSH (Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health) in front of the State House. Officials and representatives from various community organizations, unions, and government agencies were there to pay their respects.

According to tradition, representatives from organizations and unions read out loud the names of the 51 workers who died in 2022 in dangerous situations in the workplace. During the ceremony, the victims' families shared memories and stories of the deceased workers in emotional moments. The photos of the fallen workers were spread on the lawn of Boston Common Park, where the event occurred.





Worker safety is a priority at BWC

Workers' safety is one of the biggest concerns of the Brazilian Worker Center. During the Awareness Week on Accidents at Work (Safety Stand-Down) at the beginning of May, we disseminated information on social networks about the importance of all workers learning to protect themselves.

Reports show that the number one cause of accidents at work is falling. To prevent the problem, in 2022, BWC trained more than 900 Residential Construction workers, in partnership with Rony Jabour's United Safety, through the Susan Harwood grant.

To stay up to date on the subject, watch the special online class on "Fall Prevention" taught by Jabour, featuring Peter Barletta (Compliance Assistance Specialist, US Department of Labor OSHA). The course highlighted the precautions that workers must take for their health and safety before and during the execution of their activities.

More information about workplace safety:

SAFETY INFORMATION - OSHA

To watch the full class, visit:



SAFETY CLASS



Fair in Everett engaged BWC with the community

Meeting the community where they are, is also part of the mission of the Brazilian Worker Center, which aims to share information about our services and achievements. In the first week of May, our team, represented by Cristini Abreu, Lorraine Reiter, and André Côco, was at Escola Whittier for the 1st Community Fair - Everett Public Schools.

The event had over eight organizations, including support groups for the Haitian community, local banks, and the Department of Education. Everyone was able to showcase the different resources available to the community. For the BWC, it was an opportunity to engage and disseminate helpful information for parents, teachers, and students.



TV interview highlights BWC programs

The performance of the Brazilian Worker Center was highlighted in the TV program "Bate-papo com Shirley" by TCAM TV in Taunton. Our Executive Director, Lenita Reason, talked a little about her background, the activities at the BWC, and highlighted topics such as the law on the Drivers' License for Immigrants, which will come into effect on the 1st of July.

The program was also an opportunity to discuss implementation and enforcement of the Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights. We explained the rights and duties of employers and employees and gave tips on keeping records of hours worked to avoid future problems or use the information in case of a labor dispute. The interview on "Chat with Shirley" is available on Comcast in MA, CT, VT, NH, and ME and can also be viewed on www.StoughtonTv.com



Project defends more protection for workers

On the 18th of May, the Brazilian Worker Center took part in a public parliamentary session at the State House to discuss the bill that extends protection to workers who suffer an accident or are injured at work—improvements to the worker's compensation system and increased protection against retaliation.

The proposal is authored by Congresswoman Tram Nguyen and Senator Jamie Eldridge, with the BWC as part of the coalition that supports the passage of the law. The legislative briefing entitled "Injured Worker Stories About Retaliation and Employer Misconduct: Barriers to HealthCare and Workers Compensation Benefits" featured workers sharing their stories to emphasize the importance of passing the law. BWC was represented by the Executive Director, Lenita Reason, André Simões (Department of Workers' Rights), and Gizele Bombardier (Office and Finance Manager).



Award recognizes leadership in the Driving Families Forward Coalition

The Brazilian Worker Center received another important award at We Are Boston 2023. On May 19, our Executive Director Lenita Reason and Chrystel Murrieta Ruiz received the "Community Leadership Award-Driving Families Forward Coalition." - as the coalition presidents that passed the Massachusetts Immigrant Driver 's License Act.

The event was hosted by the Boston Mayor 's Office for Immigrant Advancement (MOIA) in recognition of local leaders' support of communities and had the participation of Mayor Michelle Wu.

Two other awards were also given at the ceremony: the "Business Leadership Award" for Melodias

Restaurant (Carlos Cespedes) and the "Civic Leadership Award" for Clare Louise Okalan (ACEDONE). Before the award ceremony, the event featured an interactive workshop in which guests had the opportunity to discuss themes for the development of Boston with each specific department, such as urban planning, security, leisure, and health, among others.



Podcasts shed light on Driver's License

This month two episodes of the BWC Podcast featured information about the implementation of Driver's Licenses for immigrants in Massachusetts under the WFMA Act, which goes into effect on July 1st. In both, the Executive Director of the Brazilian Worker Center, Lenita Reason,

who is part of the "Driving Families Forward" coalition, brought essential updates to help community members understand how and what to prepare to apply. The early May podcast featured Tiago Prado from BRZ Insurance, a strong supporter of the campaign.

Click on the links below to watch:



DRIVERS LICENSE FOR IMMIGRANTS



EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO APPLY

SUBSCRIBE ON YOUR CHANNEL



André Simões

Coordinator of the
Labor Rights Department

MEET OUR STAFF

The staff highlight this month is André Simões, who coordinates the Labor Rights Department of the Brazilian Worker Center. André moved to the US a year ago. He has a Master's degree in Social Sciences from Unifesp, a bachelor's degree in Social Sciences from FFLCH/USP, and an Equality Policy in Education specialist from UNIFESP.

Worked with communities along the Paraopeba basin on account of Vale's crime disaster in Brumadinho by the Guaicuy Institute; as an educator for SESC-SP (2015-2019); in the Artistic Initiation Program (PIÁ 2014) and in democratic education schools. In the arts, he was a member of the rap group H2P (2000-2011), with which he toured Brazil and abroad as winner of the Rumos de Música Award from Itaú Cultural (2008-2010).]

Simões participated in dance theater and music groups with which he won awards from the State

of São Paulo (2010; 2014 to 2020). In addition, it promotes Brazilian culture in workshops and classes, both in Brazil and abroad. In 2019 and 2020, he taught at the MIT Dance Class, MIT Brazilian Class, and Master Class in Dance Complex Cambridge USA. In his spare time, he enjoys listening to music, cycling, being in nature, and traveling to experience other cultures.

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