



## With our words director:

I am pleased to provide an overview of our activities in January, a month marked by significant progress and meaningful engagements at the Brazilian Worker Center.

Throughout the past month, we have participated in pivotal discussions and strengthened our partnerships with various stakeholders. From strategic planning sessions to impactful events, each interaction has offered an opportunity to advance positive change and foster a more inclusive and equitable future.

The unwavering dedication of our team has been instrumental in ensuring that every initiative we undertake contributes meaningfully to the well-being and safety of our immigrant community. I am immensely proud of the collective effort we have invested and the milestones we have achieved.

As we embark on February, filled with new challenges and opportunities, I extend my sincere appreciation to each of you for your steadfast



support and commitment to our mission. Together, we possess the strength and resilience to overcome any obstacles we encounter along the way.

Stay tuned for updates and exciting developments in our forthcoming newsletter. Until then, let us remain resolute in our commitment to serving and empowering our community.

With gratitude,

Lenita Reason

Executive Director - Brazilian Worker Center





## The State of the City - Highlights Achievements and Commitments

On January 9th, the city of Boston hosted the "The State of the City" event at the MGM Music House.

The Brazilian Worker Center had the honor of being invited to participate in the event, providing an opportunity to hear directly from Mayor Michele Wu about the city's achievements in the previous year and the ongoing initiatives for the current year.

One notable achievement mentioned was the signing of an ordinance at the Brazilian Worker Center headquarters, ensuring greater safety for construction workers. This legislation mandates that all public construction projects in the city have workers trained in workplace safety.

In addition to Mayor Wu and her team, other officials, politicians, and organizations working to improve the lives of people in the city were also present. The event served as a platform for collaboration and sharing the commitment to continue making positive impacts in the community.

On January 13th, members of the Building Justice Committee gathered at the Brazilian Worker Center headquarters to plan activities for the year ahead.

As part of its tradition, the Committee is gearing up to host the "Soccer and Solidarity" Football Tournament in the summer. Additionally, a new addition for this winter will be the Workers' Forum.

The Forum is scheduled to take place in March and will feature the participation of workers' centers, unions, lawyers, and workers. This event represents a valuable opportunity to learn about the rights and responsibilities of all workers and to share strategies for protecting and ensuring those rights.



The Building Justice Committee consists of members from the Brazilian Worker Center, Justice at Work, and workers, primarily from the construction industry. This diverse and engaged collaboration aims to strengthen advocacy for workers' rights and promote a fairer and safer working environment for all. Stay tuned for more details and participation in these important events!





## MIC Annual Retreat 2024 - Consolidating Efforts for the Future

On January 26th, the Massachusetts Immigrant Collaborative (MIC) held its highly anticipated MIC Annual Retreat 2024 in Framingham, MA, bringing together various member organizations to plan activities for the year ahead. Representing the Brazilian Worker Center, a co-founder of MIC, were Executive Director Lenita Reason, along with staff members Gizele Bombardier and André Simões.

During the discussions, member organizations reviewed the 5 strategic priorities, fostering discernment on strategies and deepening collaboration in specific areas.

Crucial topics were addressed, including the on-

going immigration crisis, with a focus on enhancing support for all immigrants, especially those still in need since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The MIC Annual Retreat 2024 was a valuable opportunity to promote thoughtful discussions, strategic planning, and collaboration strengthening among member organizations, reaffirming the commitment to the immigrant community.

Stay tuned for more updates and initiatives from MIC throughout the year!



## General Rice visits the Family Welcome Center



On January 11th, the Family Welcome Center (FWC), a project developed in partnership between the Brazilian Worker Center and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, received the distinguished visit of Lieutenant General Leon Scott Rice.

The purpose of this visit was to discuss the challenges faced during the immigration crisis and explore ways to improve support for families. During the visit, Lieutenant General Rice had the opportunity to tour the FWC facilities and gain a better understanding of the family reception process.

Additionally, he engaged in a productive conversation with Lenita Reason, Executive Director of the Brazilian Worker Center, where the main difficulties in serving immigrant families were highlighted.

The presence of Lieutenant General Rice underscores the importance of the work carried out by the FWC and emphasizes the ongoing need for support and collaboration to effectively address the challenges of the immigration crisis. Stay tuned for more updates on FWC initiatives in our next newsletter.



### Family Welcome Center

Reflecting on the past seven months at the Family Welcome Center, we are thrilled to share some exciting updates with you. During this time, we have served over 2.200 families and 11.100 individuals, providing vital support and resources to ensure a smooth transition and integration into our community.

These statistics reflect the Family Welcome Center's profound impact and importance in the community, providing vital support to a diverse range of individuals and families.

Through our comprehensive programs and services, we have facilitated access to temporary housing, clothes donations, food, and hygiene materials.

Our compromise is to make the families feel welcome and empower them to thrive in their new environment.

When the families arrive at the FWC, they have a warm meal, supplies for the kids, a place for rest a little of the whole insecurity that they are facing waiting to be called to enter the shelter system, and most importantly; they feel heard and welcomed.



None of this would have been possible without the generous support of donors like you. We especially thank Arbella Insurance, United Way, Patriots Foundation, Boston Medical Center, and all individual donors for all the amazing support.

Your contributions have significantly impacted countless family's lives, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your continued generosity. Together, we are making a difference and creating brighter futures for all the new arrivals families.

What to help as well?

**WISH LIST AMAZON**



## Workers Rights: BWC and Source Hub Partnership

On January 23rd, in the city of Fall River, the Brazilian Worker Center (BWC) and the Source Hub joined forces to offer an educational lecture on labor rights. This event, part of an ongoing initiative by the Source Hub to provide valuable information to the community, provided a unique opportunity to explore crucial issues related to workplace rights.



With the presence of representatives from the Attorney General's Office (AGO) and a lawyer specializing in workplace accident cases, we delved into a wide range of topics, from basic workers' rights to legal procedures involving workplace incidents. Participants had the chance to clarify doubts, learn about available resources, and understand their rights and responsibilities under the law.

This collaboration between BWC and Source Hub highlights our shared commitment to empowering workers and promoting fair and safe work environments. Representing the Brazilian Worker Center, André Simões, Workers Rights Program Manager, participated in the event providing guidance and answering questions, further strengthening our collaboration.

As part of our ongoing efforts to strengthen our community, we look forward to future educational initiatives and collaborative events. Stay tuned for more learning and engagement opportunities as we continue to work together for the benefit of all





**BWC PODCAST**

# SECOND SEASON

**STAY TUNED**

We are thrilled to announce the return of the second season of our beloved BWC Podcast! On January 31st, we launched the first episode with a fundamental theme: "Rights and Responsibilities in the Workplace." This episode addressed crucial issues about labor rights, offering valuable insights for both workers and employers.

The episode featured a special guest appearance by Fernanda Silveira, Executive Director of Source Hub, alongside Lenita Reason, Executive Director of the Brazilian Worker Center, and André Simoes, BWC Workers Rights Program Manager. The discussion was rich in information and provided essential guidance for our community.

Throughout this season, we will continue to explore a variety of relevant topics, aiming to provide practical knowledge and useful perspectives for our listeners. Stay tuned for upcoming episodes where we will cover a wide range of issues impacting our community.

The BWC Podcast is an important platform for fostering dialogue, sharing resources, and strengthening our community. We are excited to embark on this journey with you and continue to provide valuable and inspiring content.

Don't miss the next episode!

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