



With our words director:

With immense joy and gratitude, I address each of you as the Executive Director of the Brazilian Worker Center to express our profound appreciation for the incredible support we received throughout the year 2023. The support from our community, collaborators, partner organizations, volunteers, and authorities was crucial in achieving significant milestones for our immigrant community.

The past year was marked by extraordinary victories for the immigrant community, and each step taken was made possible through the unity and determination of all involved. The contributions and joint efforts of all involved strengthened the mission of the Brazilian Worker Center, allowing us to continue the fight for the rights and well-being of immigrant workers.

We sincerely thank every volunteer for their time and skills, our partner organizations for their invaluable collaboration, and our dedicated staff who worked tirelessly to promote social and economic justice. The ongoing support from local authorities also played a pivotal role in our accomplishments, showcasing the power of collaboration between civil society and government institutions.



As we celebrate the achievements of 2023, we look forward with enthusiasm to the year 2024, aware that we will face even more intense challenges. However, we firmly believe that with the same unity and determination that characterizes us, we will be able to overcome any obstacles that come our way.

We count on each of you to continue making a difference in the lives of the immigrants we serve. Together, we can build a fairer and more inclusive future for all. May 2024 be a year of even more extraordinary accomplishments, and may we continue to write a story of success and solidarity.

Thank you,
Lenita Reason
Executive Director - Brazilian Worker Center



Family Welcome Center (FWC) Receives Generous Donations from Boston Medical Center (BMC)

In a compassionate gesture, the Emergency Department of the Boston Medical Center (BMC) delivered significant donations to the Family Welcome Center (FWC) on December 20th. Throughout this year, BMC raised funds with the specific purpose of providing essential care items to immigrant families, recognizing the relevance of the assistance provided by FWC.

The donation includes winter kits containing hats, gloves, and socks, as well as basic items for babies, such as bottles, diapers, wipes, and more. The delivery took place at an event attended by Lenita Reason, Executive Director of the Brazilian Worker Center, youth from the "Dreamers" program (Immigrant Youth Advancement Program), and members of the BMC team.

Liz Traina, Administrative Internship Coordinator at the Boston Medical Center's Emergency Department, expressed her gratitude: "We applaud the work of the Brazilian Worker Center and thank them for helping immigrant families find their way in Massachusetts. Many of these families receive essential care in BMC's emergency department and rely on resources tailored to their needs. Your efforts to expand and enhance services at the Family Welcome Center help alleviate the

burden on our department and serve as a critical aspect of care for these families."

The partnership between BMC and BWC underscores their commitment to providing comprehensive support to immigrant communities, emphasizing the importance of solidarity and collaboration in challenging times.

Acknowledgments to Arbella Insurance

We would like to express our deep gratitude to Arbella Insurance for their generous monetary donation to the BWC Family Welcome Center. Thanks to your contribution, numerous families of refugee immigrants could find respite in a warm and secure environment. Your solidarity makes a significant difference in the lives of these individuals, providing them with a welcoming refuge in challenging times.

We sincerely appreciate making this positive impact on the community possible and for demonstrating the true spirit of mutual support.



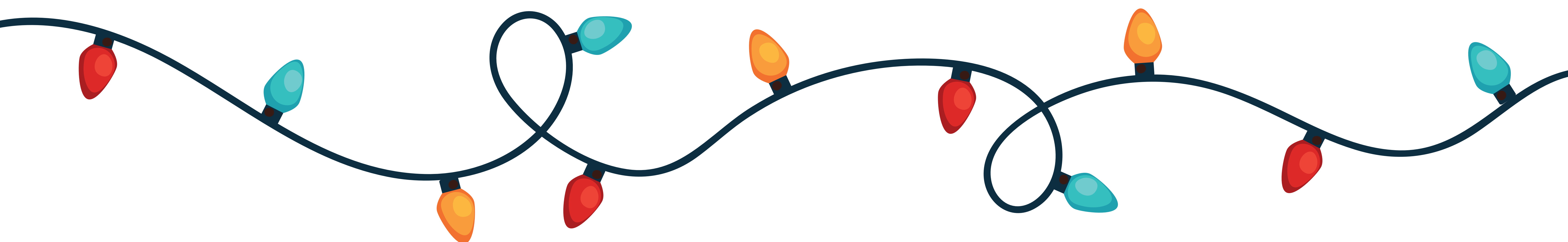
Immigrant Youth Advancement Program Students illuminate the season at "Brighton Center Tree Lighting"

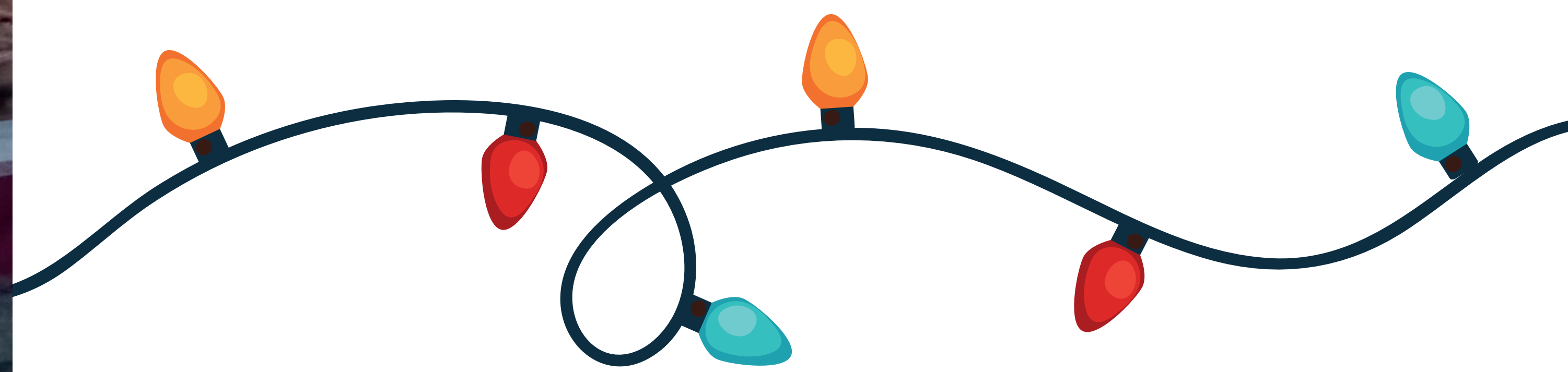
In a festive atmosphere that marked the Christmas celebrations, students from the Immigrant Youth Advancement Program, a collaboration between the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement (MOIA) of the City of Boston and the Brazilian Worker Center (BWC), participated in the "Brighton Center Tree Lighting" event on December 7th.

The inauguration ceremony of the Christmas lights and the much-anticipated arrival of Santa Claus took place at the BCYF/Jackson Mann Community Center. The event featured the distinguished presence of Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, who shared festive moments with the community.

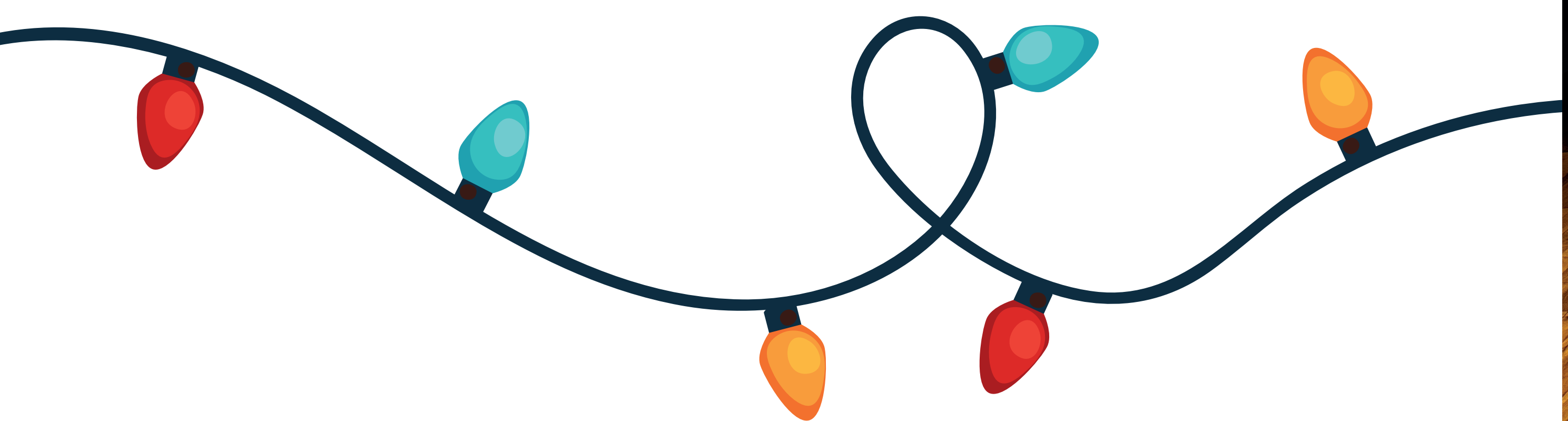
Representing the BWC, Alexandre Simões, the program's Communication facilitator, attended and emphasized the significance of the partnership in providing enriching experiences for the students. The "Brighton Center Tree Lighting" not only illuminated the Christmas spirit within the community but also strengthened the bonds between institutions committed to the advancement and well-being of young immigrants.

This festive event underscores the Immigrant Youth Advancement Program's dedication to providing meaningful opportunities for students, promoting inclusion and celebration during the holiday season.





Brazilian Worker Center distributes Christmas gifts to community children



In yet another charitable gesture marking the festive season, the Brazilian Worker Center (BWC) carried out its annual tradition of distributing toys as Christmas presents to children in the community. Executive Director Lenita Reason spearheaded the initiative, bringing smiles and joy to many eager faces.

The toys were generously donated by various community-engaged supporters. Among them, we highlight the valuable contributions of Mike Moran, Massachusetts State Representative; Frank Mendoza, Allston and Brighton Liaison in the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services; Anabela Gomes, from BAIA (Brighton Allston Improvement Association); Kevin Honan, Massachusetts State Representative; and Liz Breadon, Boston City Council Member.

We sincerely thank all these dedicated donors, whose generous contributions provided moments of happiness and fun for the children served by the Brazilian Worker Center. The distribution of Christmas gifts not only symbolizes solidarity during the holiday season but also underscores BWC's ongoing commitment to strengthen and support local communities. May this gesture inspire generosity and compassion throughout the entire festive season.



6 Months of Driver's Licenses - Work and Family Mobility Law

The Brazilian Worker Center (BWC) is pleased to share impressive numbers announced by the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) in December. Since the implementation of the Work and Family Mobility Law on July 1st of last year, 54,952 new driver's licenses and 91,961 new learner's permits have been issued, showcasing the importance and validity of this legislation that BWC played a role in advocating for.

The data reveals a significant increase, highlighting the pressing need for the law. There has been a notable 244% increase in new learner's permits and a 120% increase in new driver's licenses compared to the same period in 2022. Additionally, 33,648 out-of-state driver's license conversions were processed.

Lenita Reason, Executive Director and co-chair of the Driving Families Forward coalition, emphasizes the significant achievement of seeing the Work and Family Mobility Law successfully implemented. She acknowledges the active collaboration of the RMV and the entire Healey-Driscoll administration in this process.

To meet the growing demand, the RMV took proactive measures, including hiring over 250 frontline staff and road test examiners, along with expanding service hours. Additional road test locations were opened in Holyoke, Revere, Cambridge, Franklin, Worcester, and Brockton.

The RMV not only streamlined the process for obtaining a Standard License but also collaborated with groups, communities, and non-profit organizations, demonstrating a collective effort to successfully implement this crucial legislation. The BWC celebrates these achievements and reaffirms its commitment to continue supporting initiatives that benefit the community.



Graduation - Completion of the Ninth Cohort of the Immigrant Youth Advancement Program

With great joy, the Brazilian Worker Center (BWC) concluded the activities of the Fall 2023 Immigrant Youth Advancement Program on December 21st. In partnership with the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement (MOIA) of the City of Boston, the program held a certificate presentation ceremony for the participants, marking the end of three months of learning and growth.

Over this period, 15 young immigrants received workforce-focused training, engaging in 10 hours of classes per week. This edition of the program innovatively provided an opportunity for students who had previously participated in earlier cohorts to continue refining their theoretical and practical skills.

The program's closure featured student presentations, showcasing projects where they applied techniques learned in classes taught by various professionals throughout the course.

BWC takes pride in contributing to the development of these young individuals and in awarding certifications that represent not only program completion but also the commitment and dedication of the participants. In addition to the acquired knowledge, the youth received materials, nutritional support, and financial assistance as incentives, highlighting the comprehensive approach of the program.

This initiative reinforces BWC's commitment to empowering young immigrants, preparing them for the workforce, and providing opportunities for their development. We congratulate all participants on their achievement and wish them success in their future endeavors.



Brazilian Worker Center Strengthens Ties during Visit from International Union of Painters & Allied Traders - District Council 35

On Thursday, December 28th, the Brazilian Worker Center welcomed the esteemed visit of Rodrigo Badaro, Business Representative/Organizer of the International Union of Painters & Allied Traders - District Council 35. This visit was marked by a gesture of courtesy, represented by a significant gift presented by Badaro.

Executive Director Lenita Reason and Leadership Development Program Manager Gizele Bombardier warmly received the union representative. During the meeting, experiences were shared, and opportunities to strengthen integration between the union and the community in 2024 were discussed.

The possibility of a closer partnership between the union and the Brazilian Worker Center reflects the commitment of both parties to promote the well-being and development of the community. The exchange of ideas during the visit opens doors for future collaborations that will undoubtedly contribute to strengthening bonds and creating opportunities for community members.

BWC appreciates Rodrigo Badaro's visit and welcomes the prospect of deeper integration in the coming year. These initiatives demonstrate the ongoing commitment to building meaningful partnerships for the progress and prosperity of all.



Year-End Celebration - The Importance of Teamwork

On December 11th, the Brazilian Worker Center team gathered at a special event to celebrate the achievements of the year 2023. The occasion was dedicated to expressing deep gratitude to the members of both the Brazilian Worker Center and the Family Welcome Center for their tireless efforts throughout the year.

The event provided an opportunity to recognize the numerous victories achieved for the immigrant community. The year was marked by significant triumphs, such as the approval of the driver's license law, providing mobility and dignity to community members. Additionally, the establishment of the Family Welcome Center stood out as a pivotal initiative, offering essential support to immigrant families.

The celebration not only commemorated the milestones but also strengthened the bonds among team members, emphasizing the importance of collective work and dedication to serving the community. Gratitude was expressed to everyone who played crucial roles in these successes, demonstrating that together we can overcome challenges and achieve remarkable goals.

May this celebration be a prelude to a new year filled with more accomplishments and progress for the well-being of the immigrant community. The Brazilian Worker Center extends its thanks to all team members for their dedicated service and looks forward to a future filled with collective achievements.

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