



# AMERICAN GATEWAYS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## A Letter from Co-Executive Director Edna Yang

The need for immigration legal services continues to grow and, as always, our staff at American Gateways continues to respond. This past month saw the reinstatement of the Migrant Protection Protocol, or “Remain in Mexico” policy which forced asylum seekers to remain in horrendous and unsafe conditions along the southern US border when seeking asylum..

We continue to see more Afghan refugees arriving to rejoin their families in central Texas and, along with our partners, are providing legal information, representation, and advocacy. Keep an eye out for upcoming pro bono volunteer opportunities in the new year to serve this growing population.

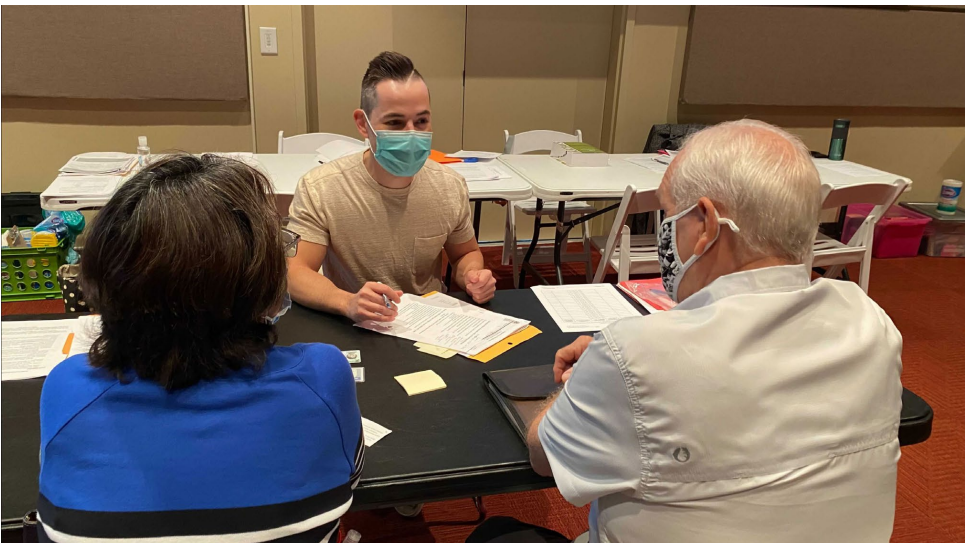
One of our most valuable resources at American Gateways is our staff. Just last month I celebrated my 19 year work anniversary with American Gateways. I feel so privileged and thankful to work with such dedicated colleagues.



Along with my anniversary, we celebrated several other milestone anniversaries at our office - Lora Petty celebrates her 16th year with American Gateways and Griselda Barrera has been with American Gateways for 13 years. Their leadership and dedication to our mission has helped our agency grow and succeed, despite the uncertainty and ever changing immigration landscape. And finally, we are grateful to each of you for your support and commitment to our work. Thank you.

## **54 Helped at Naturalization Clinic**

Our San Antonio office hosted its second in-person naturalization clinic this year on Saturday, November 13th. We received over 400 calls from individuals seeking our services before the clinic. With the help of pro bono attorneys and other volunteers, we were able to safely help 54 long-term residents apply for their citizenship, bringing them one step closer to attaining the right to vote! Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to provide freedom, safety, and hope to families this holiday season.



# Telma and Yenifer Receive Freedom From Persecution

Telma and Yenifer, a lesbian couple from Guatemala, faced persecution, threats, and physical harm due to their sexual orientation. The couple fled their home country and were detained and separated upon arrival in the US. With the help of a pro bono attorney and American Gateways, they eventually won asylum and were reunited. Learn more about their journey to attain asylum from their emotional video on YouTube.



## Thank you!

During this season of gratitude, we would like to share our continued gratitude to all of our supporters, near and far. Your support means more low-income immigrants receive the critical legal aid they need. We wish you and your family a safe and healthy holiday season. If you would like to support the immigrant community today, you can donate [here](#).

