

Inspiring Story



Hand in Hand was able to accommodate eight cases where we provided support to our medically disabled clients. On November 9th a lovely couple had a successful naturalization interview at USCIS Yakima and received their citizenship certificate the same day. Tobias and Maria D. Rivera, initially from Mexico, both had solicited the help of Hand in Hand in October 2019 and started attending our Spanish Civic classes to prepare for the submission of their naturalization application. In December of 2019 they submitted their application to USCIS. After a few

months into their citizenship process Mr. and Mrs. Rivera, like many others, were put on hold due to COVID-19. When Hand in Hand resumed in person classes they were unable to attend as before because of their fear of COVID-19 and health conditions. After 3 years of studying through the pandemic in their home and the help of David our volunteer teacher, it was possible for this elderly couple after 20 years with their permanent residence, to fulfill their American dream. They can now celebrate being U.S. Citizens in their hometown Wenatchee, WA since 1999.

Community Supporters and Friends

The following have donated by supporting us financially or by volunteer work

Grants

Chelan-Douglas Community Action Council
NCW Community Foundation
Inatai Foundation
Numerica Credit Union
OneAmerica

Volunteers

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JaNet Crouse
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handinhandis.org



To assist, motivate, and empower immigrants and their families to obtain their U.S. citizenship

2022 Annual Report



**HAND in
HAND**

Immigration Services

Hand in Hand Staff



Four Hispanic bilingual women work effortlessly to help legal permanent residents achieve their American dream of becoming citizens.

From Top Right to Left:
Alejandra Rodriguez, Outreach/Administrative Assistant
Norma Gallegos, DOJ-BIA Program Director

Bottom Right to Left:
Monica Valle, Assistant Case Worker
Johanna Ruelas, Operation Manager

Hand in Hand Board of Directors



Deborah Moore

Past President
2017 to 2022

Ruth Macias

Vice President
2019 to Present

Joe Morrison

Secretary
2018 to Present

Steve Robinson

Treasurer
2020 to Present

Mauricio Sanchez

Board Member
2022 to Present

Maria Isenberg

Board Member
2020 to Present

Chuck Strawn

Board Member
2022 to Present

Message from the Board and Staff

Dear friends,

We are pleased and proud to share with our friends and supporters this 2022 Annual Report. 2022 was a remarkable year for Hand in Hand Immigration Services. Highlights include:

- In the four short years of our existence, we have become NCW's citizenship experts. In 2022, we supported 172 legal residents who took the oath of citizenship and became new U.S. citizens, compared to 111 in 2021. That's the core of our work — our sole mission — to help legal residents become U.S. citizens. In doing so, we help build the fabric of democracy and fulfill the American Dream.

The difficulty or complexity of our cases varies enormously. Some cases are relatively easy and can be processed in 6 months, while others are very complex and may take many years to close. In all instances, we embrace our clients where they are in their lives and support them through the maze of citizenship.

- In partnership with the First United Methodist Church (FUMC) in Wenatchee, we began renovating a new office building that will become our new home. The new office is part of the FUMC campus and when we occupy it in the spring of 2023, it will ensure our sustainability for many, many years to come. We are grateful to the

Woods Family for providing our office space in the Wenatchee World building in our early years, as we got started as an organization.

- Norma Gallegos — our founder and unrelenting advocate of citizenship — has carried much of the load in our early years. As we look to maintain our sustainability for the long term, we have promoted Monica Valle to become Norma's understudy. We also added two new board members in 2022: Mauricio Sanchez and Chuck Strawn. Both new board members bring valuable expertise to our mission.

Our success is made possible by our financial supporters. We extend to you our heartfelt thank you. In particular, a few supporters bear special mention: Washington New Americans, the Chelan-Douglas Community Action Council, the Community Foundation of NCW, Group Health Foundation and Numerica Credit Union.

With your continued support, we pledge to continue working on behalf of those who pursue the American Dream of U.S. citizenship in 2023 and beyond.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors and Staff

What We Do

Hand in Hand Immigration Services is a 501c(3) Washington nonprofit with offices in Wenatchee. We enhance lives and build community by helping legal permanent U.S. residents become U.S. citizens.

On average, 125 new U.S. citizens are sworn in each year. While we do charge a modest fee for our services to clients who can afford to pay, no client is ever turned away because of inability to pay.

- 1 We assist legal permanent residents navigate the complicated and tedious maze of becoming U.S. citizens.
- 2 We offer citizenship classes for those people wanting to pass the required citizenship exam.
- 3 We conduct citizenship ceremonies where graduates of our program take the oath of citizenship and formally are sworn in as U.S. citizens.

2022 By The Numbers



4,991

Individuals Served by Hand in Hand Immigration Services staff



172

New Citizens Sworn In



58

Legal Permanent Residents Renewals



6

DACA Renewals



8

People with Disabilities Provided Support



145

Eligibility Screenings Completed



72

Fee Waivers Filed



115

Total Classes and Informational Sessions

How You Can Help



Donate By donating to Hand in Hand you are helping us go forward with our mission.

- You can mail a check to Hand in Hand Immigration Services
- You can visit our web page handinhandis.org and click on the donate tab



Volunteer We are always looking for individuals who would like to contribute back to their community. All ages are welcomed. Call our office today to get informed on volunteering at Hand in Hand Immigration Services.



Refer a client If you know someone needing help through the maze of citizenship, refer them to Hand in Hand. The team at our office will walk the person through our process and guide them throughout the citizenship process.