



## Virginia's Impactful Story

At the age of 93, Virginia Diaz accomplished her citizenship dream in December 2021 through the Hand in Hand Immigration Services program.

An East Wenatchee resident for over 30 years, Virginia was a legal resident with legal permanent residency since 1978. She raised her 9 children as a single mother after becoming a widow. Due to Virginia's age and health condition the Hand in Hand Program Director, Norma Gallegos and an immigration officer went to her home and facilitated her test and oath

on the same day. Through hard work and advocating for our client, Norma was able to get the officer to accommodate the special home visit during COVID resulting in Virginia, at long last, becoming a United States of America citizen. Around the same time, Virginia's oldest son also became a citizen and in the past years, ten other family members also went through our program. There were many services Hand in Hand provided Virginia in achieving her citizenship dream including attending doctor appointments, sending pertinent information to USCIS, maneuvering through volumes of paperwork and petitioning immigration officers. It is substantial work, but the end result is beyond rewarding for staff, directors and volunteers of Hand in Hand Immigration Services.

## Community Supporters and Friends

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

### Grants

Chelan-Douglas Community Action Council  
Give NCW  
Washington New Americans Community Foundation of NCW

### Donors

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### Volunteers

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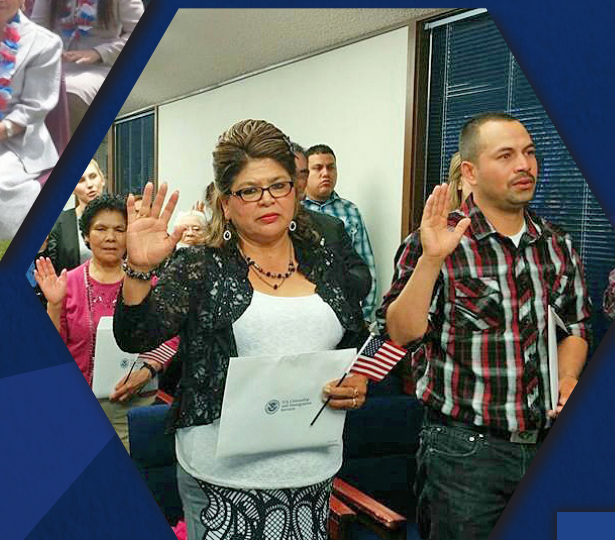
**HAND in  
HAND**

**Immigration Services**

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# 2021 Annual Report

*Fulfilling the American Dream in a Pandemic*



**HAND in  
HAND**

**Immigration Services**



## Mission Statement

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



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President



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DOJ-BIA, Program Director



**Monica Valle**  
Assistant Case Worker



**Johanna Ruelas**  
Operations Manager



**Alejandra Rodriguez**  
Outreach & Education

## Letter from the Board

Dear friends,

We hope you enjoy this — our first — Annual Report on activities of Hand in Hand Immigration Services. We're very proud of the accomplishments of our talented and dedicated staff in 2021, a very challenging year for so many.

We are a Department of Justice-accredited 501c(3) non-profit that helps people who have been legally living and working in our communities for years — legal permanent residents, commonly known as "green card" holders — to become U.S. citizens. Our clients are your neighbors and friends; they pay taxes and shop local businesses; many were designated as frontline "essential workers" during the pandemic.

U.S. citizenship is the dream of most legally permanent residents. It allows for people to vote, run for elected office, apply for government jobs and federal college assistance, travel with a U.S. passport, and generally feel like a true member of our community.

Hand in Hand provides two primary services to our clients: education and citizenship application.

In 2021, we helped process 110 applications for citizenship. We had 99 clients fulfill their dream of becoming U.S. citizens. Many of our clients are low income, hence we helped process 83 applications for fee waiver in 2021. In addition, we counseled hundreds more

who sought advice about the path to citizenship; for example, we had over 10,000 Facebook views on our English and Spanish language educational classes in 2021.

We accomplished this with the work of our small but dedicated staff. See photos this page. While many nonprofits simply shut down their services during the pandemic, our staff created a "virtual" business model, using telephone, computer and socially distanced interactions as means to reach clients and fulfill our mission. In the process, we discovered that the virtual model has some long term potential, allowing us to assist hard-to-reach clients in remote corners of our 4-county (Chelan, Douglas, Okanogan and Grant) primary service area.

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your encouragement, support and friendship. In particular, a few major supporters bear mentioning: Washington New Americans, the Chelan-Douglas Community Action Council, Peoples Bank and the Community Foundation of NCW.

With your continued support, we will help more clients achieve their dream of U.S. citizenship in 2022 and beyond.

Sincerely,

**Board of Directors**

## 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.

- 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.

On average, we swear in ~125 new U.S. citizens 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.




*Citizenship Ceremony*

## 2021 By The Numbers

 **3,706** Individuals Served by Hand in Hand Immigration Services staff

 **111** New Citizens Sworn In

 **7** People with Disabilities Provided Support

 **246** Eligibility Screenings Completed

 **81** Fee Waivers Filed

 **207** Total Classes and Informational Sessions Via Online & In-Person Served

## How you can help



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

- a. You can mail a check to Hand in Hand Immigration Services
- b. You can visit our web page [handinhandis.org](http://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.