



Solidarity that makes a difference

With great satisfaction, we share another newsletter with you, bringing updates on the projects we develop in the community. One of our recent programs that we are very proud of is the Family Welcome Center, which served 1,105 immigrant families (3,404 individuals) in just over two months with resources and referrals (until August 31st). We feel grateful for making a difference in people's lives who need support and guidance in settling in Massachusetts.

To make this work possible, we also rely on donations and volunteer work in addition to the partnership with the State. See in this edition how you can be part of this vital initiative.

Another highlight of August was the graduation of the eighth class of the MOIA Summer 2023 - Youth Summer Work Experience Program (formerly Dreamers Fellowship). This time, the program focused on developing skills for the job market and training participants to have more opportunities

In August, we also celebrated the approval of the law on equity in college tuition for young people without immigration status.



As always, we appreciate and continue to count on your support to assist our communities in fighting for social, economic, and political justice.

Thank you!

Lenita Reason
Executive Director
Brazilian Worker Center



Family Welcome Center: More than 1,100 families served

The Family Welcome Center (FWC), a program offered by the Brazilian Worker Center (BWC) in partnership with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, surpassed the mark of 1,100 families served in two months of operation (1.105 families - 3.404 individuals until August 31st).

A pioneer in the State in becoming an organization that welcomes immigrants and refugees, BWC helps families by connecting them to resources and referring them to temporary shelters.

The FWC has received immigrants from Haiti, Venezuela, Guatemala, and the Dominican Republic, some families from Puerto Rico, and one from Russia.

Services are provided on the third floor of the same building as the BWC, where families receive guidance and food. A Haitian and English professional has been assisting with the translation and interpretation.

To help families accommodate, the State created a campaign in which residents can temporarily host a family or make other donations by accessing the website www.mass.gov/help-families-in-crisis

Donations can also be made directly to the BWC at 617-817-5028 or click here: [**DONATE NOW**](#)



BWC supports the request for federal funds

In early August, the Executive Director of the Brazilian Worker Center, Lenita Reason, held a conference with Governor Maura Healey to support the call for more federal resources to address the housing crisis.

Due to the arrival of hundreds of families in Massachusetts, mainly Haitians, the Governor decreed a State of Emergency.

In addition to the BWC in Allston, another Family Welcome Center was recently opened in Quincy, reinforcing the urgency and need for more resources.

According to Reason, agility in work permits is needed so immigrants can work and become self-sufficient. "Families want to settle down quickly to be self-reliant and support themselves. That's why we support the Governor's request," said the BWC director. While families wait for their work permits, donations are welcome.

See in this newsletter the links and phone numbers to make your donation.

Program prepares young people for the job market

The Brazilian Worker Center, in partnership with the Boston City Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement (MOIA), formed the eighth class of the "MOIA Summer 2023 - Youth Summer Work Experience Program" (formerly Dreamers Fellowship).

In this edition, we had 15 young Brazilians who participated, and they had the opportunity to learn topics related to the labor market and traditional themes already worked in previous editions, such as Immigrant Rights, Worker Health and Safety, and Leadership. There were 120 hours of classes with theoretical and practical content. Participants also learned about finances and how the ITIN Number ((Individual Taxpayer Identification Number) works.

One of the highlights of this edition was the donation of Chromebooks to students in partnership with Tech Goes Home. With access to the equipment, students were able to have computer and technology classes, which helps them enter the job market.





Students learn about the "Tuition Equity" law

Members of the eighth class of the Youth Summer Work Experience Program (a partnership of the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement - MOIA - of Boston City Hall, with the Brazilian Worker Center) participated in the last August 30th of the "Tuition Equity Youth Training." Over 50 young people attended the event, organized by Stories Inspiring Movements (SIM), Brazilian Worker Center, and Centro Presente. The training included youth from the Alpha Agency, IFSI (Immigrant Family Services Institute), and BINCA.

The goal was to share with them the meaning of the new law approved after more than 20 years of struggle.

Massachusetts students can now qualify for state tuition and financial aid to enter universities

to enter universities regardless of immigration status.

With the law's passage through the 2024 Budget and signed into law by Governor Maura Healey, MA joins 23 other states and Washington DC, which already have similar state laws. State Representatives Adrian Madaro Michael Moran, and Senators Brendan Crighton and Liz Miranda sponsored the "Tuition Equity" bill.

At the training, the youth were visited by Doug Parker, USDOL Assistant Secretary of Labor, accompanied by Region 1 OSHA Director Galen Blanton, who answered questions from the students.

AUGUST IN MOMENTS

VISIT

Boston City Councilor Liz Breadon visited the Brazilian Worker Center to learn about the Family Welcome Center (FWC) program, which offers help to immigrants and refugees. Our Executive Director, Lenita Reason, and Immigrant Rights Coordinator, Lorrayne Reiter, welcomed her.



AUGUST IN MOMENTS



FOOTBALL & SOLIDARITY

The Brazilian Worker Center and Justice At Work promoted the "2nd Building Justice - Annual Soccer and Solidarity" on the 2nd of September.

The competition occurred at Larz Anderson Field in Brookline and brought together families, friends, and members of organizations fighting for justice.

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