

2025 Impact Report

Bolaji Found Safety and a New Beginning

Bolaji* is a 15-year-old from West Africa who survived years of horrific abuse by the adults who were supposed to protect him. From a very young age, he was physically abused, kept out of school, and forced to work without pay. At just 12 years old, Bolaji fled his home country alone in search of safety.

When Bolaji arrived in the United States, he was first placed in a shelter for immigrant youth near the border and then transferred to Maryland. He was only 13 when Amica Center's Children's Program first met him. From that point on—and through three different shelter transfers—Amica Center staff stayed by his side, making sure he didn't have to face the immigration system alone.

Our team worked closely with Bolaji to understand his story, earn his trust, and help him navigate the uncertainty of the immigration system. Because of the abuse he had suffered, Amica Center staff identified that he qualified for both Special Immigrant Juvenile Status—protection for children who have been abused, abandoned, or neglected—as well as asylum. His legal team prepared his case, gathered evidence, and advocated relentlessly on his behalf.

In early 2025, after nearly two years in federal custody, Bolaji was finally granted asylum. Bolaji is now living in a community-based foster care program where he can attend public school, begin to heal, and continue to grow in a safe and stable environment.



**THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT,
UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN LIKE
BOLAJI CAN GET THE IN-PERSON
SUPPORT OF A LEGAL ADVOCATE
WHEN THEY NEED IT MOST.**

Children's Program

Through free legal counsel, educational materials, and social services, our Children's Program works with immigrant children detained by the Office of Refugee Resettlement at juvenile facilities in Washington DC, Maryland, and Virginia.

In 2025, more than **1,200 children** received services, including full legal representation, Know Your Rights presentations, and legal intakes. This year, we also provided targeted advocacy for an additional **100 children**.

Adult Program

The Adult Program provides client-centered legal representation and trauma-sensitive support to adults detained by the government—including free direct legal support, Know Your Rights presentations, intakes, and pro bono counsel. We also connect clients with resources in their communities to holistically address their needs beyond the scope of their legal case.

In 2025, more than **2,100 adults** detained in over **25 detention centers nationwide** received services, including Know Your Rights presentations, individual consults, and direct legal representation.



**BECAUSE OF YOUR GENEROSITY,
TOBIAS IS OUT OF DETENTION AND
RECONNECTED WITH HIS SON.**

**“There is nothing
more beautiful
than freedom.
I am so grateful to
you all for helping
me reunite with my
son—thank you.”**

—Tobias, released from detention in November 2025

Immigration Impact Lab

Every day, the immigration system fails children and adults who are detained. The Immigration Impact Lab (“The Lab”) responds to these failings, strategically appealing cases, developing impact litigation, and launching advocacy efforts that have the potential to transform the system and establish new legal precedents for immigrants nationwide.

In 2025, the Lab litigated more than **115 lawsuits** and hosted free trainings for more than **1,200 attorneys nationwide** on immigration litigation strategies.



MR. AMBROSI IS NOW SLEEPING IN HIS OWN BED, UNDER THE SAME ROOF AS HIS FAMILY, BECAUSE OF YOU.

“There is nothing better than being free. Justice finally prevailed. Little by little, I am building my life back.”

—Mr. Ambrosi, released from detention in August 2025

How We’re Fighting Back

The Lab is currently leading on multiple national lawsuits challenging the inhumane treatment of immigrants and the erosion of due process. Favorable preliminary rulings were obtained in all four cases.

- **Advocating for immigrant children:** In *CLSEPA v. HHS*, we are challenging the federal government’s attempted termination of legal services for unaccompanied children and defending access to counsel for tens of thousands of children navigating the immigration system alone.
- **Challenging unlawful arrests in DC:** In *Escobar Molina v. DHS* we are challenging ICE’s practice of warrantless and unlawful immigration arrests in Washington, DC to enforce statutory limits on federal enforcement authority and put an end to widespread and indiscriminate arrests.
- **Opposing ICE’s treatment in Baltimore:** In *D.N.N. v. Baker*, we are challenging unconstitutional conditions and prolonged detention at the Baltimore Holding Rooms, securing protections for people subjected to unlawful immigration detention practices.
- **Defending immigrants with mental health challenges:** In *American Gateways v. DOJ* we sued the Department of Justice for unlawfully dismantling the National Qualified Representative Program, which provides legal representation to individuals who have mental health, cognitive, or developmental disabilities that an immigration judge determines would prevent them from meaningfully participating in their immigration court proceedings without counsel.



To learn more about how we’re fighting back, visit us at: amicacenter.org/news-and-stories

Thank you to our supporters

Amica Center is grateful for the generous support of our community—the volunteers, including our Board of Directors and Legal Advisory Committee, pro bono attorneys, donors, law firms, foundations, corporations, faith-based organizations, businesses, and others who have helped to expand our capacity and fight back in 2025.

In 2025, nearly **5,000 donors** from across the country donated to support our ongoing work.

More than **300 volunteers** contributed **5,600 hours!** They answered more than **15,600 calls** through our Detention Hotline, completed translations for nearly **900 court documents**, and participated in more than **60 detention center visits**.

Amica Center partnered with approximately **50 pro bono** law firms, corporate legal departments, and law school clinics to leverage the work of our staff and volunteers. Together, pro bono partners donated more than **39,000 hours of legal assistance**.



1025 Connecticut Avenue NW
Suite 701
Washington, DC, 20036

