



**September 2023**

## **From the Desk of Edna Yang, Co-Executive Director**

As we begin Hispanic Heritage Month, we want to acknowledge our many Hispanic and Latino colleagues working hard every day to advance justice for immigrants. The majority of the clients we serve are of Hispanic descendency, though we helped people from 58 countries around the world last year. We honor the traditions and contributions of the Hispanic members of our community and we will celebrate them all month on our social media channels and beyond.

Here are some updates and what we have been working on -

As the heat starts to fade in Texas (I promise), we have a busy and exciting fall coming at American Gateways.

Our popular, free citizenship clinics are happening this fall. We just had a successful clinic this past week in San Antonio.





Our next **citizenship clinic** will be in Austin on **October 21** - keep an eye out for information on how to volunteer!

Meanwhile, we host our **annual Immigrant Justice Luncheon October 12** in Austin. [Sponsorships](#) are still available and we'd love to have you join us at this free event! You can register [here](#). You will hear first hand from our clients about the impact of our work on their lives and in the community. If you are unable to attend but would still like to support this event, you can [donate here](#).



You all may have heard that a federal court ruled that Governor Abbott's deadly barricades in the Rio Grande are unlawful and need to be removed. We were thrilled with the decision, as these barricades have unnecessarily harmed and killed those seeking protection. We would like to say it was a surprise when just days later an [appeals court overturned the decision](#) of the federal judge to remove these barricades, but we were not. While this decision is temporary pending a full hearing on this case in October, we were saddened and disappointed by a decision that seeks to preserve a political, dangerous, and hate-filled policy that violates the dignity, humanity, and human rights of migrants who are fleeing harm and persecution.

We believe in better - Texas can and should do better. As a border state, we should work with the federal government to create policies that allow migrants to access their right to make asylum claims without fear of physical harm.

Here's to a cooler and more welcoming fall.

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## Staff Anniversaries

Join us in celebrating our staff in their work anniversaries!

[Alejandra Ruiz](#), Administrative Assistant - 1 year

[Daniela Guerrero](#), Program Support Specialist - 1 year

Graciela Salazar, Volunteer and Intern Coordinator - 1 year

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## Want to Donate?

Donate today to provide access to justice to immigrants. Your partnership allows us to provide critical legal services to individuals and families seeking safety, hope, and freedom.

Donate Today

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