



AMERICAN GATEWAYS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

A Letter from Co-Executive Director Rebecca Lightsey

Happy New Year! I hope yours is starting off well. Here at American Gateways, we continue to be flexible, just like everyone else. We were hoping to start the transition back into our offices this month, and had also planned to do an in-person clinic to help newly arrived Afghan families, but Omicron put a temporary hold on that. With assistance from many of our terrific pro bono partners, we will still be helping our new Afghan neighbors as well as hosting a Citizenship workshop in San Antonio in February. If you'd like to volunteer at these, or any of our other events, you can reach out to us [here](#).

As we start the new year, all of us on staff want to give a big shout-out to our committed, thoughtful Board of Directors, especially to our out-going Board Chair for the last two years, Leah Buratti. Leah's compassionate, steady hand has helped guide us through lots of ups and downs during these very trying pandemic times. We are so grateful to her and all the Board.

Thanks to each and every one of you for your commitment to immigrant justice here in Central Texas.



Our out-going Board Chair, Leah Buratti, and her family

ICE Separates a Child from His Parents

A 16-year-old from Nicaragua was wrongfully separated from his parents after border authorities questioned his birth certificate. He was processed as an adult and spent several weeks in custody at two separate adult detention centers.

With the help of an American Gateways attorney, Meri Soniat du Fossat, the teenager was finally reunited with his family after two months. Read the article in English on [NBC](#), or watch their moving story from Noticias Telemundo in Spanish below.

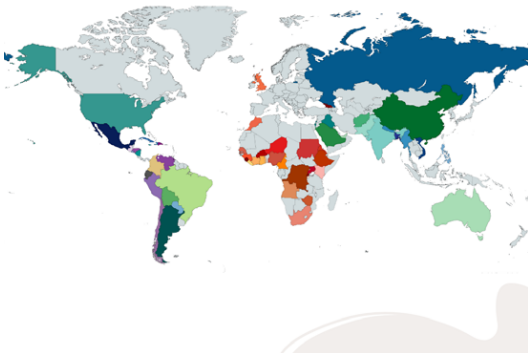


Our 2021 Year In Review

IN 2021 AMERICAN GATEWAYS...



**SERVED PEOPLE
FROM 63 COUNTRIES**



IN 2021 AMERICAN GATEWAYS...



LEVERAGED 582 VOLUNTEERS

**FOR 4,446
HOURS**



**TOTALING
185 DAYS**



**AND
\$827,393 IN
SERVICES**





**IN 2021, AMERICAN GATEWAYS
SERVED OVER 2,457 INDIVIDUALS IN
OUTREACH PROGRAMS, SUCH AS...**



NATZ CLINICS

Citizenship workshops in which volunteers and staff work with individuals in the application process for citizenship

**AND REACHED 10,907 PARTICIPANTS
IN...**



LOP SERVICES

Legal Orientation Programs are an interactive, general overview provided to detained individuals explaining immigration removal proceedings and forms of immigration relief



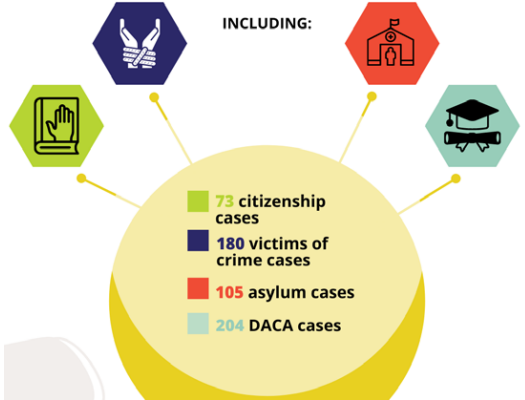
ICH PROGRAMS

Immigration Court Helpdesk programs aim to help individuals make informed decisions about their legal cases and, in doing so, improve the efficiency and effectiveness of immigration court proceedings.



**IN 2021 AMERICAN GATEWAYS...
ASSISTED WITH 1800 CASES**

INCLUDING:



Donate Today