2014 Annual Report



"Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them..." Matt 19:14



Catholic Legal Services Archdiocese of Miami, Inc.



"But now they desire a better homeland, a heavenly home." Hebrews 11:16



Legal Services for those who come to South Florida from foreign lands. Assistance for those who lack sufficient means to obtain legal help. Professional services provided without reference to race, religion, gender, ethnic group, or other distinguishing characteristics.





ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI

Office of the Archbishop



Dear Friends,

The Declaration of Independence proclaims the equality of mankind, and it states that we are all endowed by our Creator "with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." These precepts have inspired some of this nation's noblest political achievements, from the abolition of slavery and the enfranchisement of women to the end of *de jure* segregation and the passage of the civil rights, voters rights, and Americans with disabilities acts. Each generation has had to review, reinterpret, and reapply these principles afresh. Each of these achievements has required painful struggles, whether in the courts, in Congress and state legislatures, on the streets, or even on the battlefield.

As Catholics, our faith has been a source of strength to us in these struggles, teaching us that there is a divine spark in every human life and consequently that every human being deserves to live in dignity.

Catholic Charities Legal Services (or Catholic Legal Services, as it is more commonly known) has proved itself a valuable resource in the struggle to protect the dignity and rights of some of the most vulnerable in our community, immigrants who seek to build their lives here and reunite their families but who lack the financial resources to hire private attorneys. They rely in these daily struggles on reason, knowledge of the law, appreciation of our common humanity, and your support. Thank you for sustaining this important work.

Our nation recognizes that this is a land of immigrants, but if we reflect on our own lives, the histories of our families and our neighbors, we soon recognize both the value of the contributions that immigrants have made here and the difficulties they have had to confront.

May the Lord continue to bless you and your loved ones abundantly. With personal good wishes, I am

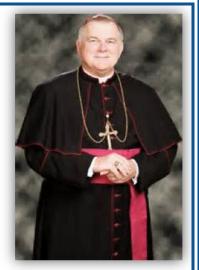
Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Most Reverend Thomas G. Wenski Archbishop of Miami



ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI

Office of the Archbishop



Queridos amigos:

La declaración de independencia proclama la igualdad entre los seres humanos y establece que todos fuimos dotados por nuestro Creador "con ciertos Derechos inalienables, entre los cuales se encuentra la Vida, la Libertad y la búsqueda de la Felicidad". Estos preceptos inspiraron algunos de los logros políticos de la más alta nobleza en nuestra nación. Desde la abolición de la esclavitud y el derecho al voto de la mujer, hasta el fin de la segregación *de jure*, la aprobación de las leyes de derechos civiles, electorales y la ley para los estadounidenses con discapacidades. Cada generación ha tenido que revisar, reinterpretar y reaplicar estos principios con una mirada nueva. Cada uno de estos logros requirió luchas dolorosas, ya sea en los tribunales, en el Congreso y en las legislaturas estatales, en las calles o inclusive en la campo de batalla.

Como católicos, nuestra fe ha sido una fuente de fortaleza durante estas luchas, al enseñarnos que existe una chispa divina en cada vida humana y en consecuencia, todo ser humano merece vivir con dignidad.

El Servicio Legal de Caridades Católicas (comúnmente conocido como Servicios Legales Católicos) ha demostrado ser un recurso valioso en la lucha para proteger la dignidad y los derechos de algunos de los miembros más vulnerables de nuestra sociedad; los inmigrantes que buscan construir sus vidas aquí y reunificarse con sus familias, pero que carecen de los recursos económicos para contratar abogados privados. El personal del Servicio Legal de Caridades Católicas enfrenta estas luchas diarias basándose en la razón, el conocimiento del derecho, la apreciación de nuestra humanidad común y con el apoyo de Ustedes. Gracias por respaldar esta importante labor.

Nuestra nación reconoce que ésta es una tierra de inmigrantes, sin embargo si reflexionamos sobre nuestras propias vidas, las historias de nuestras familias y nuestros vecinos fácilmente podemos reconocer tanto el valor de las contribuciones hechas por los inmigrantes, como las vicisitudes que han enfrentado.

Que el Señor continúe bendiciéndolos a Ustedes y a sus seres queridos con gran abundancia.

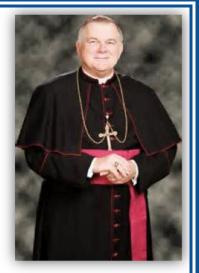
Con mis mejores deseos. Estoy a su servicio en el Señor.

Reverendísimo Thomas G. Wenski Arzobispo de Miami



ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI

Office of the Archbishop



Chers Amis,

La Déclaration de l'Indépendance proclame l'égalité parmi le genre humain, et elle ajoute que nous sommes tous dotés par notre Créateur de "certains Droits inaliénables, parmi eux le Droit à la Vie, à la Liberté et à la recherche du Bonheur." Ces préceptes ont inspiré quelques-uns des plus nobles accomplissements politiques de cette nation, de l'abolition de l'esclavage et du droit de vote aux femmes, à la fin de la ségrégation *de jure*, l'adoption des lois sur les droits civiques, les droits des électeurs et des Américains invalides. Chaque génération a dû ré-étudier, ré-interpréter et ré-appliquer ces principes de frais. Chacun de ces accomplissements a exigé des efforts pénibles, soit dans les tribunaux, soit au niveau des corps législatifs d'état ou du Congrès, dans les rues, ou même sur les champs de bataille.

En tant que Catholiques, notre foi nous a soutenu dans ces luttes, nous enseignant qu'une étincelle divine luit dans chaque vie humaine et que par conséquent chaque être humain mérite de vivre dignement.

Catholic Charities Legal Services (plus connu sous le nom de "Catholic Legal Services") s'est montré une ressource précieuse dans la lutte pour protéger la dignité et les droits de quelques-uns des plus vulnérables de notre communauté, les immigrants qui cherchent à faire leur vie ici et unir leurs familles de nouveau, mais qui manquent des moyens financiers pour engager des avocats privés. Dans ces efforts quotidiens, ils se fient à la raison, la connaissance de la loi, l'appréciation de notre commune humanité et votre appui. Merci de poursuivre cette importante tâche.

Notre nation reconnaît qu'elle est une terre d'immigrants, mais si nous méditons sur nos propres vies, les histoires de nos familles et de nos voisins, nous reconnaissons bien vite à la fois la valeur des contributions que les immigrants ont apporté ici et aussi les difficultés qu'ils ont eu à confronter.

Puisse le Seigneur continuer à vous bénir abondamment, vous et ceux qui vous sont chers. Avec mes meilleurs vœux personnels,

Je suis sincèrement votre dans le Seigneur,

Proster.

Monseigneur Thomas G. Wenski Archevêque de Miami

ABOUT US

Since its inception in 1994, CCLS has remained dedicated to providing professional immigration services to South Florida's refugee and immigrant communities, both in application assistance and attorney representation before the Citizenship and Immigration Services, the Immigration Courts, and the Board of Immigration Appeals. From January through December 2014, CCLS served 22,243 active clients and initiated 11,677 legal actions on their behalf. Nevertheless, demand for services continues to exceed supply.

Without CCLS's assistance, too many deserving immigrants and refugees lose the opportunity to avail themselves of the laws enacted for their protection. Others fall prey to schemes of unscrupulous and unlicensed immigration hucksters capitalizing on the naiveté, poverty, and desperation of the newcomer. However, with our help, many deserving immigrants and refugees persevere and realize their dreams for a bright and secure future in the United States.

CCLS is a nationally recognized agency with an experienced team of attorneys and immigration professionals. The team combines that professionalism with culturally sensitivity and linguistically appropriate services; the CCLS staff reflects the diversity of the population it serves, facilitating the provision of culturally and linguistically sensitive service. Cubans and Haitians form the largest nationalities we serve, but the agency continues to serve many immigrants from across the Americas and around the world. CCLS has always maintained a strong relationship with South Florida's Haitian Community, a traditionally under-served population. In fact, according to the Executive Office of Immigration Review (EOIR) statistics, CCLS represented between 8% - 10% of all successful Haitian asylum claims before the Immigration Courts in the entire nation in recent years.

CCLS Leadership

During 2014, CCLS continued to exert community leadership both in addressing emerging perennial and issues faced by immigrants in South Florida. Three such issues are highlighted here. Additional information on them is available in later sections of this report.

(1) Unaccompanied Children (UCs). Recent years have seen an explosion in the number of UCs both entering the country and needing services in South Florida. Each year prior to 2012, about 6,000 to 8,000 UCs entered the country annually. The number doubled in 2012, reaching 13,625; in 2013 it climbed to 24,668. The federal government reported that 68,541 Unaccompanied Minors entered the Southwest border of the United States in FY 2014. Among the nation's communities, South Florida received the 5th largest number of UCs seeking refuge.

In 2014, CCLS organized a consortium of six nonprofits to apply for a justice AmeriCorps (jAC) grant to provide legal representation to all UCs in South Florida under age 16. That application was successful; CCLS provides grant administration, general supervision, and direct services under this grant. In addition, the USCCB selected CCLS to represent UCs up to age 18 under its ORR grant.

(2) Naturalization. In 2014, CCLS opened the second ongoing CitizenshipWorks (CW) computer laboratory in the nation. CW is an internet-based program for completing the N-400 naturalization application. CW not only speeds the naturalization application process, it helps identify problematic areas for more intensive attorney review. This feature became especially important in 2014, when USCIS doubled the length of the application; Section 11 added 6 pages of questions which could serve as prima facie bars to gaining citizenship. The success of our CW computer lab in helping Fast Track students apply for citizenship has led to expansion of our ongoing collaboration with Miami-Dade Public Schools (MDCPS). At the close of 2014, MDCPS asked CCLS to help it create 3 CW centers at non-Fast Track schools. In

2015, CCLS will both train school personnel in CW and provide monthly attorney application reviews at each school. CCLS continues to lead the New Americans Campaign (NAC) in South Florida. The NAC both organizes citizenship application events and coordinates the ongoing naturalization efforts of its 8 local members.

(3) Mentally III Detainees. In 2014, CCLS was selected to become one of the first three agencies beyond the Ninth District to provide federally funded representation to mentally ill detainees. That program should begin in 2015. Because EOIR must designate each client eligible to receive these services, the impact of the program remains unknown.

MOST REVEREND THOMAS G. WENKI SOLE CORPORATE MEMBER

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MILESTONES IN THE HISTORY OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES LEGAL SERVICES

2015	Named Pro Bono Hero of the SE Region by the American Immigration
	Lawyers Association (AILA)
2014	Organized a 6 agency collaborative to provide unaccompanied children with
	representation; won legal AmeriCorp grant on behalf of the collaborative
2014	Selected as one of the three law firms to pilot EOIR-funded representation
	of mentally incompetent detainees
2013	Proclamation of Catholic Legal Services Citizenship Day, June 22, 2013 by
	the Mayor of Miami-Dade County Carlos A. Gimenez and the Board of
	County Commissioner Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa
2012	Proclamation of the City of Miami recognizing the agency for "outstanding
	public service." Presented by Mayor Tomas P. Regalado
2011	Selected lead organization of the New Americans Campaign (NAC)
2010	Began the nation's most productive and successful Haitian TPS program in
	the nation
2009	Community Advocacy Award presented by the Legal Aid Service of Broward
	County.
2007	Saint Vincent De Paul Award for faithful and compassionate service to
	those who seek sanctuary, shelter, and security in their new land by the
	Archdiocese of Miami
2006	Adalsinda Lomangino Award for outstanding contributions to the field of
	immigration law presented by the South Florida Chapter, American
	Immigration Lawyers Association
2003	National Award for Excellence In Advocacy, US Conference of Catholic
	Bishops
2003	Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce NOVO award for innovative
	excellence in delivering services to the community
2000	Proclamation of Catholic Charities Legal Services Day by the Mayor of
	Miami-Dade County, as one of the vital organizations whose contributions
	served to enrich the fabric of life in South Florida's community
2000	Commendation by the Mayor of the City of Miami for its major
	contributions to the Miami-Dade community
1999	Admitted into the Haitian-American Grassroots Coalition
1998	Incorporated as Catholic Charities Legal Services of the Archdiocese of
	Miami
1994	Established as the GWL Legal Project of the Notre Dame d'Haiti Mission,
	Human Services Division



UNACCOMPANIED MINORS PROJECT

CCLS was awarded new grants in the year of 2014, and expanded existing grants, which enabled our office to create an Unaccompanied Minors Project. The project now encompasses three programs designed to meet the legal needs of unaccompanied children in the Miami Immigration Court: 1) the Legal Orientation Program for Custodians, 2) the Office of Refugee Resettlement "Safe Passages" Pilot Project, and 3) the justice AmeriCorps program.

Legal Orientation Program for Custodians (LOPC)

CCLS provides legal orientations to custodians of unaccompanied minors ("UCs"). UCs travel alone to the United States fleeing gang violence, threats, poverty, child abuse, or seeking family reunification. The LOPC program educates custodians of applicable programs and laws intended to protect UCs from mistreatment, exploitation and trafficking, and inform the custodians of available resources to assist UCs in this respect. Our LOPC attorneys screen UCs for legal relief, refer them to pro bono attorneys, and mentor the pro bono attorneys matched with a child's case. Additionally, CCLS conducts LOPC orientations at the Miami Immigration Court and appears as "Friend of Court" with unrepresented children during the juvenile dockets so that no child is forced to appear alone at a hearing before an immigration judge.

In the year of 2014, our office served over 900 families, a 200% increase from the previous year. The sharp increase in services was a result of the LOPC program responding to the surge of Central American children entering the immigration system, and has led to an increase in resources to expand our program for the year 2015. Our program screened over 500 children in the year of 2014 and appeared with over 300 in the Miami Immigration Court as Friend of Court. Since the inception of the program, our office has placed over 100 children with pro bono attorneys in the community. CCLS provided five comprehensive, substantive city-wide trainings to advocates in the community in order to recruit and train pro bono attorneys to represent children before the immigration court and dependency courts.



Office of Refugee Resettlement "Safe Passages Program" (ORR)

The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) has developed a grant that provides for legal representation of UCs who have been released from immigration detention. In the year 2014, more unaccompanied Central American children fled their homes to come to the United States than previous years. These UCs are in proceedings before the Miami Immigration Court and the US government has prioritized their cases, responding by expediting their immigration court proceedings. CCLS responded to the surge cases in the court, and was designated to receive funding under the ORR Grant to represent those children in need of representation. Under the grant, four CCLS attorneys will represent over 200 children in their immigration. The ORR Grant attorneys have been trained extensively on the substantive law and litigation skills, and are representing over 70 children's cases as of December 2014.

Justice AmeriCorps (jAC)

CCLS is the proud recipient of the jAC initiative which is a partnership between the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), which administers AmeriCorps, and the Department of Justice to increase national service opportunities while enhancing the effective and efficient adjudication of immigration proceedings involving certain children who have crossed the U.S. Border without a parent or legal guardian. The program will serve children in the Miami Immigration Court and will be limited to children under the age of 16 who are not in the custody of the Office of Refugee Resettlement or the Department of Homeland Security.

CCLS, the lead organization on the grant, partnered with 5 legal service agencies to create a Consortium dedicated to representing all of the UCs in South Florida appearing in the Miami Immigration Court. The Consortium was strategically organized to provide high quality representation to the most vulnerable children and assist in the court in efficient and effective adjudication of UC cases. The Consortium was awarded the jAC grant to house 6 attorneys to ensure full docket coverage of children in need of representation under the age of 16.

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS (URMP)

Unaccompanied minors who have been victims of international trafficking, including sexual and/or labor exploitation, are entitled to refugee status under immigration law. Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Miami maintains a foster care program for these child victims and provides them with psychological and social services. Catholic Legal Services remains in constant contact with URMP staff in order zealously represent children within the program. CCLS provides legal representation before Juvenile Court and USCIS. During Juvenile Court proceedings, CCLS assists URMP social workers, case managers and program directors with case plans, judicial reviews and independent living statuses of URMP children. CCLS also provides legal assistance with work permits, special juvenile immigrant visas and adjustment of status. Additionally, CCLS meets with at least two children per month to assess their cases and update new developments to the URMP program.

<u>**Case I:**</u> CCLS represented MM, a refugee for the Democratic Republic of Congo, in Juvenile Court. CCLS aided Catholic Charities URM program in obtaining legal custody in order for MM to obtain services in the US. In addition, CCLS filed her residency application in 2014. MM's residency application has been approved.

<u>Case II:</u> CCLS represented C, a national of Haiti who had a rare disease, in Juvenile Court. CCLS after aiding Catholic Charities URM program in obtaining legal custody in order for C to obtain services in the US, C's health was deteriorating quickly. CCLS was present throughout the ordeal. CCLS tried to get a Humanitarian parole for C's mother to enter the US prior to C's passing. Unfortunately, C passed away days after. CCLS aided the URMP in making the funeral arrangements in the US and in Haiti.

<u>Case III:</u> CCLS represented GS, a national of Honduras in Juvenile Court. CCLS aided Catholic Charities URM program in obtaining legal custody in order for GS to obtain services in the US. CCLS is now in the process of preparing his application for adjustment of status to that of legal permanent residency.

NATURALIZATION

CCLS actively participated in local and national dialogues to enhance learning about naturalization practices and improve performance. The Lead Citizenship Attorney and the Citizenship Coordinators were interviewed by El Nuevo Herald regarding the launch of the new collaboration with the Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS). The Citizenship Coordinators also participated in a number of Radio shows (Radio Paz, Radio Caracol, Actualidad Radio are among them) to promote our collaborative citizenship events and activities.

CCLS/M-DCPS Project: In January 2011, CCLS began a collaborative project with Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) in the delivery of naturalization services funded through a US Office of Citizenship grant. In 2014 CCLS served seven schools through the Fast Track adult education program. M-DCPS provided the educational components which permitted eligible students to master English and Civics in a 40 hour program over 6 weeks. M-DCPS also provided portable MP3 players that were loaned to Fast Track students free of charge for the 6-week duration of the course. Players were preloaded with 100 civics questions, English vocabulary, reading and writing exercises, and a model federal interview. CCLS provided the legal services component. The CCLS coordinators conducted both orientation and information sessions on naturalization at each school and helped LPRs (Legal

Permanent Residents) prepare their naturalization applications and fee waiver requests.

CCLS conducted various outreach efforts in 2014 including participation in citizenship drives at seven schools within Miami-Dade County to assist students in completing their applications for naturalization and Fee Waiver Requests. Miami-Dade Public School representatives and CCLS Accredited Representative conducted a campaign describing the Fast Track Program to approximately 1500 students. These students received adequate information. In 2014, CCLS provided legal consultations and assisted in completing Naturalization applications. CCLS visited several schools, advised, screened and prepared naturalization applications. CCLS promoted its Citizenship project, distributed literature and recruited volunteers. CCLS encouraged Fast Track students to return to their class, share their naturalization experience and receive a Fast Track certificate and "Star-Spangled" picture frame. Fast Track staff prepared a newsletter style publication with the student's picture and testimony. CCLS' presence at these school sites was extremely beneficial to the students as they did not have to miss class, pay parking or other type of transportation, and received ample information. Many students would not have filed their applications if CCLS was not present.

New Americans Campaign: In August 2011, CCLS was selected to lead the New Americans Campaign (NAC) in greater Miami. Operating in 8 urban cities (Dallas, Charlotte, Detroit, Houston, New York, San Jose, and Miami), the NAC was developed to encourage a diverse pool of eligible legal permanent residents (LPRs) to become U.S. citizens and assist them with the process and promote community capacity to provide such assistance. Other members of the Miami NAC include Read2Succeed, the FIU Legal Clinic, Hispanic Unity, the Florida Immigrant Coalition, and the International Rescue Committee (Miami). Miami NAC members organized a series of outreach workshops and built effective networks and naturalization coordination. CCLS organized the CLINIC conducted annual two-day professional training in immigration naturalization law at the Archdiocese of Miami Pastoral Center in 2014. NAC activities are sponsored projects of the Carnegie Foundation and the Knight Foundation.

Through the year CCLS staff participated in instructional activities and outreach efforts to help LPRs and members of the public, our NAC partners, and other community organizations to benefit from our NAC organizational experience and naturalization activities.

CCLS Mobile Naturalization Center:

Citizenship Works (CW) is an online software product designed to help qualified

LPRs complete their own naturalization applications while helping attorneys to identify problematic responses to questions.

CCLS applied to the Knight Foundation to establish a computerized naturalization application center, and the Foundation awarded a grant to the agency at the close of 2013.

The new center, which opened in 2014, provides a network of 10 computers and a high speed laser printer. It is available to naturalization applicants at the CCLS Miami Office but has traveled to NAC events. The Center is the second ongoing CW center in the nation. Taking advantage of our computer lab, we had a number of smaller in-house events using Citizenshipworks.

We implemented a new collaboration with the Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS). They have agreed to open the computer labs of three of their facilities for adult students who would be willing to use Citizenshipworks to complete their naturalization applications. Each facility (located in diverse geographic areas through the county) is now available for Citizenshipworks twice a week, and one attorney from our office makes the rounds once a month to review each completed N-400 on-site before it is submitted. The applicants also have the option to come into our office for the final review if they don't want to wait until the attorney's next monthly visit.

VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is the trade in human beings, commonly for sexual slavery, forced labor, or the extraction of organs. It garners an estimated \$32 billion annually worldwide (Wikipedia). Its victims are often lured by false promises (such as good jobs elsewhere) or abducted, then maintained in bondage by threats or other forms of coercion. Victims are commonly women, children, and immigrants, especially the undocumented, are commonly victims. To help combat this menace, Congress has passed legislation to grant legal status to undocumented victims if they cooperate with authorities in the arrest or prosecution of their traffickers. Catholic Legal Services helps immigrant victims of trafficking obtain legal status under these laws.

of violent crimes and filed their petition for U Nonimmigrant Status. The Victims of Trafficking and Violence Prevention Act (VTVPA) allows victims of certain crimes, who have suffered substantial physical or mental abuse, reported the crime to the law enforcement agents and cooperated with the investigation of the crime, to file for U Nonimmigrant Status. The required forms must be filed with supporting documents such a police reports, psychological evaluations and an affidavit from the victim. among other documents. Once the petition is approved, the person must live in the United States for three years before filing the application for adjustment of status. When the applicant for Nonimmigrant status has qualifying relatives, the applicant can include them as derivatives.

In 2014 CCLS represented several victims

VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE/WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S PROGRAM



Immigration law now recognizes the special claims of abused women and children, yet they remain the most vulnerable immigrants with nowhere to turn to escape exploitation and mistreatment because they remain ignorant of their rights and without the resources to exercise them. These women represent some of the poorest members of the South Florida community and have little hope of escaping their abusive situation or of changing their economic situation without obtaining legal status in the United States. Their irregular immigration status increases their vulnerability in that their abusers exploit their lack of immigration status and threaten deportation to prevent the victim from seeking outside help and protection.

Abusers manipulate the fear and isolation of the immigrants to perpetuate the abuse. CCLS provides them with free legal assistance to obtain legal status under the Violence Against Women Act and other statutes and refers them for job assistance and social services. In 2014 CCLS represented several women who were victims of domestic violence by filing their self-petitions before USCIS. Pursuant to the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), an abused spouse,

DIVISION OF RELIGIOUS IMMIGRATION SERVICES

The DRIS enables CCLS to continue its mission by demonstrating support towards the Roman Catholic Church in the United States. It assists the Archdiocese of Miami, many other dioceses and religious institutes with their immigration needs. The DRIS provides legal representation and assistance in bringing foreign-born priests, religious men and women, ministers and seminarians from around the globe for formation, education, and/or ministry. It also provides legal representation and assistance for those who are currently present in the United States and assists with student visas. The DRIS provides consultation on religious immigration matters, representation of clients as necessary, preparation of various forms, and on-going management of clients' cases. It maintains contacts with various U.S. Consular offices abroad. It engages in significant outreach efforts.

LEGAL ORIENTATION PROGRAM (LOP) AND THE NATIONAL QUALIFIED REPRESENTATIVE PROGRAM (NQRP)

In 2009, CCLS established the Legal Orientation Program (LOP) at the Krome Service Processing Center (Krome) to educate detainees in their immigration & legal rights. Increased enforcement of civil immigration laws often results in immigrants awaiting their removal hearings while detained at the detention center. Although located on the outskirts of a major metropolitan city, many immigrants detained at the Krome Detention Center will not be represented by counsel. This may be due to distance, lack of resources, inability to communicate with friends and family members on the outside, or a combination of the above. The LOP strives to educate immigrants that are detained at Krome so that they can be prepared to represent themselves should the need arise.

Catholic Legal Services is the sole LOP provider in South Florida. The program, funded through the VERA Institute for Justice, is now entering its sixth year of service. Catholic Legal Services continues to provide these presentations at minimum twice a week at the Krome Detention Center. Our LOP staff consists of Spanish, English, Creole, and French speakers. This ensures that we are able to accommodate a large majority of the population that comes through the detention center. In 2013, Krome formed a 30-bed unit for the mentally ill who cannot be kept in the general population but do not require acute hospitalization. The AILA Krome Mental Incompetency Project (AKMIP) has been providing pro-bono legal representation to the mentally ill population at Krome since 2011. AKMIP's 8 pro-bono attorneys (2 from CCLS) have served many severely ill Krome Detention Center detainees.

Building on the expertise gained through AKMIP and LOP, Catholic Legal Services positioned itself to effectively represent this often marginalized population. The Executive Office for Immigration Review, contracting through the VERA Institute for Justice, initiated the National Qualified Representative Program (NQRP) to provide *pro bono* representation to respondents found to be mentally incompetent to represent themselves in removal proceedings. VERA contracted with CCLS to expand services offered at Krome and be the agency to serve this population. This expansion will ensure that the rights of a special class of immigrants, often most needing of our services will receive competent legal counsel at no cost to them.

CUBAN FAMILY REUNIFICATION PAROLE PROGRAM (CFRP)

USCIS created the Cuban Family Reunification Parole Program (CFRP) to facilitate Cuban family reunifications. Under CFRP, USCIS offers beneficiaries of approved family–based immigrant visa-petitions the opportunity to come to the US via parole rather than remain in Cuba awaiting visa availability. The purpose of the program is to expedite family reunification through safe, legal, and orderly channels of migration to the U.S and to discourage dangerous and irregular maritime migration. During the year 2014 CCLS helped tens of Cuban families reunite, by assisting family members in the U.S. who are legal permanent residents or U.S. citizen in the preparation of family petitions (I-130) and Department of State Forms (DS-230) for their families living in Cuba. CCLS staff also provided guidance and assistance to these families in the collection of the required documents and interview requests with the U.S. Interest Section in Cuba. On December 18, 2014, USCIS and DOS established new procedures for the CFRP in order to apply. CCLS has already started providing guidance to clients in preparation for the implementation of new procedures. CCLS had approval rate of over 90% under this program in the year 2014.

CUBAN PAROLE PROGRAM



The Cuban Parole Program originated in 2001, serving a great influx of Cuban

aliens. Arriving undocumented, and thus unable to access programs and other benefits designed to assist them, the CPP was the only way to successfully mainstream them into society. The CPP helps them obtain parole and work authorization, and refers them to employment agencies and/or other federally-funded agencies for appropriate aid. Once they obtain employment, they become productive members and have the opportunity to fully contribute to the vibrant immigrant community which distinguishes South Florida.

In early January 2005, the Supreme Court decided Clark v. Martinez, which held that individuals such as Mariel Cubans could not be held indefinitely by DHS after being ordered deported if their countries do not accept them. CCLS provides services to Mariel Cubans in light of the Supreme Court case.

CCLS CPP manager attends weekly meetings with USCIS and monthly meetings with VOLAGs (Voluntary Resettlement Agencies). These encounters have led to a very professional but close relationship with many USCIS officers and adjudicators working with these agencies. This relationship has allowed CCLS to inquire, review and solve hundreds of cases that had felt into the cracks, had been erroneously denied, or had been pending adjudication for years. This relationship with the USCIS has grown over the years. CCLS has now an extensive and reliable network that helps us resolve many cases. Such a unique partnership has permitted a fresh, new start for hundreds of CCLS clients.

Case: "Rogelio and Raiza" are a married couple native of Cuba who entered the U.S. "Rogelio and Raiza" came to the United States in April 2013 hoping to live in peace and to provide a safe and nurturing environment for their two young boys (ages 8 and 4). In May 2014, "Rogelio and Raiza" came to CCLS office seeking help to prepare their applications and those of their children to adjust their status to that of legal permanent residents. Even though "Rogelio and Raiza" are in a difficult financial situation, because Rogelio is the sole breadwinner in their household of 4, they were able to save the money to pay the government fees for their applications, but they did not have enough money to pay a private attorney for the preparation and filing of their applications for residency. With the assistance of CCLS, "Rogelio and Raiza" were able to prepare and file their applications. In September 2014, their applications for residency were granted and now the entire family can remain in the U.S. permanently together. Raiza is hoping to find a job as soon as her youngest son starts school.

HAITIAN FAMILY REUNIFICATION PAROLE PROGRAM

On December 18, 2014, USCIS announced implementation of the Haitian Family Reunification Parole (HFRP) program for certain beneficiaries of family-based preference petitions filed on or before that date. Under the program, eligible Haitians whose immigrant visas are expected to become available within approximately 18 to 30 months will be given an opportunity to receive parole to enter the United States. Once in the United States, the parolees will be eligible to apply for an employment authorization document; when their priority dates become current, they may apply to adjust status to permanent residence. The program is intended to expedite family reunification and aid Haiti in its continued recovery efforts following the devastating January 12, 2010 earthquake. As the program has not yet been implemented, CCLS has been instrumental in educating the community on what the program is, and explaining the criteria of eligibility. CCLS is gearing up to provide HFRP related services beginning mid-February next year.

HAITIAN NEW ARRIVALS

There has been an increase in Coast Guard interdictions of Haitians. Many Haitians have arrived to the United States through the border of Mexico while others travelled directly to Puerto Rico.

Once they are released from detention and resettled to South Florida, CCLS assures that Haitian new arrivals' cases are heard and represented effectively. CCLS would file a change of venue with the Immigration court in California, Texas or Puerto Rico to Miami for prompt legal representation.

Two challenges in particular to these cases stand out:

1) Language – Creole speaking clients may not receive assistance in their native language. Some end up being placed in expedited removal simply because they are not able to effectively communicate their situations to immigration officers.

2) Admitting Allegations – In order for a court to change venue to another jurisdiction, the allegations on the NTA (Notice to Appear) must be addressed. If there are any unresolved allegations, DHS may oppose a change in venue, and the client may become eventually having to travel to another jurisdiction and hire private counsel (both significant expenses). If all the allegations on the NTA are admitted, then removability is established, making DHS' job easier.

In October 2014, CCLS implemented a monthly Know Your Rights ("KYR") presentation. KYR is specifically designed to address the needs of recent Haitian arrivals. It informs them about their rights and the immigration process in the US. CCLS discusses the immigration process from being apprehended at the US border or entering lawfully to obtaining relief in immigration court and the Board of Immigration of Appeals ("BIA"). CCLS also discusses the possible forms of relief that recent arrivals maybe eligible for. Individual consultations are conducted after the presentation where attendees are able to ask questions specific to their cases.

<u>Case:</u> "David" was born in Haiti in 1982. Twelve years ago, he had been the driver of a local opposition politician in his country and was imprisoned without charges for several months. Following the devastation of the Port-au-Prince earthquake, the Haitian government gave Habitat for Humanity a large tract of land upon which to build houses for the needy. David was selected, and in well publicized events, Former President Carter and other notables visiting Haiti helped him build his house. However, local politicians sought to block any such use of the Habitat tracts because they wished to seize the land for their own profit. David and his wife were denounced as "tools of the Gringos." David was threatened; his tent was burnt down, and he was forced to go into hiding. Last March after applying for asylum in the United States, he went for his final hearing and subsequently he and his wife received asylum status. They are now requesting follow-to-join benefits for their minor children.

TPS FOR HAITIANS PROJECT

On January 12, 2010, Port-au-Prince and its environs suffered devastation in the form of a major earthquake. More than 310,000 Haitians lost their lives in the quake and 1.5 million were displaced. The earthquake destroyed the nation's infrastructure, including government offices, hospitals, and roads. Shortly thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security (HS) halted Haitian deportations and announced that Haitians present in the US prior to the earthquake would be permitted to apply for temporary protected status (TPS), and later HS further re-designated TPS for Haitians, permitting those who entered on or before 12, 2011, remained continuously in the US, and otherwise qualified to apply for TPS. With this, victims of the earthquake who had entered the US became eligible for TPS for the first time. Limited relief in the form of deferred action was made available for earthquake victims beginning in June 2010. CCLS, serving the nation's largest Haitian community and with its own roots there, quickly organized its Haitian Emergency Legal Program (HELP) and became a national leader in securing this relief.

South Florida is home to the largest concentration of the Haitian diaspora in the nation. This meant that the CCLS had the opportunity to help thousands here and through them contribute to the relief and rebuilding of their homeland. Once TPS was announced, CCLS made TPS assistance its highest priority, recruited pro bono attorneys and law students and pressed the Haitian Consulate to speed their process in issuing documents. CCLS continues to assist Haitians re-register or renew their temporary protected status, follow-up on cases with issues, advice clients, and keep the community abreast of any new development.

Guidance: CCLS emerged as the largest and most successful provider of Haitian TPS services in the nation. The agency continues to receive inquiries from other attorneys seeking our guidance on how to better address the immigration needs of their clients.

DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS

In June 15, 2012, the Department Homeland Security announced that aliens among the ages of 15-30, who arrived in the U.S. territory before the age of 16, and had lived here for 5 years, could apply for a deferred action status if they met some additional qualifications. CCLS had long pressed for the DREAM Act, a wider and more comprehensive immigration reform, and for administrative relief for these children and immigrants. Catholic Legal Services was one of only two South Florida agencies who participated in the White House Community Leaders Briefing on DACA that month, and it continued to participate in the DACA planning process throughout the summer of 2012. Previously, the Former Director of USCIS, the federal agency charged with developing these guidelines, recognized CCLS as a model of effective advocacy in Haitian temporary protective status (TPS) efforts and deferred action work. CCLS continued to meet the needs of eligible applicants.

PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

CCLS has designed a program of community outreach and legal services to serve those with specific needs, limitations, and capabilities. Types of special needs vary in severity. We take an active role in providing legal immigration services and representation to this population.

CCLS understands that each of us is unique and different and that persons with special needs must be treated with dignity, compassion, patience, caring, and understanding. They must be protected and CCLS looks out for their legal immigration needs.

CCLS also provides auxiliary aids and services at no cost to deaf or hard-of-hearing clients.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

As a society, we have come to recognize that all human beings are entitled to fundamental rights and that the ultimate measure of the justice of any community is the measure of protection it provides to its weakest and humblest residents. Thus, America guarantees the educational rights of the learning impaired, the rights to proper treatment of imprisoned criminals, and the legal rights of undocumented aliens against deportation without due process.

OUTREACH

Along with legal services provided to the immigrant community of South Florida, CCLS also provides outreach events to local businesses, parishes, schools and social services neighborhood centers in different private and non-profit organizations regarding different legal immigration laws. In 2014, these events focused on citizenship and the surge of unaccompanied alien children who arrived in the U.S. during the year.

NAC: Most notably, CCLS conducted two informational sessions dedicated exclusively to naturalization with over 100 participants. Additionally, a CCLS BIA accredited representative specializing in naturalization provided orientation and/or instruction about the naturalization application process to 1,250 adult education students at adult education locations throughout the Miami Dade school system.

Additionally, CCLS along with its partners held three large Naturalization events serving a total of 583 applicants, completing 233 applications and providing referrals to more than 250 applicants. Finally, CCLS held a small event for 30 applicants with another one of its partners.

<u>Unaccompanied Alien Children:</u> CCLS provided group and individual orientations for the unaccompanied alien children and their custodians residing in South Florida in order to educate custodians of applicable programs and laws intended to protect UCs from mistreatment, exploitation and trafficking, and to inform the custodians of available resources to assist UCs. Throughout the year 2014 CCLS served 915 individuals through 68 group orientations and 314 individual orientations.

EDUCATION

CCLS engages in public education workshops both in private and non-profit organizations by providing continuing legal education regarding immigration law. Additionally, CCLS staff participates as presenters in local national conferences.

During the year 2014 CCLS' Executive Director was a presenter at two national naturalization conferences in San Francisco and New York. CCLS' Citizenship Coordinators participated in the first naturalization training for the staff of Miami-Dade County Public Schools on the Citizenship Works program. CCLS provided five comprehensive, substantive city-wide trainings to advocates in the community in order to recruit and train pro bono attorneys to represent children before the immigration court and dependency courts. CCLS provided training to law students, private lawyers and non-for-profits on how to defend clients in immigration court, asylum presentation before federal court.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

CCLS created opportunities and sponsored regular trainings for its staff during the year of 2014 regarding immigration law and information related to its contracts.

CCLS provided a 4-day extensive training to its new ORR Grant attorneys on substantive law and litigation skills. Additionally, 4 CCLS attorneys received training on immigration law and mental health issues in September 2014. CCLS also provided an in-house training to its entire staff on ESA contract eligibility, services and contract compliance.

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND ADVOCACY

CCLS continues to meet on a regular basis with members of Congress and their staffs and with officials of the federal government, briefing them on such issues as the: need for immigration reform, difficulties and delays in family reunification, importance of granting temporary protected status and work authorization to those who qualify, and destructive effects of detention not only on the lives of the detained immigrants but on their families.

THE BROWARD OFFICE

Since the agency's acquisition of a Jessie Ball DuPont grant at the end of 2010, the Broward office has been staffed by a team of attorneys and immigration professionals. CCLS was able to contract with DCF-ORS funding for the Broward Office in September 2012. Since then, the Broward Office has continued to offer Employability program services to Broward Haitian, Cuban, and Burmese refugees and asylees. One such recipient of the services we offer at CCLS' Broward office is Jean Bernard Saint Louis whom is pictured here with the managing attorney of CCLS' Broward office, Peterson St. Philippe.



Jean Bernard Saint Louis is a 36 year old native of Haiti. Jean Bernard fled Haiti in 2012 leaving behind his wife in order to keep from being killed. Jean Bernard was a former government employee who discovered the corruption of a high ranking government official. When Jean Bernard confronted the government official with what he discovered, he was threatened, attacked and ultimately terminated from his job. Determined to see justice done, Jean Bernard continued to fight until the government official was removed

from his post and eventually arrested for his corruption. Following the official's arrest, Jean Bernard was almost kidnapped and killed for his involvement. As a result, Jean Bernard decided to flee Haiti. With the help of Catholic Legal Services Jean Bernard requested asylum at the Miami Immigration Court. On November 18, 2014, the immigration judge granted Jean Bernard asylum in the United States. Jean Bernard is currently requesting follow-to-join benefits for his spouse to start a new life. The Broward office continues to provide employability services to Jean Bernard whom is now an asylee and hopes to continue to serve him through the process of adjusting his status to that of a lawful permanent resident one year from when he was granted asylum, and until he ultimately becomes a U.S. citizen.

The Broward office also has had the great privilege of serving those women, men, and children affected by domestic violence. Immigration law now recognizes the special claims of abused women, men, and children, yet they remain the most vulnerable immigrants with nowhere to turn to escape exploitation and mistreatment because they remain ignorant of their rights and without the resources to exercise them. These individuals represent some of the poorest members of the South Florida community and have little hope of escaping their abusive situation or of changing their economic situation without obtaining legal status in the United States. Their irregular immigration status increases their vulnerability in that their abusers exploit their lack of immigration status and threaten deportation to prevent the victim from seeking outside help and protection. Abusers manipulate the fear and isolation of the immigrants to perpetuate the abuse. Fortunately, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), among other statutes, provides these individuals the opportunity to gain employment and autonomy from their abuser. Further, the Broward also provides assistance to victims of qualifying U-Visa crimes.

THE DORAL OFFICE - CUBAN SERVICES

The Doral office is located within the offices of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). Its accredited representative staff provides legal assistance to the predominantly Cuban community in the area. It accepts referrals, most notably from the Refugee Resettlement Office operated by USCCB. Staff executed hundreds of work permits, parole requests, and fee waiver requests for recent Cuban arrivals in order for them to have the rights tools to start their new life in the United States. Our Doral Office also provides assistance to this same population with their adjustment of status applications after a year of their arrival so they can become legal permanent residents. Subsequently, after their five years as legal permanent residents, it provides them assistance for naturalization. Moreover, our staff at the Doral Office assists Cuban nationals who are legal permanent residence or U.S. citizens to reunify with their family member who are in Cuba through I-130 petitions and the CFRP program; which has enable our Doral Office to be a one-stop center for the Cuban population of South Florida by meeting all their primary immigrations needs.

STAFF SELF-CARE

CCLS recognizes that vicarious trauma (VT) is a real phenomenon among people who work with the victims of torture and abuse and detainees suffering from family separation, the loss of work, and the threat of being permanently uprooted from the communities of which they have become a part. Studies indicate that attorneys may be at special risk of VT. VT can lead to intrusive imagery, burnout, and even disruptions in living relationships with spouses and children. Those measures an individual undertakes to reduce and deal with negative impact of VT are collectively referred to "self-care."

CCLS has undertaken several interlocking strategies to promote self-care: (1) New staff learn about VT at orientation, to become aware of its signs and symptoms, and recognize that it is natural for people who work with people who have suffered trauma and torture. (2) We also explain the importance of creating a sense of balance of stress and relaxation both at work and at home.

ANNUAL REPORT 2014- STATISTICS

Service Description	Total Services Rendered	Total Positive Outcomes	Percentage
WORK PERMITS	2352	2024	86.5%
PERMANENT RESIDENCY (WITH DHS)	876	677	77.28%
PERMANENT RESIDENCY (WITH DOJ)	6	6	100.00%
ASYLUM WITH DHS	109	97	88.99%
ASYLUM WITH DOJ	55	29	52.72%
PAROLE NEW REQUEST	160	159	99.37%
PAROLE RENEWALS	55	46	83.63%
FEE WAIVER REQUEST	2581	2484	96.24%
NATURALIZATION	559	542	96.95%
DISABILITY WAIVERS	30	27	90.00%
MOTION TO REOPEN/RECONSIDER	32	32	100.00%
RELIGIOUS WORKERS	28	25	89.28%
DACA	39	39	100.00%
CHANGE OF VENUE	8	8	100.00%
TPS	1040	1032	99.23%
RELATIVE PETITIONS	331	327	98.79%
OTHER	3416	3335	97.62%
TOTAL	11677	10889	93.25%

MONTHLY CLIENT SERVICE UNITES

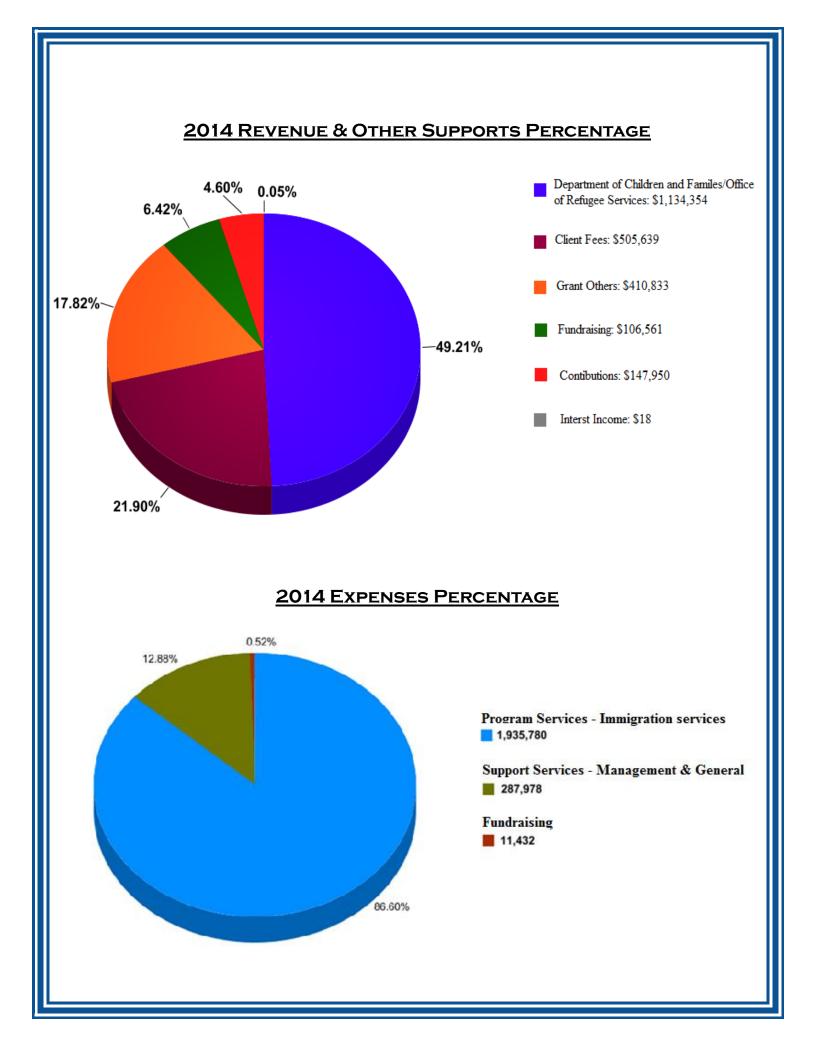
DATE	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	TOTALS
Main Office	958	929	1303	1493	1281	1225	1176	1027	870	1223	945	950	13,380
Broward Office	448	420	632	771	508	551	522	506	447	565	435	459	6,264
Doral Office	313	198	252	210	183	154	282	186	227	201	173	220	2,599
Total	1719	1547	2187	2474	1972	1930	1980	1719	1544	1989	1553	1629	22,243

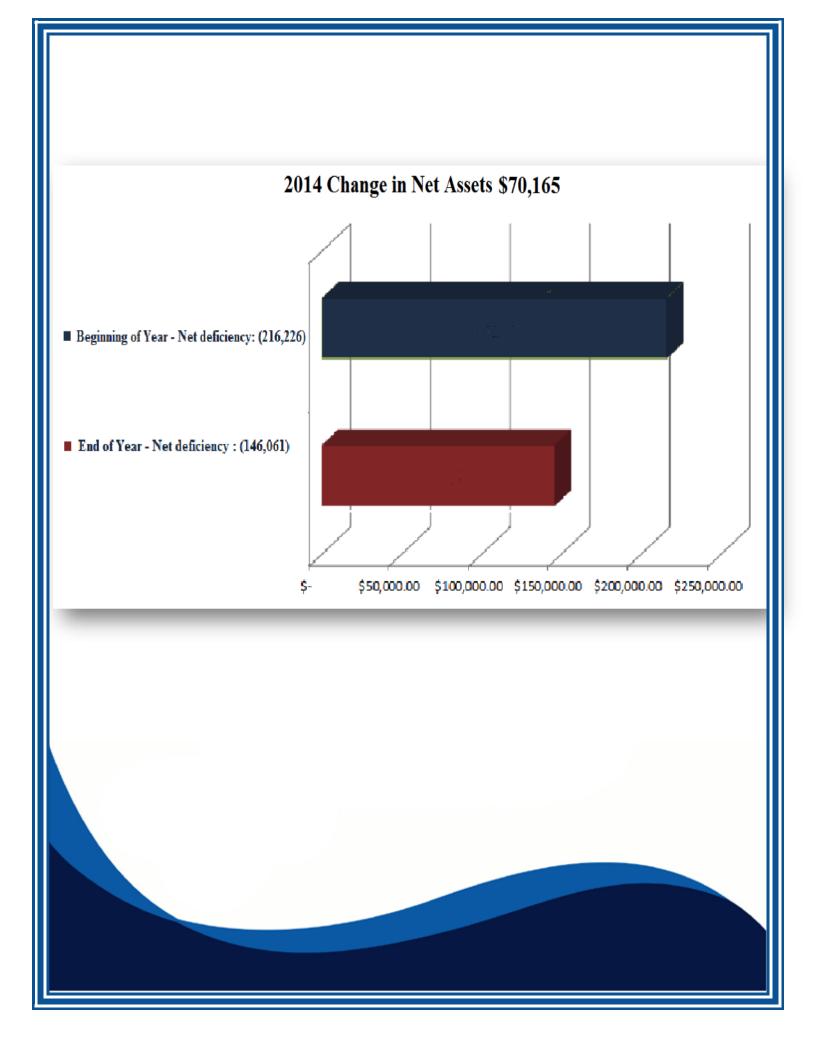
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	JUNE 30, 2013	JUNE 30, 2014
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$174,890	\$214,042
Accounts receivable net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$ 26.383	\$26, 383	31,448
Grants Receivable	241,376	240,429
Prepaid expenses	2,410	3,821
Security Deposit	30,371	36,189
Total current assets	475,430	525,929
NONCURRENT ASSETS		
Property and equipment, net	11,074	16,801
Total Assets	\$486,504	\$542,730
LIABILITIES AND NET DEFICIENCIES		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$130,001	\$138,050
Notes Payable	501,743	483,899
Compensated absences	70,986	66,842
Total current liabilities	702,730	688,791
Net assets (deficiency)		
Temporary restricted	16,150	24,988
Unrestricted	(232,376)	(171,049)
Total net deficiency	(216,226)	(146,061)
Total Liabilities and net deficiency	\$486,504	\$542,730

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

UNRESTRICTED AND TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED SUPPORT AND OTHER REVENUE:	JUNE 30, 2013	JUNE 30, 2014		
SUPPORT				
Grants	\$1,647,998	\$1,545,187		
Clients fees	470,821	505,639		
Fundraising	61,903	106,561		
Contributions	159,539	147,950		
Interest Income	11	18		
Total support & other revenue	2,340,272	2,305,355		
EXPENSES				
Program Services:				
Immigration Services	2,042,228	1,935,780		
Total program services	2,042,228	1,935,780		
SUPPORTING SERVICES				
Management & general	359,131	287,978		
Fundraising	9,181	11,432		
Total supporting services	368,312	299,410		
Total expenses	2,410,540	2,235,190		
Change in net assets	(70,268)	70,165		
Net deficiency – beginning of year	(145,958)	(216,226)		
Net deficiency – end of year	\$ (216,226)	(146,061)		





FUNDERS

- * Florida Department of Children and Families Office of Refugee Services
- * Miami-Dade County Public Schools
- * Immigrant Legal Resource Center
- * U.S. Department of Justice Executive Office of Immigration Review
- * The Virginia W. Hill Foundation
- * The Carnegie Corporation of New York
- * The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation
- * U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Refugee Resettlement
- * VERA Institute of Justice
- * Jessie Ball DuPont Fund
- * Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.
- * The Miami Foundation
- * The Grove Foundation
- * Evelyn and Walter Haas Jr. Fund
- * The JPB Foundation
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- * United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
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- * Ryder Systems Charitable Foundation, Inc.
- * Morris Family Foundation, Inc.
- * Eduardo Gareva, Esq.
- * Elizabeth Schwab
- * Mo's Bagels & Deli

<u>CORPORATE & PRIVATE FUNDERS</u> <u>CONT'D</u>

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- * The William J. & Isobel G. Clarke Foundation
- * Fragomen
- * MBAF, Certified Public Accountants & Advisors
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- * Bruce Solow, Immigration Attorney, P.A.
- * Matthew Estevez & Caroline de Posada, P.A.
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- * Holy Cross Hospital Catholic Health East

IN MEMORIAM

- + Gloria Salazar
- + Joan Rosati
- + Angela Mary Kopelakis

<u>In Honore</u>

* Alsi Lomagino, Esq.

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	Myriam Mezadieu
	Chief Operating Officer
Advocacy	Randolph P. McGrorty
	Executive Director
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Compared Investigations Complete LOD	Director
General Immigration Services; LOP	Georges Francis
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Biowaid Office	Supervising Attorney
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Reunification Program; TPS for Haitians Project; Haitian Family Reunification	Supervising Attorney
Program; URMP(Minors)	Supervising / morney
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	Supervising Attorney
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Victim of Human Trafficking; VAWA	Citizenship & Immigration Reform Programs
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CCLS clients are usually poor or low income and often must rely upon public transportation. To better meet their needs, Catholic Legal Services maintains three offices in different neighborhoods across the Archdiocese of Miami:



MAIN OFFICE

25 SE 2nd Avenue Suite 220 Miami, FL 33131

Telephone: 305-373-1073 Facsimile: 305-373-1173 Website: www.cclsmiami.org

MIRAMAR OFFICE

Campus of St. Stephen Catholic Church 6081 SW 21st Street Miramar, FL 33023

> Telephone: (954) 306-9537 Facsimile: 1(800) 691-5203

DORAL OFFICE

USCCB Building 1914 NW 84th Avenue Miami Springs, FL 33126

Telephone: 305-887-8333 Facsimile: 305-541-2724