

# Amica

Center for Immigrant Rights

Formerly known as CAIR Coalition

## 2024 Impact Report

May 2025

Dear Friend,

Last year was a year of growth, change, and preparation for the Amica Center for Immigrant Rights. We spent many months getting ready to fight back against the second Trump Administration, while continuing to confront the impact that the unjust immigration system has on our clients and communities.

We celebrated our 25th anniversary in 2024. For more than two decades, we have been fighting alongside our clients, communities, and supporters like you. We've gone from a staff of seven in 1999 to over 120 people across the country. To celebrate our growth and expansion, we also rebranded in 2024!

**We began 2024 as CAIR Coalition and ended our 25th year as the Amica Center for Immigrant Rights.**

We chose “Amica” to be the foundation for our new name because it is the Latin root for “friend” and that is how we approach our work. As friends stand next to each other during hard times, we stand next to our clients as they fight against detention and deportation. And it is our honor to be with them in that fight and to have you stand with us.

While there is much to celebrate in 2024, we knew that we had a long, hard road ahead of us. During Fall 2024, we spent countless hours preparing to protect our clients from the anticipated anti-immigrant policies that Trump would bring in 2025—and we were correct to expect the worst.

Since taking office in January, Trump has gutted protections for people seeking safety, militarized ICE, and revoked humanitarian parole programs. He has also tried to put an end to free legal representation for immigrant children arriving to the country without a parent or guardian and legal access for adults trapped in ICE jails. And this is just the beginning.



ANCHOR PICTURES

However, with each new assault on immigrants, Amica Center is pushing back. We are fighting in the courts, the halls of Congress, and in the public square—and we are not stopping.

**Thank you for all that you've done in 2024 to support immigrants in detention. Please stand with us in this next battle to show that community—when we come together—can defeat cruelty.**

With gratitude,

Kathryn M. Doan  
Chief Executive Officer

Michael Lukens  
Executive Director

P.S. To learn more about how we are resisting Trump's agenda, visit us at [amicacenter.org](https://amicacenter.org).



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REBECCA DROBIS PHOTOGRAPHY

A close-up photograph of a person's chest and neck. The person is wearing an orange t-shirt with a dark blue collared shirt underneath. The t-shirt features the word "Amica" in a large, bold, black sans-serif font, with "Center for Immigrant Rights" in a smaller, black sans-serif font below it. The background is blurred, showing green foliage.

**Amica**  
Center for Immigrant Rights

REBECCA DROBIS PHOTOGRAPHY

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# Allow us to re-introduce ourselves

CAIR Coalition is now the Amica Center for Immigrant Rights.

“Amica” is the Latin word for “friend,” and that echoes the way we approach what we do. Just as friends stand with one another, Amica Center stands with our clients to fight for the safety, stability, and opportunity we all deserve.

Our new name also reflects our new reach as an organization.

While Amica Center continues to operate inside the DC-Maryland-Virginia area, we have grown to support our clients all over the country. We represent them in local immigration courts and work with them when their cases go on appeal—whether that means the Board of Immigration Appeals or the 3rd, 4th, and 11th U.S. Circuit Courts. Amica Center is defending our clients and setting legal precedents to benefit broad groups of immigrants.

Scan to learn more about the name change.



# 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 to people in detention. We also connect clients with resources in their communities to holistically address their needs beyond the scope of their legal case.

As the number of immigrants who were detained continued to rise in 2024, we fully resumed in-person operations inside ICE jails for the first time since before the COVID-19 pandemic. To help meet this increased demand, we overhauled our internal intake system to increase efficiency and allow us to assist as many people as possible, while prioritizing representation for people who are detained and at risk of deportation and separation from their families.

We also launched an emergency case placement program that allows our team to place one urgent case per week in anticipation of increased enforcement under the second Trump Administration. At the same time, we deepened our trauma-informed approach, expanded pro bono representation, and strengthened partnerships to secure critical victories in asylum cases, bond hearings, and protection under the Convention Against Torture Act.



REBECCA DROBIS PHOTOGRAPHY

**“When you’re in a detention center, you don’t know your rights. I didn’t even know I could have looked for asylum. I didn’t know anything about those reliefs until I got in touch with Amica Center.”**

–Andrés, Former Amica Center Client

More than **2,000** adults received services, including Know Your Rights presentations, individual consults, and direct legal representation.

# 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.

More than **1,600 children** who were detained received Know Your Rights presentations and legal intakes. Full legal representation was initiated with more than **200 children**.

# Client Story

Two children, who are siblings, recently celebrated a long-awaited and extremely well-deserved win at the asylum office. This victory came at the end of a six-year-long case and was thanks to their dedicated, resourceful pro bono team, mentored by staff from the Children's Program at Amica Center.

Amica Center began representing these children after they arrived in the United States alone in 2018. After identifying that the children were eligible for asylum, our Children's Program placed their case with a phenomenal team of pro bono attorneys from Freshfields, who assisted the children in preparing their I-589s and submitting them to the asylum office.



In Fall 2024, the children finally received the incredible news that they had been granted asylum. Many staff members from Amica Center and an even greater number of attorneys, paralegals, and support staff from Freshfields worked together to achieve this outcome, and we could not be happier for this family or more grateful for this pro bono team.

Long delays are the norm in children's cases, wait times at the asylum office can take up to at least five years, to even schedule an interview. This long-awaited victory is emblematic of the dogged persistence required in representing unaccompanied children.

# Immigration Impact Lab

Every day, the immigration system fails children and adults who are detained. Our 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.

One of our most significant impact cases in 2024 was *Rodriguez Guerra v. Perry*, 1:23-cv-1151 (E.D. Va. 2024), a class action lawsuit that resulted in a landmark settlement improving due process for immigrants detained in Virginia and beyond. As a direct result, more than 20 people were released from ICE custody, setting an important precedent for future cases and reinforcing the principle that immigrants who have been granted protection from persecution and torture should not remain indefinitely detained.

Scan for more information about this case.





REBECCA DROBIS PHOTOGRAPHY

**“They were supportive.  
They were dedicated.  
They were always there  
for me. They made me feel  
like part of the family.”**

—Ebou, Former Amica Center Client

The Lab litigated more than **70 lawsuits** and hosted free trainings for more than **1,000 attorneys** nationwide on immigration litigation strategies.

# 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, individual donors, law firms, foundations, corporations, faith-based organizations, local businesses, and others who have helped sustain our work, expand our capacity, and enhance the services we provide to immigrant communities in 2024.

Whether you contributed your time, talent, or money, your generosity is an act of hope. Together, we will continue to fight for a world with a humane and just immigration system that protects people seeking safety.

# Thanks to our detention hotline, translation, and interpretation volunteers

More than **200 volunteers** contributed **4,000 hours!** They answered more than **16,000 calls** through our Detention Hotline, completed translations for nearly **800 court documents**, and participated in more than **40 detention center visits**.



# Thanks to our pro bono partners

Amica Center is grateful for our partnership with more than **50 pro bono firms**. We partnered with law firms, corporate legal departments, and law school clinics to leverage the work of our staff and volunteers. Together, pro bono partners donated nearly **21,000 hours** of free legal assistance!



PHOTOS BY SAM LEVITAN



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ANCHOR PICTURES

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