

SAFE PASSAGE PROJECT



**2015
Annual Report**



No child should face immigration court alone.

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LETTER FROM LENNI BENSON

2015 was a year of expansion and development for Safe Passage Project. **Your support has helped us grow.** At the close of the year, Safe Passage Project had 543 open cases, over 200 of which are new children we met during 2015.

Most notably, Safe Passage Project doubled our staff by adding three staff attorneys and a full-time social worker. And as one of the organizations hosting and training Justice Americorps fellows in the New York area, Safe Passage Project brought on board four law fellows, one full-time paralegal, and four part-time legal assistants.

We also supported fellows at Equal Justice Works, placed with Central American Refugee Center of Long Island and the Pace Community Law Project in Westchester.

With a model based on the training and mentoring of *pro bono* volunteers, we are proud to be the recipient of a Practicing Law Institute (PLI) three year matching and challenge grant. These funds created a position, Director of Legal Training, formally assumed by Claire Thomas in the summer of 2015, (see news of our trainings on page 13, and the events review below).

Safe Passage Project has also engaged university and high school students who bring their **knowledge, language skills,** and **enthusiasm.** In 2015, we formalized our relationship with the Columbia University School of Social Work, and the John Jay College of Criminal Justice forming the Unaccompanied Latin American Minors Program (ULAMP). Both schools recruit top students who commit to extensive work supporting our attorneys and social workers. Most importantly, these young people, along with help from the law student volunteers, build trust and empathic relationships with the youth we serve.

Safe Passage Project continued our work with the Washington Heights Experiential Learning School (WHEELS). We helped fifty children with free screenings and legal assistance in securing legal status whenever possible. Our work gives these high school youth a safe place to ask immigration questions, with the tremendous support of school administration and teachers. We want to applaud the youth who achieved immigrant status in time to secure college scholarships and funding, and at least one former WHEELS student is now giving back through Safe Passage Project and the John Jay ULAMP program.

Our work is not done. In the last three months of 2015, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol apprehended more than 11,000 children, an all-time seasonal high. We know why these children are fleeing—the violence in the region has only grown. El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras are in the top five most dangerous countries in the world, according to the UN measures of civil violence. Sadly, the governments in all three countries are unable to secure safety and protection for children.

We know that our team of staff attorneys, interpreters, legal assistants, students, and *pro bono* volunteers will rise to meet the challenges of 2016, as we have in years past. Safe Passage Project especially looks forward to including you in our efforts, at an upcoming training, an event with the youth, volunteering at immigration court or taking on the legal representation of a child.

With gratitude,



Lenni Benson, Executive Director

Highlight Legend for Events



Training



Social Event



Press



Fundraising



Throughout 2015, Safe Passage Project covered **35 Docket Days** of screening children at court.

Additional 2015 Events in Review

OUR MODEL DEPENDS ON YOUR SUPPORT

We would like to thank our directors and supporters. Your contributions are the difference between a deportation order and legal status.

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Professor of Law
New York Law School
Director since 2013

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Legal Services of the Hudson Valley
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Founder and Managing Attorney
Susan Henner, PLLC
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Partner
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Director since 2014

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Director since 2014

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New York Immigration Coalition
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The Office of New Americans
Practicing Law Institute
The Robin Hood Foundation
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Zegar Family Foundation

Justice AmeriCorps Law Firm Partner

Jadeja & Cimone

Individual Donors (\$500 or above)

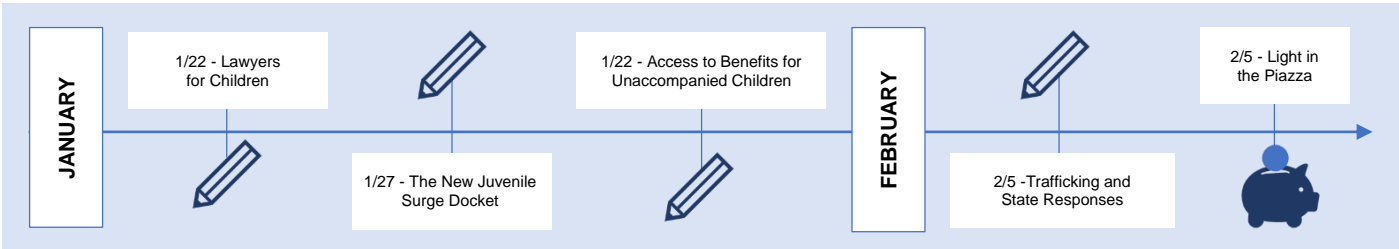
Alexis Axelrad
Roxana & Dean Bacon
Richard & Kerri Bartlett
Lenni Benson
Ian Conroy

Sam Coppersmith
Megan & Matt Eiss-Proctor
Susan B. Henner
Shawn Fields & Jorge Rodriguez
Pamela Foster
Gibney, Anthony & Flaherty, LLP
Mona Houck
Kathleen Kettles
Roger & Marie Kimmel
Raymond Lin
Miller Family
Brian M. & Mary S. McConville
Luciana & Antonio Miranda
Tim Nenno
Federico Reyes
John Ryan
Jennifer Sample
Beth J. Schermer
Careen Shannon
Christine Taylor & Ben Stiller
Ruth Uselton
Leslie Simon Wagner
Lauren Young

...and several anonymous donors!



Safe Passage
Project Directors
Raymond Lin and
Jennifer Sample
(joining 2016) at
Eat, Drink & Give.



DANIELA'S STORY (SEEKING ASYLUM)

When Safe Passage Project encounters children in removal proceedings, the core of our work is terminating those proceedings by securing some form of legal status for the child. One form of relief is asylum.

Succeeding on an asylum claim can be challenging, as there is often little physical evidence to corroborate the client's story. For obvious reasons, few children think to bring paperwork as they flee from desperate situations. This is why **legal representation is crucial** in preparing the application and the client. They must be able and ready to tell a difficult, complicated story in their own words – to a judge or asylum officer.

One such success story is Daniela, an 18-year old girl from Honduras. In December 2013, Daniela fled Honduras because her uncle, who was supposed to be caring for her, abused her emotionally, physically, and sexually.

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When Daniela revealed her uncle's abuse to her aunt, Daniela's aunt dismissed her complaint and allowed the abuse to continue. Beginning at the age of 13, Daniela was also forced to wake up before sunrise and work without pay.

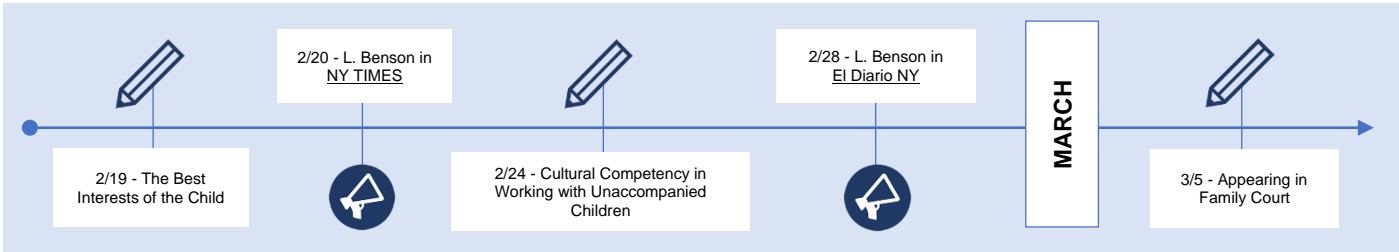
Daniela made the arduous journey to the United States by bus, boat, canoe, and on foot in search of safety and her parents, who had fled Honduras 5 years prior. Shortly after crossing the United States-Mexico border, Daniela was apprehended by Border Patrol and detained. She was released into the care of her parents in New York, but was required to appear before an immigration judge.

Without help from an attorney, Daniela faced certain deportation to Honduras, a return to her abusive uncle, and a life of uncertainty and fear. Safe Passage Project **recruited a pro bono team of attorneys** to represent Daniela, who helped Daniela file for asylum. After many of hours of preparation, interviews, and court appearances, Daniela was granted asylum in October 2015.

Daniela's removal proceedings were terminated, and in 2016, Daniela will be eligible to apply for legal permanent residence in the United States. In addition, Daniela has been reunited with her parents and brothers and is happily completing her senior year in high school. In 2016, Daniela hopes to attend college in New York and major in history.



Heather Axford from CALA (*center*), training attorneys on best practices in juvenile asylum cases, with Claire Thomas (*left*) and Lenni Benson (*right*).



JULIO'S STORY (A SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE)

Safe Passage Project screens hundreds of children per year and in 2015 we found that nearly two thirds of our clients were potentially eligible for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS). The SIJS process begins in Family Court where protections are extended to children without sufficient parental support. Ultimately, a SIJS designation will make a child immediately eligible for permanent residency, and provide a path to citizenship. In New York a child is eligible for SIJS until their 21st birthday.



Safe Passage Project clients playing soccer at the Fall Field Day with Riverdale Country School.



Safe Passage Project Holiday Party, hosted by John Jay College and the ULAMP students.

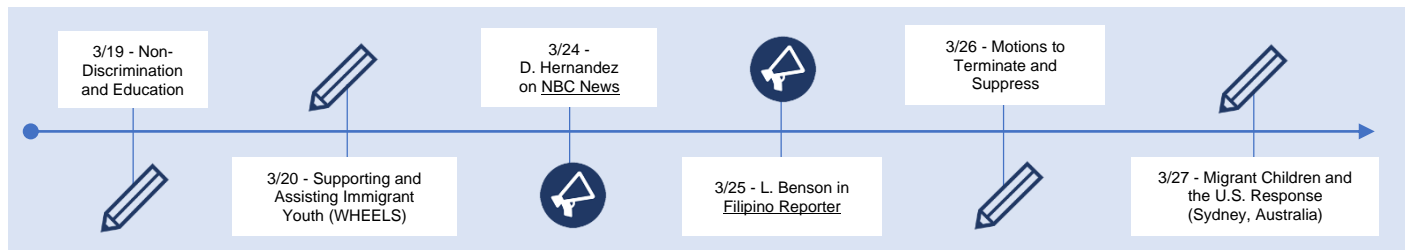
Julio's story is typical of many cases we see at Safe Passage Project, as a child left to fend for himself in a precarious situation. Julio was living in El Salvador with his grandmother, having long since been abandoned by his father and his mother having lived in New York since he was two years old. So when his grandmother became ill and passed away **Julio had no one left in El Salvador to care for him**. Around this time, Julio's cousins were also threatened by a dangerous and powerful local gang. Julio was no longer safe living in El Salvador.

Shortly after his grandmother's death, alone at the age of seven, Julio made the dangerous journey to the United States by bus, foot, and crossing the U.S.-Mexico border on a tiny inflatable raft. Lucky to be alive, Julio made it safely to Texas, where he was arrested by Border Patrol. Julio was eventually reunited with his mother in New York, but immediately faced deportation proceedings and the threat of being returned to El Salvador.

Safe Passage Project agreed to represent Julio in Immigration Court, Family Court, and before USCIS. Safe Passage Project successfully helped Julio's mom obtain legal custody of Julio, terminated Julio's immigration court proceedings, and in October 2015, Julio became a Legal Permanent Resident.

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Julio is now ten and safe in his mother's care. He is happily attending the 5th grade and according to him, "has already starting to think about college and making his Safe Passage family proud."



BEYOND THE COURTROOM

In 2015, **Amigos de Safe Passage** continued its activities in New York. Resident social worker, Samantha Norris, expanded the program to include more **opportunities to connect** with peers who have had experiences similar to their own, to make new friends, and to visit to parts of New York City’s cultural sites.

In 2015, the Amigos met every other week with Ms. Norris to discuss day-to-day issues including health care, school, and family. The Amigos events and regular meetings proved vital in helping the members articulate their feelings, get to know other, and **enjoy being kids**.

In addition, the Amigos de Safe Passage visited Central Park, participated in Field Days at Riverdale Country School, competed amicably on the soccer field, learned to play ultimate Frisbee, and attended an African Drumming tutorial.

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In partnering with Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, Safe Passage Project provides bi-monthly, evening healthcare enrollment clinics for Amigos clients. Every other Monday, representatives from Lenox Hill Hospital visit Safe Passage Project to assist clients in enrolling in Child Health Plus or emergency Medicaid.

The health care clinics enable clients to access vital medical, dental, and mental health services.

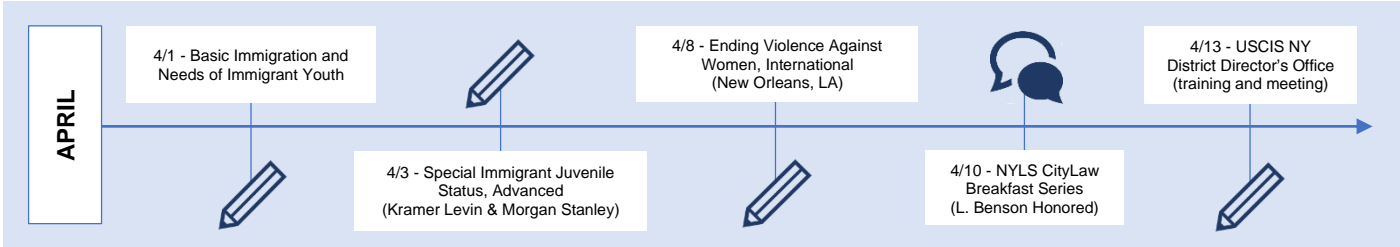


In 2015, Safe Passage Project expanded our partnership with the City University of New York’s Public Service Corps and John Jay College of Criminal Justice through our joint **ULAMP** effort.

ULAMP and Safe Passage Project pair accomplished college students (“ULAMPers”) with our clients under the supervision of staff attorneys. All ULAMPers are bilingual, some have first-hand experience with the immigration court system, and many are first-generation Americans and the first in their family to attend college. ULAMPers are **a vital connection** between Safe Passage Project’s young clients and their *pro bono* attorneys, some of whom do not speak Spanish. Competition for ULAMP spots is fierce, and the selected students all have a demonstrated commitment to social justice and improving the lives of young immigrants.

Together, under the supervision of Safe Passage Project Staff Attorney Alexandra Rizio, and Dr. Isabel Martinez, Assistant Professor in the Department of Latin American and Latina/o Studies our ULAMPers have dedicated hundreds of hours of work to over 500 Safe Passage Project cases.

In 2015, ULAMPers planned and competed in the Amigos de Safe Passage soccer games throughout New York, organized and hosted the Safe Passage Project holiday party featuring arts and crafts, snacks, and a screening of the movie “Elf” in Spanish for clients and their families, served as mentors to vulnerable clients, accompanied clients to court, and regularly translated at meetings between clients and their *pro bono* attorneys. According to one of our fifteen-year-old clients, “They are like role models because they are doing what I hope to do someday – go to a great college and be successful.”



BEYOND THE COURTROOM

In 2015, Safe Passage Project continued to partner with many community-based organizations. Our attorneys also worked closely with Department of Education school administrators, teachers, and social workers throughout New York City to ensure that students, who might otherwise be afraid to face their immigration situation, addressed their legal needs.

Safe Passage Project has served children enrolled at Gregorio Luperon High School in Queens and Pathways to Graduation's GED program in Queens, through targeted, school-based interventions.



Top left: African drum circle, Spring Field Day at Riverdale Country School.



Top right: WHEELS kids playing soccer with Amigos de Safe Passage.



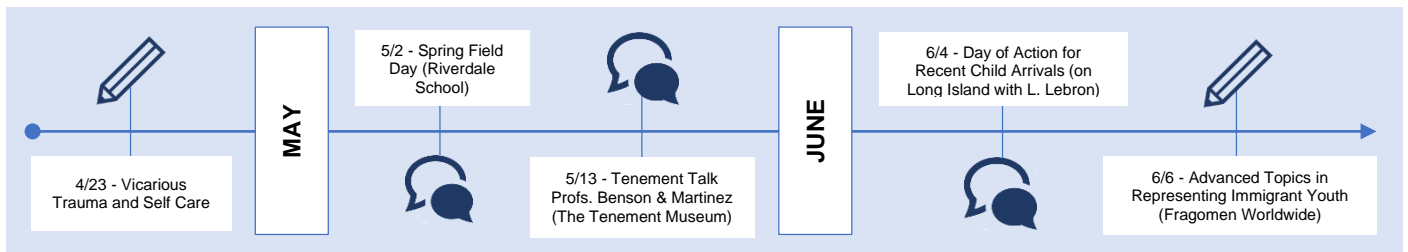
Bottom left: Ultimate Frisbee clinic for Fall Field Day at Riverdale Country School, with Coach Aaron Bell.

At **WHEELS High School** in Washington Heights, Safe Passage Project served over 35 students by representing them in Immigration Court, Family Court, and before USCIS. While some cases are still pending, 22 had successful results in 2015, including **two students who became U.S. citizens!**

A representative case is that of Safe Passage Project client Liana, a former WHEELS student from the Dominican Republic. Safe Passage Project assisted Liana in obtaining Special Immigrant Juvenile Status based on her father's abandonment; armed with SIJS, Liana obtained Legal Permanent Residency. Because of her Legal Permanent Resident status, Liana was able to accept a full scholarship to Skidmore College.

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According to Liana, "Safe Passage was a lifeline for me. Without my attorney's representation and support I would have never received my Green Card and been able to achieve my dream of getting a scholarship to college. I am forever grateful to Safe Passage and will make them proud." At Skidmore College, Liana has maintained a **grade point average of 3.8**.



OUR IMPACT

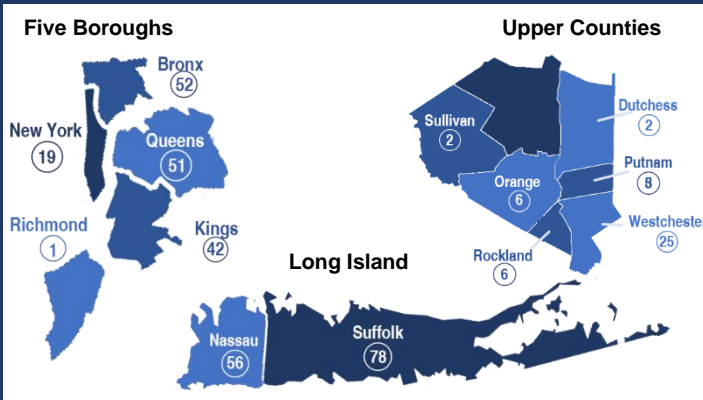
Safe Passage Project screened over **350 new children** in 2015 (see demographics). We **placed 216 of these children** with legal representation. Scattered across the 13 counties of lower New York State, these new arrivals were largely from the Northern Triangle of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. As declared by the UN, these three countries are in the top five most dangerous in the world.

Demographic Breakdown of Safe Passage Project's New Arrivals in 2015

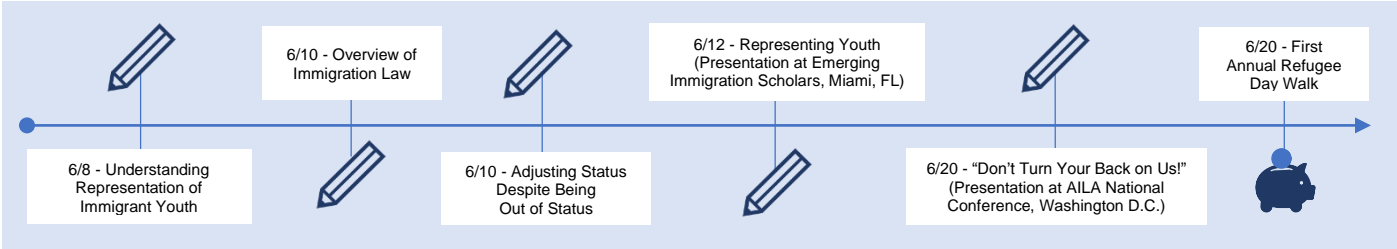
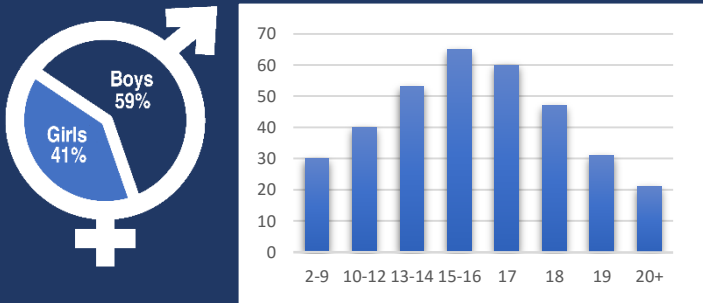
Children by Country of Origin



Children by New York County



Children by Age Range



OUR IMPACT

For Our Clients and Our Community

Safe Passage Project is privileged to work with extraordinary and dedicated legal professionals, who have put in hard work on behalf of our clients. Outlined below are the highlights of Safe Passage Project staff and our *pro bono* attorneys.

In Our Profession

Safe Passage Project staff has been at the forefront of immigration and removal defense for children, especially as a member of the Immigrant Children Advocates' Relief Effort, or **ICARE Coalition**.

We empower attorneys and volunteers through our comprehensive trainings. A **total of 2,206 people trained** over the course of **48 separate trainings**, averaging nearly one per week! See ticker below.

Trainings were primarily hosted at NYLS and other locations around New York City, but our staff also went as far as: Chicago IL, New Orleans LA, Miami FL, Washington D.C., and Sydney, Australia!

Through Ongoing Efforts

In 2015, our amazing *pro bono* attorneys filed:

33 asylum applications, 53 permanent resident applications, 68 SIJS petitions, and appeared in **Family Court in 119 different matters** across 13 counties.

As of December 31, 2015, Safe Passage Project has **543 open cases**. So we look forward to the continued work and seeing further results in 2016.

By Cases Won

81 Family Court Orders Issued

44 SIJS Petitions Approved

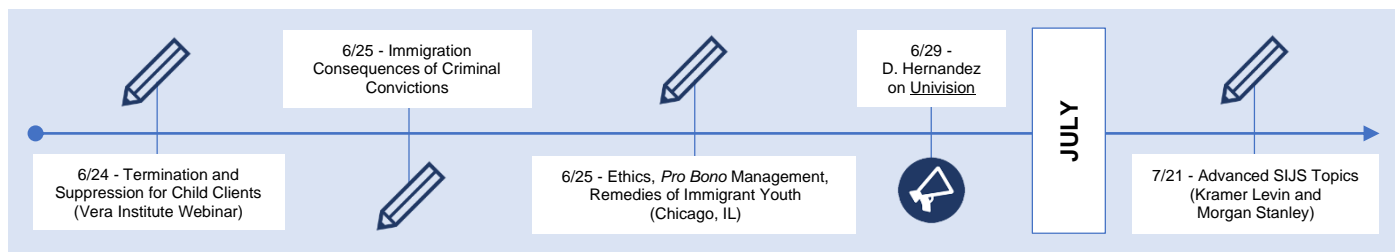
39 Deportations Terminated

30 "Green Cards" Received

14 Asylum Cases Granted

Each success is a child's life transformed.

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PRESS

Safe Passage Project and our efforts were featured widely in the press in 2015. See some of the selected highlights below and find more on our website: <http://www.safepassageproject.org/category/press/>.

The New York Times

An article titled [Judge Orders Stop to Detention of Families at Borders](#), Lenni Benson was questioned regarding the ACLU class action lawsuit relating to the detention of women and children at the border. "The [Federal District Court of D.C.] specifically rejected the government's assertion that detention was necessary to protect national security."



Lenni Benson was interviewed on the Brian Lehrer Show, in [The Other Refugee Crisis](#). "I have not interviewed or met one Central American child who knew about [Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals] ... Most children don't expect to be able to qualify for any legal status. They are relieved when our *pro bono* teams explain they can seek asylum or perhaps a special status for children."

Newsweek

Some of Safe Passage Project's clients, as well as staff members Guillermo Stampur and Astrid Avidessan, were featured in [When Immigration Found Me, I Was Happy](#). It chronicles Nelson's ordeal, our legal services on his behalf, and captures Safe Passage Project's ethos on one particular afternoon:

"After three hours of playing in the rain, Nelson, Bryan and Stampur returned to the sidelines to gather their things. They scarfed down the bagels that Safe Passage volunteers had brought that morning.

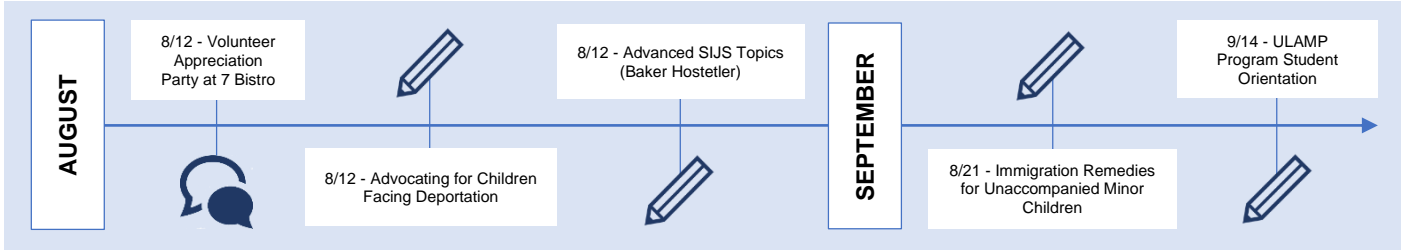
Bryan turned to Stampur, panting and gleaming with sweat. "Gui, this made me feel like a kid again," he said. "Running around in the cold rain, not even knowing it was cold and rainy."

Bryan arrived in July 2013. Like Nelson, he chose to travel across Mexico and leave behind seven siblings; his parents could not afford to send him to school or pay for basic necessities like food and clothing. He now lives with his uncle and two cousins in Brooklyn and attends high school in downtown Manhattan. Bryan, like Nelson, had to wait over a year to enroll because of documentation requirements that he was unable to meet.

Stampur presented the kids with an old trophy he'd brought for fun. Myriam Santa Maria, a small 19-year-old woman and an intern with Safe Passage Project, framed the group with her camera."



On March 24, 2015 Desireé C. Hernández was asked about childhood arrivals by NBC News [In NY, Volunteer Attorneys Lend Voice, Legal Help, to Border Kids](#). "The screening interviews we do with children are heartbreaking. They tell us about gang recruitment, about how they were working at age 11. They tell us that they were being abused, that they have no one to take care of them, or that their family members back home were killed."



Refugee Day Walk (June 20, 2015)

The United Nations created the International Day of the Refugee and across the world people gathered to learn about refugees and to raise awareness and support for vulnerable populations. Professor Benson recorded an audio guided tour through the 1.5 mile walk, highlighting immigration related historic sites and explaining the connection between our immigration history and the current needs of modern refugees.

Stops included: Castle Clinton in Battery Park; Stories of Ellis Island; The Esplanade along Battery Park; The Museum of Jewish Heritage; The Irish Hunger Memorial; The 9/11 Memorial; City Hall; The African Burial Ground; The NY Immigration Court; End at New York Law School home of The Safe Passage Project

Professor Benson hopes to make this awareness and fundraising walk an annual event. You can listen to the audio-tour at any time on [Soundcloud](#).

NYLS CityLaw Breakfast (April 10, 2015)

New York City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito thanked Professor Benson for her impact on the people of New York City. Safe Passage Project was then able to thank Speaker Mark-Viverito at City Hall for the increased funding provided by the City Council and its partners.

Tenement Talk (May 13, 2015)

Professor Benson was joined in conversation by Professor Isabel Martinez and ULAMPer Miriam Santamaria.

They discussed their work as well as their family immigration stories, which give them both a personal connection to the issue.

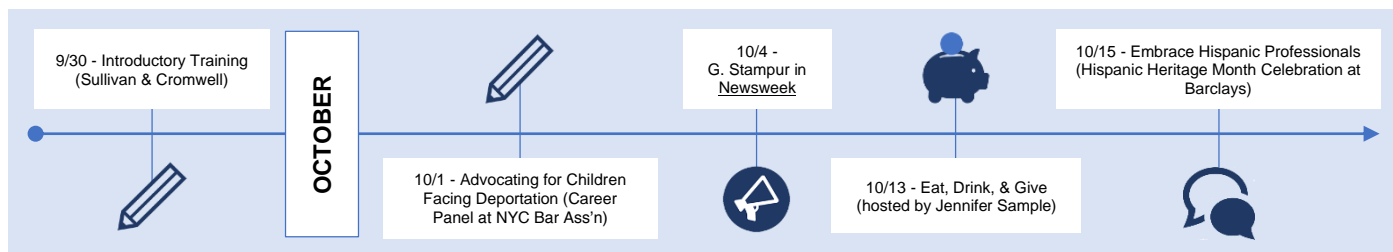


Top: First Annual Refugee Day Walk, with (left to right) Isabel Martinez, Lenni Benson, NYLS Dean Anthony Crowel, and NYC Councilman Carlos Menchaca.



Bottom: Guillermo Stampur, NYC Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Megan Eiss-Proctor and Desiree Hernández at City Hall.

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OPERATIONS SUPPORT

2015 was an incredible year of growth for Safe Passage Project. We worked with amazing partners on *pro bono* projects to improve our non-profit operations and systems. Our extraordinary law firm partners are featured on page 17.

Catchafire

In 2015, Safe Passage Project was the recipient of a free year of membership with Catchafire. Throughout the year we worked with incredible *pro bono* professionals on projects ranging from tech support, marketing, and accounting.

Centre for Social Innovation

As the recipient of the “Agent of Change” the award, Associate Director, Operations and Development Megan Eiss-Proctor received a full year of free access to the Centre for Social Innovation including: access to resources, additional remote working space, and an incredible network of social entrepreneurs.

Fineas Media

As lawyers, telling the Safe Passage Project story has been challenging because we are particularly sensitive about exposing our young clients to any media. We sought *pro bono* support from professionals with storytelling experience. The founder of Fineas, Pauline Zalkin, was responsive to our clients’ needs, and provided filming and production. We recently debuted the [Safe Passage Project Pro Bono Storytelling video](#).

Interbrand Day of Service

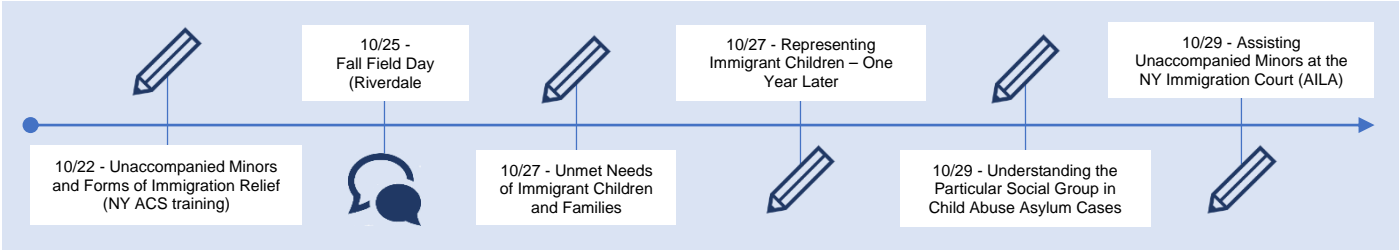
Interbrand worked with staff and board members to develop our mission, vision and values. Director Lenni Benson, other staff and Board Members met with Interbrand for a full day of intensive work and helped staff think through corporate collaboration.



(Left to right) Justice Americorps fellows: Luisa Lebron, Charlotte Fager, Juan Carlos Chiquillo, Elizabeth Rivera, Anilu Chadwick.



Safe Passage staff appreciating donations of office supplies.



FINANCIALS

2015 was an incredible year of growth for Safe Passage Project. As a legal service provider, it is no accident that the vast majority of our funds go to the professionals that make Safe Passage Project run. In providing direct or indirect legal representation to over 500 clients, our expenses average less than \$1,000 per case.

2015 Profit and Loss Summary

Income

Foundation and Government Funders	\$335,927.29
Donation (Individuals)	\$53,582.00
Donation (Anonymous)	\$50,238.00
Other	\$1,978.42
Total	\$441,725.71

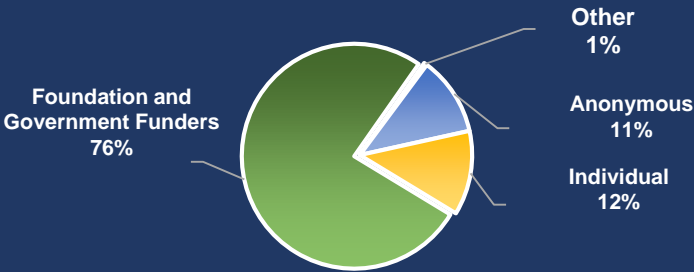
Expenses

Payroll	\$424,711.81
Taxes	\$66,612.77
Insurance	\$7,642.90
Miscellaneous*	\$4,784.06
Office Expenses**	\$4,286.24
Travel	\$2,635.23
Dues, Subscriptions, Licenses	\$2,562.13
Scholarship, Donations	\$1,500.00
Fundraising, Promotional	\$1,443.85
Meals, Entertainment	\$1,078.79
Total	\$517,257.78

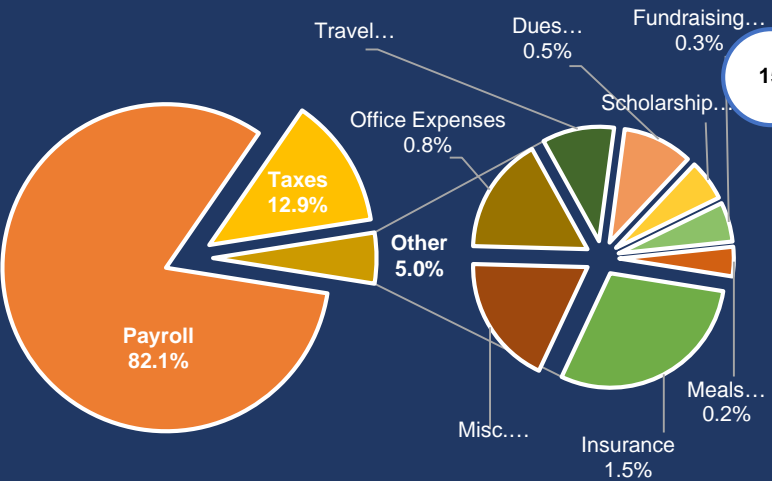
*(including telephone)

** (client welfare, postage, printing)

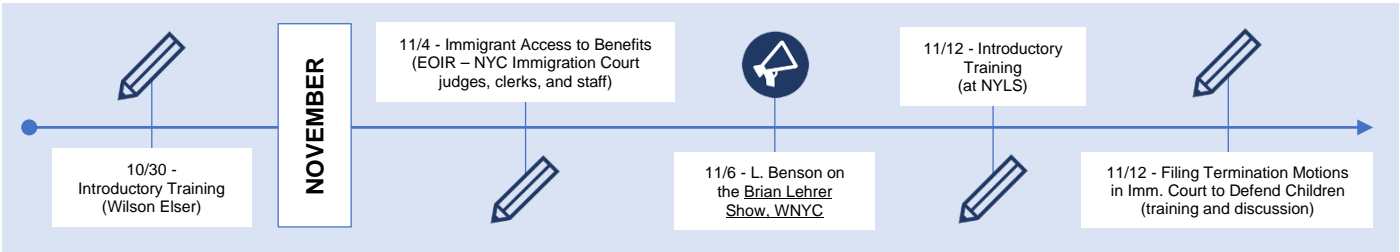
Income Sources



Expense Breakdown



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STAFF

Lenni Benson
Executive Director

Megan Eiss-Proctor
Associate Director,
Operations and Development

Desireé Hernández
Supervising Attorney

Astrid Avedissian
Justice Americorps
Jadeja Cimone Legal Fellow

Carlos Valenzuela
Justice Americorps
Paralegal Fellow

Melina Somoza*
Safe Passage Project
Legal Fellow

Bethany Ow**
Staff Attorney

Guillermo Stampur
Associate Director,
Legal Services

Alexandra Rizio*
Staff Attorney

Anilu Chadwick*
Justice Americorps
Legal Fellow

Charlotte Fager*
Justice Americorps
Paralegal Fellow

Samantha Norris*
Staff Social Worker

Jennifer Rogers**
Staff Attorney

Claire Thomas
Director of Training

Rex Chen*
Mentor Attorney

Juan Carlos Chiquillo
Justice Americorps
Jadeja Cimone Legal Fellow

Elizabeth Rivera*
Justice Americorps
Paralegal Fellow

Virginia Vasquez**
Legal and Faculty Assistant

Stephanie Gibbs*
Mentor Attorney

Luisa Lebron
Justice Americorps
Legal Fellow

Molly Jacobs-Meyers
Justice Americorps
Paralegal Fellow

Julie Nuñez**
Legal Assistant

*Staff who joined Safe Passage Project in 2015
**Staff who departed Safe Passage Project in 2015

Law Student Externs
Bethana Abate
Timothy Greenberg
Jason Kim
Xixi Liu
Carlos Valenzuela

College Interns
Mary Claire Bartlett
Molly Jacobs Meyer

ULAMP Students
Marilyn Alvarado
Wanda Baldera
Ismary Calderon
Lesley Fernandez
Arlenny Hernandez
Nathaly Ramirez
Olivia Ramirez
Gladys Rivera-Martinez
Magdalena Oropeza
Arturo Urena

High School Interns
Emily Bernstein
Arlet Gualpa
Lesly Jimenez
Jeshlyn Jimenez
Maya Kinsman
Tara McConville
Pedro Miranda
Leila Murphy
Willie Papper
Lenny Rodriguez

Alex Timmerman
Max Wellington
Charlotte Young
Samantha Zemser

11/17 - Unaccompanied Minors and
Forms of Immigration Relief
(New York ACS)

11/19 - Post-Family Court
Procedures in SIJS Cases

11/20 - Immigration Court Tour
(Barclays and Sherman &
Sterling Attorneys)

DECEMBER

12/1 - Best Practices
Before the Asylum Office

12/2 - Representing
Unaccompanied Minors
(Foley & Lardner)

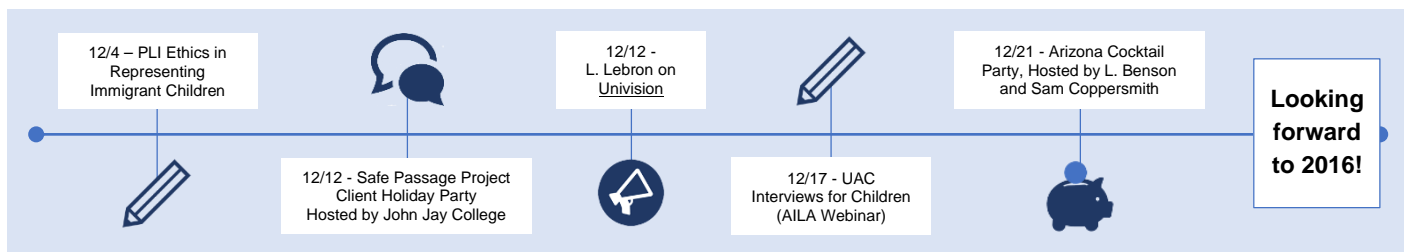
OUR ATTORNEY PARTNERS

Safe Passage Project was created to facilitate the *pro bono* representation of children facing deportation. We could not achieve the results we have seen in 2015, without our attorney volunteers. In truth all of the organization's accomplishments are built on their generous work and assistance to our clients and their families.

ADP, Inc.	Fragomen Worldwide	Law Office of Michael Zhang	Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy, LLP
Advocates for Justice	Frankie & Gentile, P.C.	Law Office of Stephanie Gibbs, LLC	Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporation
African Services Committee	Fried, Hank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson	Law Offices of Anne Donnelly Bush	MSCI Inc.
Albany Law Immigration Clinic	Friedman & Anspach	Law Offices of Edith Diaz, Esq.	New Jersey Transit Rail Operation
Allison Feman Haltmaier, Esq.	Garganigo, Goldsmith & Weiss	Law Offices of Gerald Karikari	New York Law School
Ame Logistics, LLC	Gibney, Anthony & Flaherty, LLP	Law Offices of Hani Sarji	New York Legal Assistance Group
Amoachi and Johnson, PLLC	Glass Krakower, LLP	Law Offices of Ian L. Blant	New York State Department of Labor
Ana M. Juneau, Esq.	Goldstein & Lee, P.C.	Law Offices of Janet L. Porro, Esq.	O'Connor Redd, LLP
Archer Harvey & Smith, LLC	Harlan York & Associates	Law Offices of Jansen & Ressler	O'Mally & Associates
Audley-Seymour Foster, Esq.	Harold Dee, Attorney at Law, PC	Law Offices of Linda Kenepaske, PLLC	Open Society Justice Initiative
Baker Hostetler, LLP	HIAS	Law Offices of Prashanthi Reddy, PLLC	Pace Community Law Practice
Bank of America	Hispanic Federation	Law Offices of Robert G. Stahl, LLC	Pepper Hamilton, LLP
Barst Mukamal & Kleiner, LLP	Hofstra University	Lawyers for Children	Perkins & Associates
Bernadine Rosen Jacobs, Esq.	Immigration Equality	Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York	Piekoff Mahan Law Office
Bernstein Liebhard, LLP	Jadeja & Cimone, LLP	Legal Services of the Hudson Valley	Pollack, Pollack, Isaac & DeCicco, LLP
Beverly Van Ness, Esq.	Klein Varble and Associates	Lenox Hill Neighborhood House	Rakhvir K. Dhanoa, PC
Boies, Schiller & Flexner, LLP	Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel, LLP	Limberis Law Firm, PLLC	Raymond Schwartzberg & Associates PLLC
Building Service 32BJ Legal Services Fund	Latham & Watkins, LLP	Linklaters, LLP	Roland T. Brewster, Esq., PC
Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft, LLP	Law Firm of Damian Vargas	Liverpool Law Office, P.C.	Rosicki, Rosicki & Associates, PC
Caracen	Law Office of Arturo S. Suarez	Lloyd E. Bennett, Esq. PC	Sanctuary for Families
Catholic Migrations	Law Offices of Bryan Johnson Xenitelis	Lois M. Dieter Esq.	Sandra P. Nichols, PC
City of NY, Dept of Information & Telecommunications	Law Office of Brynde Berkowitz, P.C.	Macina & Pietrzak, LLC	Schneider Law Group
Cravath, Swaine & Moore, LLP	Law Office of Cheryl David	Marc Valinoti Attorney at Law	Schwartz Ehrens Immigration Law
Credit Suisse	Law Office of Craig Relles	Maricel Gonzalez, Esq.	Seward and Kissel, LLP
Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle, LLP	Law Office of Deana Balahtsis	Masliah & Soloway, PC	Shearman & Sterling, LLP
Davidson Law Group, P.C.	Law Offices of Jan Allen Reiner	Melito & Anderson, PC	SMA Law Firm
Eric Perlmutter, Esq.	Law Office of Laurence Borten	Mercedes Guzman, Esq.	St. John's University School of Law
Evangelina Triliouris, Esq.	Law Office of Lenworth Williams	Merrill J. Clark, Esq.	Stinvil Law Offices
Foley & Lardner, LLP	Law Office of Marjorie Smith	Meyers & Meyers, LLP	Sullivan & Cromwell, LLP
	Law Office of Matthew L. Guadagno	MFY Legal Services	Susan B. Henner, Attorney at Law, PLLC

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(Continued on Page 18)

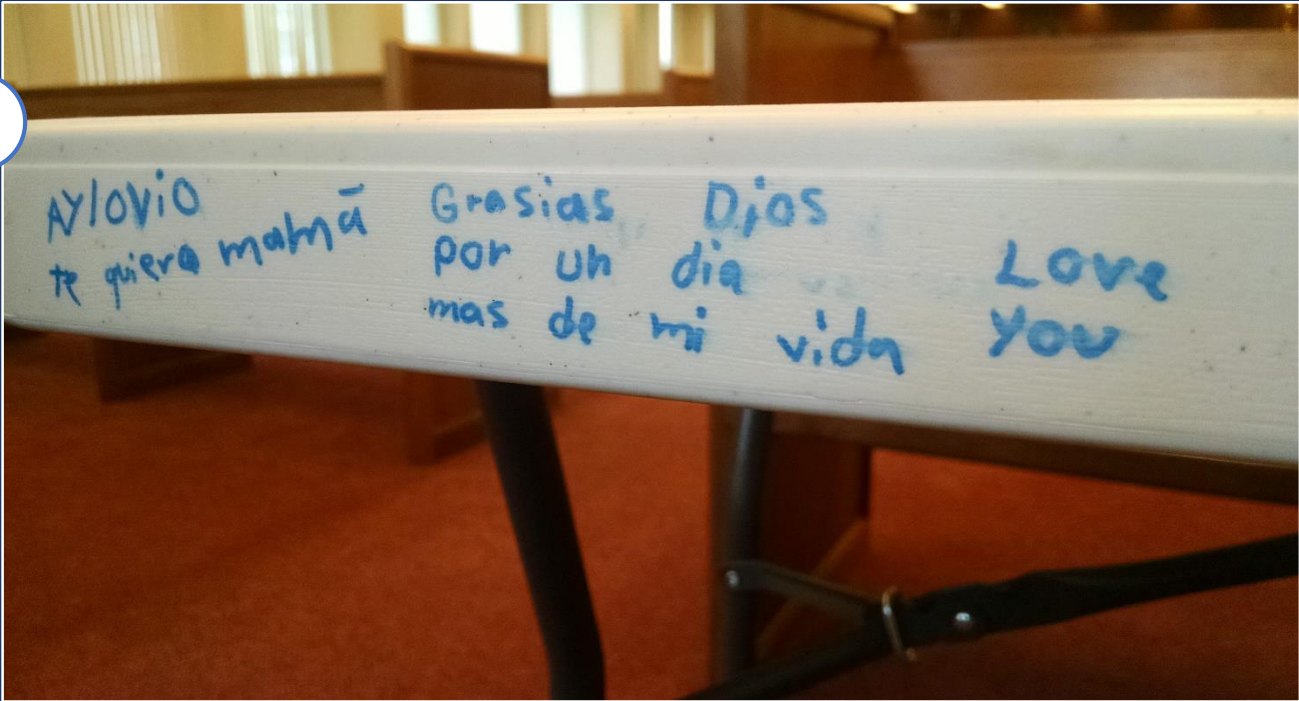


OUR ATTORNEY PARTNERS

(Continued from page 17.) This listing is by firm only. For all of the individual attorney volunteers, please see the Safe Passage Project [pro bono attorney listing on our website](#).

Tarter Krinsky & Drogin, LLP	The Law Firm of Ramon M. Guerra	The Romero Firm, LLC	VM Gokea Law Group, PLLC
The Calderon Law Practice, PLLC	The Law Office of Adam Cohn	The Rosenstock Law Office, PC	WilmerHale, LLP
The Door	The Law Office of Sowmya Rao, PLLC	Touro Law Center	Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker
The Family Center	The Law Offices of Michael Zhang, LLC	Universal Calvary Church	Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
The Safe Center Long Island	The Law Offices of Stewart Lee Karlin, PC	Urban Justice Center	Wolfsdorf Rosenthal, LLP
The Grotas Firm, PC	The Legal Aid Society	Vivianna Cosme-Bravo, Esq.	Zhang & Associates, PC
The Hebrew Immigrant Society			

Below: From the screening room at immigration court.



"I love you, Mom."

"Thank God for one day more of my life."

"Love you."

TO OUR HOSTS

A Big Thank You to Dean Anthony Crowell, Administration, Staff, Faculty, and Students of



Safe Passage Project began as a *pro bono* project that Professor Benson organized to help students gain experience and to provide support for attorneys seeking to learn how to represent immigrant children. NYLS's Impact Center for Social Justice (formerly called the Justice Action Center) hosted the project, and Adjunct Professor Lindsay Curcio directed the work of students and attorneys from 2006 to 2012.

In 2012, NYLS allowed Professor Benson to dramatically increase student involvement by creating a project-based learning course (external clinic), where students learned to screen and evaluate children's immigration options and assist them as "friend of the court" in deportation cases.

NYLS provides financial assistance to Safe Passage Project by supporting one staff member's salary and providing economic support for our course co-taught by Adjunct Professor/Director of Training Claire R. Thomas.

Together, NYLS and Safe Passage Project have been successful in obtaining grants from the NY Office of Court Administration for some of our work in New York and Westchester Counties, aiding immigrant youth and families, and from the New York City Council.

But NYLS does so much more than provide space and grant support. The staff and faculty have helped plan and execute over fifty training programs in less than two years.

The Administration worked with our growing team to create an office home in the basement of the E building. The Technology team, Human Resources, Accounting and Finance, Mail and Copy Room staff, Security staff, Faculty Assistants, Janitorial staff, and Catering/Events personnel all help make Safe Passage Project run.

Working with NYLS Dean Anthony Crowell and the Development Office, we have applied for grants to expand the work of Safe Passage Project. We are grateful for the help of Dean Crowell, Elliott Berger, Stuart Klien, Susan Redler, Anna Ferber, and Board of Trustees Chair Arthur Abbey for their support.

It is difficult to put a price tag on the generous support that NYLS has given to Safe Passage Project, but we know that without our home at NYLS, we would not be as strong, as efficient, or as capable. The help of NYLS enabled us to improve and expand.

We are always in awe of the generosity of the NYLS community. Many have already contributed directly or indirectly to support Safe Passage Project's efforts. Alumni and supporters can donate to NYLS and earmark funds for our work; just note on your donation "Safe Passage Project." Alternatively, you can donate directly to us online at: www.safepassageproject.org.

From All of Us at Safe Passage Project, Thank You!

HOW TO HELP

Volunteer

Safe Passage Project screens children for relief at immigration court on a weekly basis. We always need attorneys and interpreters on hand to assist. Please fill out our volunteer form online to get involved.

Amigos de Safe Passage hosts regular soccer matches and other activities. Please fill out the volunteer form online to assist in general events.

If you are interested in taking a case with Safe Passage Project, complete the attorney volunteer form, and our staff will be in touch to discuss children currently need legal counsel.



Donate

To donate online, go to: www.safepassageproject.org.

Attend our yearly Refugee Day Walking Tour, a Safe Passage Project cocktail hour, or one of our fundraising events. Events are an opportunity to meet our clients, speak with our staff, and get a better idea of how far your contribution can go.

Safe Passage Project



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