

## September 2022

## A Letter from Co-Executive Director Edna Yang.

We hope you all enjoyed the long Labor Day weekend. We spent the time with our family and friends honoring workers, many of whom are immigrants, who provide critical support and infrastructure on the frontlines of our communities. They include health care professionals, agricultural workers, and transportation workers, among many others. Without them our country would not be able to function.

This month we were also plagued with stories about the busing or flying of migrants to different states as a political ploy by governors in Texas, Arizona, and Florida. These were political stunts to advance an anti-immigrant agenda and instill fear and hatred toward immigrants in the receiving cities. They dehumanize those coming to the US – all of whom have been vetted and cleared to enter the U.S. to seek protection. Many of the people seeking asylum on these buses come from countries like Cuba, Venezuela, and Nicaragua, where they face political violence and persecution. Seeking asylum is a legal form of entry under US and international law and using men, women, and children as pawns dehumanizes them and does nothing to truly address our broken immigration system.

We at American Gateways have played an important role in informing and educating our communities about the <u>reality of this situation</u> and the laws that apply to migrants no matter how they arrived in the US. We will continue to choose to act on behalf of those whose voices are often overpowered.

As always, thanks for your continued commitment to immigrant justice!

## **Choose Action: Immigrant Justice Luncheon**



We hope you will choose action and join us on October 6th in Austin, TX at our <u>Immigrant Justice Luncheon</u> to celebrate the impact of our work and the communities we serve. RSVP closes on 09/29/2022, so please register at the link above soon!

## Current activities: Our recent citizenship clinic

On September 17, we held a naturalization clinic in San Antonio, Texas where we assisted nearly 100 long term residents in applying for their citizenship. We were honored to have received a Proclamation from the city of San Antonio by Council Member Adriana Rocha Garcia for the work that we have done to assist those applying for US citizenship.

We had the generous help of nearly 60 volunteers - without them our clinic would not have been so successful! Thank you to all who helped!









