



2 Years of Challenges and Achievements!

September was an exceptional month for me! Two years ago, I began my journey as Executive Director of the Brazilian Worker Center, boosting the work I had already done with the community for several years. I took this position knowing all the challenges, but also confident that we can achieve even more for our communities together.

The work has been intense, but the reward comes as achievements. During this period as director, I worked with other organizations and coalitions to approve two important bills: the Driver's License for Immigrants and the Tuition Equity for Students. Both result from more than 20 years of struggle, but finally, our workers and students now have more support to overcome obstacles and grow even more.

I am also very proud to have the Brazilian Worker Center as a partner with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the first Family Welcome Center, which supports families and refugees who arrive in search of shelter and the chance for a better and more dignified life.

For all of this, I can only thank the team of professionals who make BWC's work happen daily;



support from organizations, foundations, and community leaders; politicians who side with immigrant causes; and the members of our community who donate, volunteer, and always support us. I also thank each member of the Board of Directors of the Brazilian Worker Center for their invaluable support and dedication to our mission of fighting for social, economic, and political justice. Let's build even more together!

Thank you!

Lenita Reason
Executive Director
Brazilian Worker Center



2nd Annual Soccer and Solidarity was a success

The second edition of Annual Soccer and Solidarity, promoted by Building Justice at the beginning of September, was a great success. The committee, an initiative built by the Brazilian Worker Center and Justice at Work, once again organized a significant community engagement sporting event. The afternoon of football and social engagement took place at Larz Anderson Field in Brookline.

The Brazilian Worker Center was placed first on the scoreboard, followed by the Pioneer Valley Workers Center (Springfield) and City of Boston in third place. Other organizations participating were the MassCoach, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA - Boston Chapter), and Justice at Work.

Around 80 people attended the event, which, in addition to football, offered activities for families, strengthening relationships and community engagement. We congratulate and thank all participants who have already extended an invitation to next year's tournament!

BWC celebrated the Independence of Brazil



The Brazilian Worker Center was at the 28th Brazilian Independence Festival in Boston, promoted at Herter Park by the Brazilian Women's Group. As part of the event, BWC had a stand with information for the community, with flyers, magazines, and materials about the programs we offer.

Representing the BWC, Executive Director Lenita Reason and the team formed by Cristini Abreu, André Simões, Lorryne Reiter, Elisa Alves, and Cristina Moreira were present. Volunteers Priscilla Martins and AlexSandro Lima also collaborated, together with board members Cristina Brinkerhoff and Alberto Oliveira.

In addition to traditional food, the festival featured attractions such as the Boston Carnival Society, the National anthem, a capoeira presentation, live Brazilian music, and a frevo class offered by André Simões and Piéra Varin.

Tribute to community achievements

On September 14th, the Brazilian Worker Center was honored by MassCosh at the 47th Celebrating the Movement, held at Freeport Hall, IBEW Local 103. For its work on behalf of the community, BWC received recognition for the Policy Champion Award category. The same award was also given to Movimento Cosecha and SEIU 32BJ. Executive Director Lenita Reason received the trophy, accompanied by BWC staff: André Simões, Lorryne Reiter, and Gizele Bombardier.



On the same night, other leaders and organizations were honored: Labor Leadership Award: Steven Tolman, President, MA AFL-CIO; Community Justice Award: Boston City Councilwoman Julia Mejia, Boston Education Justice Alliance Director Ruby Reyes, and Boston Education Justice Alliance Parent Organizer Suleika Soto; Immigrant Worker of Courage Award: Maritza Alarcon, Reyna Chanta, and Doris Arroyave.



Project to combat wage theft gains support

The Brazilian Worker Center was part of the public session on the bill to Combat Wage Theft from Workers (Wage Theft Bill S1158 - H1868). BWC Executive Director Lenita Reason is the co-chair of the "An Act to Prevent Wage Theft" campaign, along with Kevin Brussels AFL-CIO, and so was at State House to support the proposal.

The session featured statements of support from Andrea Campbell (MA Attorney General), AFL-CIO, GBLS, Great Boston Legal Council, Representative Rodney Elliot (Co-sponsor), Senator Sal DiDomenico (Sponsor), Representative Josh Cutler (Sponsor), Representative Sanders, among others.

Workers' centers, unions, and workers were also present. Among them: Lynn Worker Center, Brazilian Women's Group, MassCosh, Casa and La Colaborativa

In Massachusetts, about 1 billion dollars are estimated to be stolen yearly from workers' wages. Therefore, the importance of this project aimed at strengthening protection laws to prevent this common practice in the State, which mainly harms immigrant workers.



Fair highlights community services and opportunities

The Brazilian Worker Center was part of the list of organizations participating in the Urban Resource Fair at Campus Center Terrace - UMass Boston. The fair highlighted the gap between the university community and the diverse range of resources, services, and opportunities available in the community. André Simões and Cristini Abreu are present at the event representing BWC.

The fair also featured the Gaston Institute, Ross Center, SACNAS chapter UMB, Global Programs - Study Away, Umass Boston, TAG | ALERT, Merit Scholarship Office, Immigrant Student Program, Student Support Programs - SSS, Writing Center, UNAM BOSTON, Asian Student Center, U-Access and CWPPP.



SEPTEMBER IN MOMENTS



INDEPENDENCE

The Brazilian Worker Center participated in the Brazilian Flag Raising event in front of Everett City Hall to celebrate Brazil's Independence. The team took advantage of the occasion to set up an information table for the community.

LATIN DIVERSITY

The Brazilian Worker Center paid tribute to several Latinx communities in front of Boston City Hall at the meeting that celebrated Latino Heritage Month. The event was attended by representatives of Latinx communities and workers from City Hall, as well as Mayor Michele Wu, deputies, and councilors.



VISIT

Trevor La Fauci, Courtney White, and the new MOIA team (Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement - City of Boston) visited the Brazilian Worker Center to discuss the Family Welcome Center and the newly arrived families being served. Until September 28th, the FWC assisted 1,346 families, 4,184 people.

WE NEED DONATIONS FOR THE FAMILY WELCOME CENTER

Every day, dozens of immigrant and refugee families come to the Family Welcome Center looking for help taking their first steps in Massachusetts. The program is offered by the Brazilian Worker Center (BWC) in partnership with the Office for Refugees and Immigrants.

We thank everyone who has donated through the Amazon Wish List, especially Brazilian Women's Group, for their generous donation.

If you want to be part of this solidarity movement, access the list we created on Amazon:

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