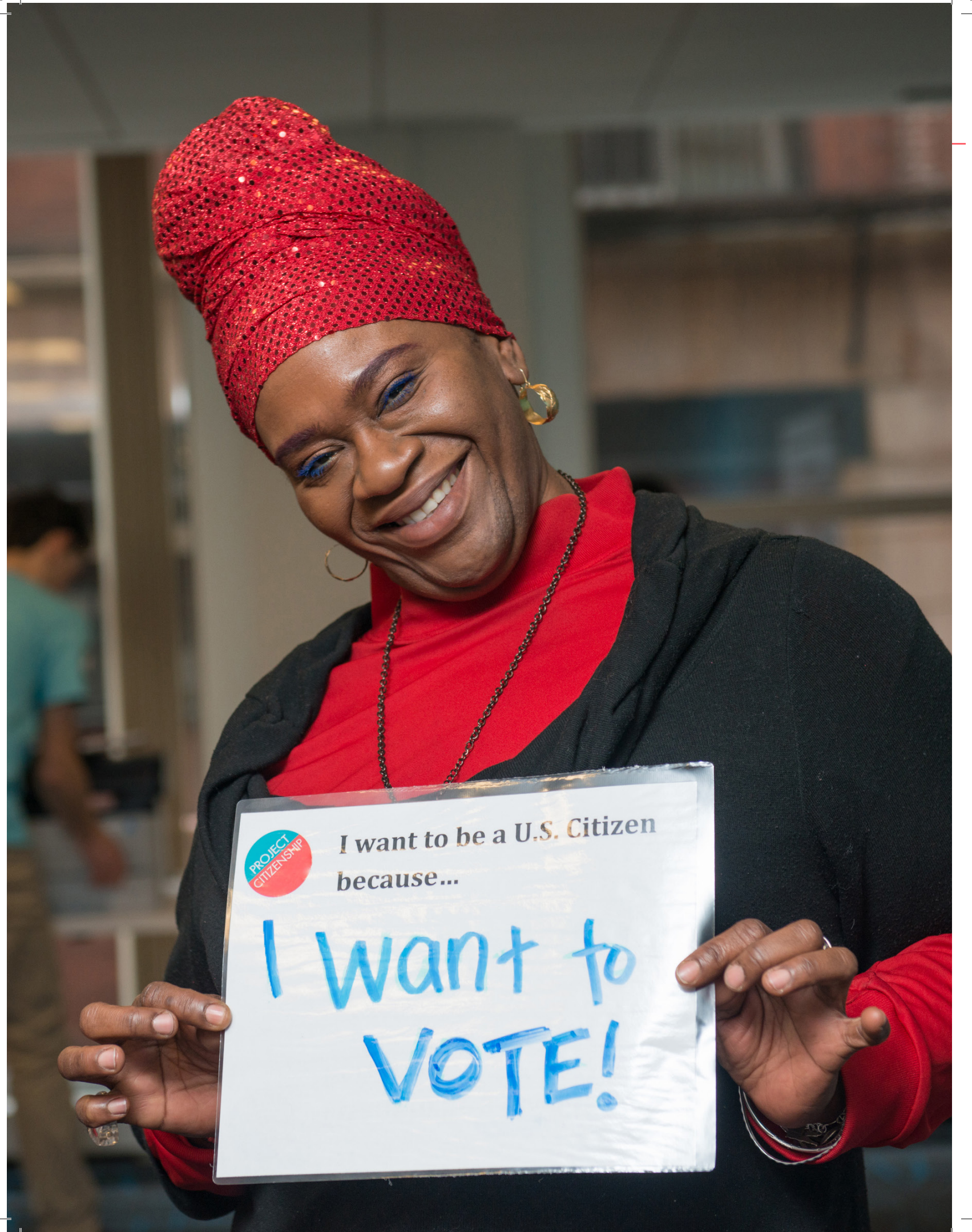


# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2016





I want to be a U.S. Citizen  
because...

I want to  
VOTE!



# A YEAR OF EXPONENTIAL GROWTH!

Dear Friends,

In 2016, Project Citizenship established itself as New England's citizenship provider with the largest network of services. The presidential election increased the demand for citizenship services, but fortunately, Project Citizenship had the capacity to meet it.

Early in 2016, Project Citizenship opened the doors of its new Citizenship Center. The Citizenship Center is located in the Project Citizenship office, and accommodates clients who are unable to come to a workshop appointment, or who have unusually complicated applications. Volunteers staff the Citizenship Center with oversight provided by the Project Citizenship team.

Project Citizenship also utilized many media and government agency partnerships for increased outreach. Elected officials, at the federal, state, and local levels, co-sponsored events in Framingham, Lawrence, Attleboro, and Boston. Media partners helped amplify Project Citizenship's linguistic reach in the Portuguese, Spanish, and Haitian Creole speaking communities.

In September 2016, Project Citizenship held New England's largest Citizenship Day event attended by more than 280 immigrants assisted by 300 volunteers. Mayor Walsh kicked off the day by addressing volunteers, making it clear to all, that Boston welcomes immigrants and values the diversity they add to our community.

For the first time, the Project Citizenship network, which includes 12 community-based organizations, exceeded 4,000 citizenship applications. The network now serves 4 states across New England to increase geographic and linguistic reach.

The year culminated in the announcement by the Social Innovation Forum (SIF) that Project Citizenship is one of seven 2017 Innovators. SIF will help Project Citizenship to enhance its capacity to accelerate social change.

We are proud of Project Citizenship's accomplishments in 2016 and are grateful for the support so many of you provide.

Sincerely,



**James McGarry**  
*Chair, Board of Directors*  
Goodwin Procter



**Veronica Serrato**  
*Executive Director*

## 2016 HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ **Opened the new Citizenship Center which served 497 applicants, 32% of the total clients served in 2016**
- ★ **Held New England's largest Citizenship Day event ever: Over 300 volunteers assisted 280 immigrants**
- ★ **The Project Citizenship network submitted 4,161 citizenship applications, for clients from 127 different countries**
- ★ **Selected as a 2017 Innovator by the Social Innovation Forum**

# THE MISSION

Project Citizenship's mission is to increase the naturalization rates throughout New England. Project Citizenship seeks to reduce barriers to citizenship for eligible, legal permanent residents throughout New England by working with a diverse group of community partners and a strong network of volunteers.

Estimated number of green card holders who are eligible to apply for citizenship:

U.S.	Massachusetts	Boston
8.8M	300K	48K

Only about **10%** of eligible legal permanent residents apply for citizenship each year because of many obstacles and barriers.

#### To be eligible for citizenship, an immigrant must:

- Be at least **18 years old**
- Be a legal permanent resident for **5 years**
- Demonstrate good moral character
- Pay **\$725** filing fee
- Read, write, and speak **English**

#### Naturalization is a long and complicated process; Project Citizenship assists each step of the way.

When a new client calls Project Citizenship, she is screened for eligibility. For clients unable to learn English due to a disability, Project Citizenship advocates for them at their immigration interview.

#### Project Citizenship works to ensure that no one is priced out of citizenship.

According to USCIS, the average citizenship applicant's family income is less than \$50,000. In order to apply for citizenship, applicants were required to pay a \$680 filing fee. This fee rose in December 2016 to \$725. For indigent clients, Project Citizenship prepares a fee waiver.

### MARIE-ANNE



At the age of 104, Marie-Anne (right) is the oldest applicant that Project Citizenship served in 2016. She was born in Haiti in 1912 and has been a resident of the United States for over 30 years. The proud mother of four U.S. citizens, and a grandmother and great grandmother to many more, Marie-Anne is eager to fulfill her dream of joining her family in citizenship. Her strong will and vibrant attitude inspired everyone around her as she smiled and danced her way through our workshop in July.

# 2016 BY THE NUMBERS

**1,507**  
citizenship  
applications

**1,058**  
fee waivers

**\$713,920**  
saved by clients  
through fee waivers

**119**  
medical waivers for  
disabled immigrants

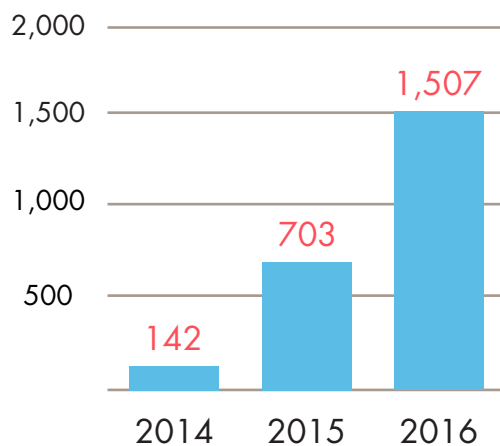
**642**  
volunteers

**25%**  
of volunteers helped  
more than once






**24**  
citizenship  
workshops

**21**  
trainings for volunteers  
and community partners

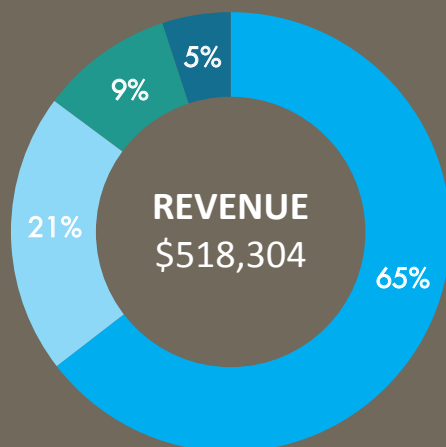
## Annual Application Submissions



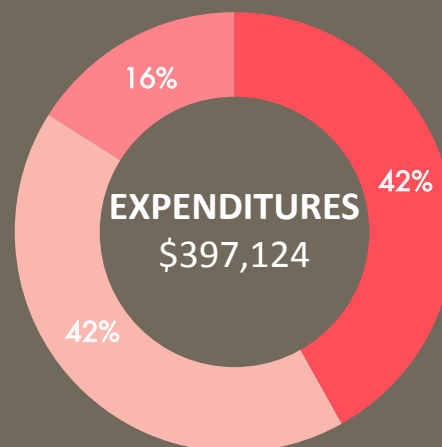
## Top 5 Countries of Origin

-  Dominican Republic - **25%**
-  Haiti - **12%**
-  Brazil - **10%**
-  China - **8%**
-  Colombia - **3%**

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY



- Major Gifts
- Individual Donations
- Corporate Sponsorship
- Grants



- Program Services
- Administration
- Fundraising

# THE PROCESS

---

Project Citizenship relies on its network of trained volunteers at every workshop, and also to staff the Citizenship Center. *Pro bono* attorneys, law students, and community volunteers which include former clients all provide assistance to applicants. This past year, 642 volunteers contributed their time, knowledge, and energy to help immigrants along the path to citizenship.

---

## PRO BONO SPONSOR

In 2016, Goodwin Procter sponsored three workshops at its firm as well as Citizenship Day in Boston at the Timilty Middle School in Roxbury. Goodwin has been a *pro bono* sponsor since 2014 and continues to enthusiastically support our work. We are grateful for all that Goodwin has done and continues to do for us.



**1,602 Hours Dedicated to Project Citizenship**

1,294 Workshop Hours  
308 Case Hours



**118 Volunteers Involved**

110 Lawyers  
8 Paralegals



**GOODWIN**

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



“The clients at Project Citizenship’s naturalization clinics have such interesting stories to tell, and they really appreciate the assistance we are able to provide them. In these dangerous times, the best protection against detention and deportation is citizenship, and I enjoy helping them achieve that goal.”

INEZ H. FRIEDMAN-BOYCE  
*Partner, Goodwin Procter*

# APPLICANT SPOTLIGHT



## RAMON AND MIRTA

“Me siento Americano, me siento orgulloso de ser parte de acá. Este es mi país. Soy Peruano de nacimiento, pero ya vivo otra realidad, este es mi realidad. Esto es mi mundo...La verdad es que nosotros nos sentimos más tranquilos teniendo ya este documento, este papel, y haber entrado a este otro nivel con más responsabilidad...Si te pones a pensar, tu mente, tu corazón ya es diferente. Viene a ser parte más grande de los Estados Unidos, y la verdad es que eso nos regocija.”

## AISHA, ANAS, MOSAAB, & OMAR

As part of our October workshop in Lawrence, we worked with this family to submit their applications to derive citizenship through their mother (pictured in the center). Originally from Iraq, they fled to Jordan in 2009 before arriving to Massachusetts one year later. When Sundes became a citizen, her four children gained all the rights and privileges of citizenship. We are proud to have helped them and congratulate them on their citizenship!



Pictured left to right: Aisha (age 14), Anas (age 10), Sundes, Mosaab (age 17), Omar (age 7)

## THE PROJECT CITIZENSHIP TEAM

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James McGarry – Chair  
Amy Wax – Vice Chair  
Bianca Gay – Secretary  
Chris Pratt – Treasurer  
Ricardo Bianco – Director  
Juan Davila – Director  
Dmitry Grekov – Director  
Aaron Kleiman – Director  
Laura Murray-Tjan – Director  
Charles Sanders – Director  
Paras Doshi – Net Impact Board Fellow

### PROJECT CITIZENSHIP STAFF

Veronica Serrato – Executive Director  
Matthew Jose – Director of Programs and Development  
Melanie Torres – Director of Programs and Operations  
Karyn Ann Shealy – AmeriCorps Legal Advocate  
Jessica Slicer – NAIP Americorps Fellow  
Peter Haskin – NAIP AMericorps Fellow



# THE NETWORK

Project Citizenship began as the Greater Boston Citizenship Initiative, a collaboration of community partners in Massachusetts seeking to increase naturalization rates throughout the state. The Fish Family Foundation, a philanthropic organization with a long-standing commitment to serving immigrant communities, formed the Initiative in 2011. Six community organizations worked to educate immigrants about the benefits of citizenship, and to overcome the barriers to naturalization.

## EXPANDING OUR REACH

In 2016, Project Citizenship increased its number of funded partners to twelve. The community partners received funding from the Fish Family and Davis Foundations to provide citizenship application services. The network expanded in 2016 to include community partners in Connecticut, Maine, Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

**Asian American Civic Association**  
Boston, MA

**Action for Boston Community Development**  
Boston, MA

**Agencia ALPHA**  
Boston, MA

**Ascentria Care Alliance**  
Worcester, MA

**Dorcas International Institute of RI**  
Providence, RI

**Hartford Public Library**  
Hartford, CT

**Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project**  
Portland, ME

**Jewish Family Service of Western Mass**  
Springfield, MA

**Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers**  
6 Massachusetts locations



**Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition**  
Boston, MA

**Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center**  
Boston, MA

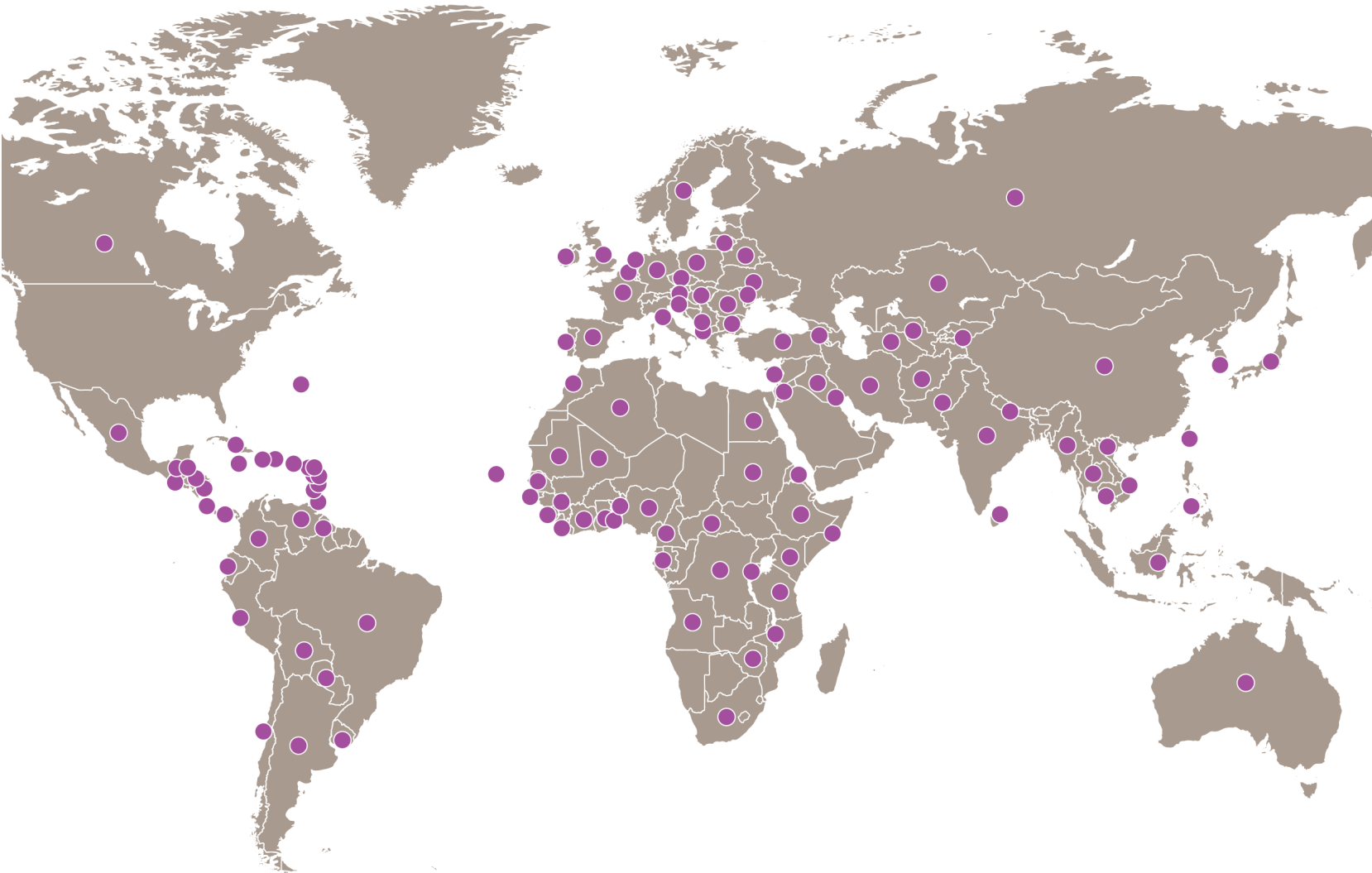
**United Neighbors of Fitchburg**  
Fitchburg, MA



# THE NETWORK BY THE NUMBERS

<b>12</b> community partners	<b>2,654</b> citizenship applications	<b>2,596</b> fee waivers	<b>\$1.6M</b> saved by clients through fee waivers
<b>127</b> different countries of origin	<b>335</b> medical waivers for disabled immigrants	<b>66%</b> of applicants were female	<b>35-44</b> most common age of applicants

## COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



# SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

---

Project Citizenship would like to extend its sincere gratitude to all of its funders, donors and collaborators who contributed in 2016. It is apparent through the increased citizenship applications through the past year that Project Citizenship has been hard at work. This work was made possible with the support and collaboration of those listed below. Participation at any level moves the organization forward. Any donation of time or funds demonstrates a commitment to an inclusive community building and attaining equal opportunity for those seeking citizenship.

---

## **PRO BONO SPONSORS**

### Law Firms

Fragomen  
Goodwin Procter  
Mintz Levin  
Morgan Lewis  
Ropes and Gray  
WilmerHale

### In-house Counsel

Bank of America  
General Electric  
IBM  
MFS  
MassMutual  
Santander

## **MEDIA SPONSORS**

Abr WSRO  
Amanecer Ranchero  
Boston Globe  
Brazilian Magazine  
Brookline Tab  
Caribbean Connection  
Clear Channel  
El Mundo  
El Planeta  
Magacin  
Metrowest Daily News  
Planet Compas  
Radio El Gaucho  
Ritmo Guanaco  
Sampan

Sinovision  
Tele Diaspora  
TeleKreyol  
Telemundo  
The Republican  
Torre Sonora  
Total Health TV  
Univision  
Wake Up with Tayla Andre  
World Journal

## **IN KIND SUPPORTERS**

Attleboro Public Library  
Bertucci's  
Boloco  
Charles River Canoe and  
Kayak  
Deluxe Depot  
Franklin Park Zoo  
Isabella Stewart Gardner  
Museum  
Lawrence Community Works  
Lawrence Senior Center  
Maggiano's  
MIT  
Starbucks  
Town of Framingham  
Wegmans

## **GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS**

Massachusetts Office of  
Refugees and Immigrants  
Mayor Dan Rivera

Mayor Martin Walsh  
Mayor's Office of Immigrant  
Advancement  
Rep. Joseph Kennedy III  
Rep. Katherine Clark  
Rep. Niki Tsongas  
Rep. Seth Moulton

## **FOUNDATION PARTNERS**

Boston Bar Foundation  
Brookline Community  
Foundation  
Davis Foundation  
Fish Family Foundation  
Foley Hoag Foundation  
Forrest Foundation  
Foundation for MetroWest  
Mifflin Memorial Fund  
Parker Foundation  
The Boston Foundation  
Tow Foundation

## **CORPORATE SPONSORS**

AAFCPAs  
Amazon Smile  
Baupost Group  
Costco  
Daedalus Projects

## **PHOTOGRAPHY**

Marilyn Humphries  
Leise Jones



## INDIVIDUAL DONORS

### \$10,000+

Matthew J. Cox | Joseph Mitchell

### \$1000-\$9,999

DD Allen | Juan Davila | Brenda Diana | Robert and Joanne Fallon | Thomas Fish | Edward Fish | Arlene Fortunato | Inez Friedman-Boyce | Ken Gordon | Theresa Kavanaugh | Ernie Levine | Kathleen and Robert Mahoney | Jim McGarry | Jeff and Jacqui Morby | William and Jane Murray | Regina Pisa | Glenn Pratt | Chris Pratt | John Reed | Charles Sanders | Veronica Serrato | Stephen Steinour | James M. Stone

### \$100-\$999

Richard Albert | Courtney Alessio | Philip Arevalo | William Bacic | Ricardo Bianco | Tref Borden | Jim and Ellen Burns | Tiffney Carney | Heather Carr-Kelley | Robert Carroll | Jeannine Chamblin | Eric Christianson | Eleanor Chu | Selwyn Clive Wies | Juan de Dios Sanchez Roselly | Kostika Dhembu | Sonja Dhembu | Mimoza Dhembu | Michael Diener | Janet Donovan | Paras Doshi | William Fick | Jamie and Sarah Fleckner | Laura Gassner Otting | Thomas Gatzunis | Nadia Gay | Cruz Gerardo Zavala Alfaro | David Glucksman | Justin Glucksman | Elizabeth Gomes | Joseph Gormley | Dmitry Grekov | Eric Hayes | Ken Heitner | Russell Herndon | Judy Hogan | Jennifer Jacobs Guzman | Matthew Jose | Mary Keating | Aaron Kleiman | Crystal Komm | Mats and Jessica Lederhausen | Ron Leshem | Jonathan and Kay Levi | Magdalena Lopez | Roger Matthews | Andrew McMorrow | Milos Milosevic | Donna Mizrahi | Cynthia Monteiro | Tom Monti | Benton and Francis Moyer | Laura Murray Tjan | Martin Murray | James Nagle | Paul Nardone | Javier Oseguera | Robyn Parets | William Patton | Luis Pedro Torrebiarte | Susan Pereira | Janet Rickershauser | Rhoda Ritzenberg | Jason Rives | Michael Ronan | Elias Roumally | Alicia Rubio | Cynthia Serrato | Michael Severiano | David Sherman | Francine Shron | Albert Spada | Brenda Spears | Micho Spring | Ben and Kate Taylor | Anisha Vachani | Kirk Walters | Melinda Wax | Linda Willis | Imogen Wilson | Aileen Wilson | Anthony Zelle

### \$1-\$99

Geno Agueda Mercedes | Connie Alexander | Lennox Alexander | Yolande Alfred | Wendy Alguero | Norma Altagracia Salomon Brito | Laura Alvarez | Gloria Andrade | Robenson Antoine | Alva Arias | Patricia Arruda | Sonia Arteaga | Natasha August | Ocilia Augustin | Vicnor Babin | Allison Backman | Myrlande Barbier | Johanna Berkman | Cetroy Bobb | Patricia Boyer | Rene Boyer | Jacob Brescia Weiler | Carol-Anne Butcher Odum | Alexis Cain | Lia Camargo | Virginia Castillo de Tomas |

Juana Castro de Paulino | Edna Cayo | Anibal Chavarria | Michael Christodoulides | Sophia Claudimir | Marie Conte | Angie Cunico | Dan Dain | Mathieu Daniel | Nilda de Ramos | Jose A. De Leon | Maria de la Cruz | Myrlande Duprevil | Pauline Edmonds | Dieula Edouard | Andrew Endicott | Ana Escobar | Margarita Fabian | Catherine Faddis | Diamela Fernandez | Josefina Fernandez | Carline Foster | David Freeburg | Vilma Galvez | Sandra Garcia | Santiago Gasca | Bianca Gay | Saintelie Gedeon | Audrew Gehring | Betty and Robert Gilson | Genevieve Gold | Gloria Maria Gomez de Santana | Valentina Gonzalez | Galina Grigorova | Jason Gross | Shira Gubb | Lerida Guerrero | Juan Guzman | Ingrid Harewood | Michael and Corinne Harrington | Charlotte Hemr | Crucita Hernandez | Julia Holczer | Mostafa Idmbarek | Emma Israel | Annette Jacques | Iclenou Jean Gilles | Frantz Jean Charles | Leonardo Jimenez | Hector Jimenez | Chris Jordan | Allie Jose | Rose Marie Joseph | Jean Kesnel Pierre | Jill Kubit | Jean Laguerre | Katie Lambing | Carlos Lara | Kim Larie | Michael Lee | Eric Lockwood | Kathleen Long | Antonia Lopes Rodrigues | Mauricio Lopez | Ysora Lopez | Bienvenido Lora | Victor Manuel Revolorio | Cruz Maria Roman | Hilario Marte | Elena Sofia Martinez Perez | Kristin McAlpin | Lisa McChesney | Julie McCormack | Jose Medeiros | Karen Meninno | Lauriane Michel | Noriko Miyakoda Hall | Fritz Moise | Lucas Morais | Magnolia Morales | Magalie Morisset | Andrew Motta | Altagracia Murillo | Erick and Audrey Murillo | Clementina Nina | Maria Nunez | Justina Nwabinwe | Vanessa O'Connor | Jose Orlando Baez Abreu | Hilario Ortega Perez | Juan Antonio Ortega Tatis | Danielle Panetta | Dan Pasquarello | Antonine Paul | Francisco Antonio Payamps | Saulia Pena | Maria Perez Salas de Sanchez | Asisclo Perez Galvez | Juana Pimentel de Medina | Georgette Piper-Daly | Antonio Polanco | Ariela Polanco | Alex Poon | Mark and Patricia Preston | Felix Puella Taveras | Sonys Paula Ramos | Antoine Raymonde | Trina Realmuto | Jonhas Regis | Jeanne Reid | Jose Restrepo | Victor Revolorio | Ysaías Reyes Bautista | Ana Rodriguez | Juana Rosario de Polanco | Carolyn Rosenthal | Alodia Ruiz | Xavier Ruiz Sena | Mir Rumi | Shamimbanu Sameja | Youssef Samir | Lopa Sanariya | Farita Sanchez | Joanna Schubert | Ronnie Sekamwa | Beatrice Serrato | Gabi Serrato Marks | Cynthia Serrato | Daniel Sherman | Rafael Silverio | Ruth St. Louis | Mike and Shelley Stefaniak | Sherri Stuver | Margaret Sullivan | Jessica Taubman | Suzelaine Thermidor | Jean Thomas Guerrier | Gustave Thomassin | Duga Titanji | Latica Tomasic | Lynn Torres | Aline Travers | Enick Turenne | Mirta Vara | Ramon Vara | Fatima Villar | Catalina Viola | Raphaeline Voccia | Marie Wagnac | Phyllis Wax | Amy Wax | Sheila Weiss | Roger Wiesner | Jennifer Wittlin | Engin Yildiz | Linda Zabona | Rosa Zaldivar



617-694-5949  
[www.projectcitizenship.org](http://www.projectcitizenship.org)



4 Faneuil South Market Building  
3rd Floor  
Boston, MA 02109