

# Dear Ayuda Friends and Supporters,



As we celebrate Ayuda's 44th year helping low-income immigrants stop abuses and rebuild their lives, I am delighted to share these highlights.

Ayuda is helping immigrants overcome legal, domestic violence, human trafficking, and other abuses. In the current environment, many immigrants, especially low-income immigrants, feel very vulnerable and scared, and are not sure where to turn. Ayuda stands with them as they seek to exercise their rights and access justice. We provide legal and social services that address concerns, solve cases and change lives. Most of all, we show—and immigrants know—that we care and are there to help.

Ayuda is investing and organizing for growth. Ayuda is stronger now than one year ago because of key investments. We hired attorneys to serve more immigrants more quickly, and we moved a stronger core operations team to a centralized downtown D.C. location. In addition, I am especially enthusiastic about how we are shifting to leverage the skills and passion of the community. For example, our Pro Bono Program coordinator will increase the number of pro bono attorneys serving clients. In parallel, and in response to an outpouring of interest, Ayuda's Community Volunteer Program coordinator will organize ways for the broader community to engage with and support Ayuda.

Looking ahead, Ayuda will explore ways to be more present in the region. We will take steps to serve more immigrants living in Maryland, where there is both need and potential opportunity for expansion. In addition, we will partner with selected neighborhood-based organizations—those whose services complement Ayuda's—so that immigrants in D.C., Maryland, and Virginia can access a wider range of client-centered support in the neighborhoods where they live and work.

Three insights shape my sense of optimism about Ayuda's present and future:

- Ayuda continues to be trusted by the immigrant community. In its 44 years, Ayuda has earned the trust of the immigrant community. Immigrants turn to Ayuda for the help they need in times of despair. I invite you to read more in this report about immigrants who have changed their lives with Ayuda's help.
- Ayuda is doing well. The leadership of our organization is strong and dedicated. Our staff members are amazing. You—our wonderful friends, supporters, and volunteers—are supporting immigrants and Ayuda with renewed passion and generosity.
- With your support, Ayuda is prepared to go far. We are heading in an exciting direction, with a proven track record and real momentum. I am confident that Ayuda, with support of a growing and enthusiastic community, can help more immigrants find safety, access justice, and rebuild their lives.

Thank you for caring so much, and committing so generously, to Ayuda and the immigrant community in our region,

Warmly,

Paula Fitzgerald, Esq. Executive Director

# "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

This African proverb underscores the significance of the Ayuda Advisory Council. Launched last year, the Council includes accomplished leaders in business, law, media, policy, academia, and philanthropy dedicated to Ayuda's mission. Council members help elevate Ayuda's visibility in the DMV region and help connect Ayuda to other creative, dynamic leaders and philanthropic donors. We are grateful to our founding members for their commitment. They include: Darla Bishop of AmeriHealth Caritas D.C., Paul Caron of Microsoft, Gaela K. Gehring-Flores of Arnold & Porter Kaye Sholer LLP, Nelson Garcia of the Washington Intergovernmental Professional Group LLC, Sandra Grossman of Grossman Law LLC, Peter Kovar of Takoma Park City Council, Patty First of The Raben Group LLC, Tom Oliver, CapitalWirePR, The Honorable Paul Wickham Schmidt, a federal immigration court judge (retired), The Honorable J. Walter Tejada formerly with the Arlington County Board, and Victoria Ortega of Blank Rome LLP.

# "Awakened Activists" Give Generously to Support Immigrants

No importa de dónde eres, estamos contentos que seas nuestro vecino.

No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor.

لا يهم اين ولدتم، و لكننا سعداء انكم جير اننا. More than 200 individuals, local restaurants, and other business establishments generously contributed \$10,000 to Ayuda between January 19 and February 28, as the DMV community vigorously voiced its support for immigrants.

Pro-inclusion and immigration events, including Tree House's Alt Concert in Bethesda, All In Service DC, A Day Without Immigrants, and the Women's March, as well as Ayuda's You Are Welcome as Our Neighbor yard sign campaign, galvanized a region experiencing the effects of anti-immigrant rhetoric.

There was an immediate outpouring of support in January. People from across the area called Ayuda for You are Welcome yard signs. They visited our website to make donations. They told their friends and neighbors about us, and they organized and attended events. Many people want to volunteer with Ayuda, so we are working quickly to expand opportunities. For the immigrants we serve, this is a very fearful time. Every gift and volunteer hour makes a difference. We are so grateful.



A team of skilled volunteers from Booz Allen Hamilton and Capgemini Government Solutions engaged the Ayuda Board of Directors, staff, and many stakeholders in a process to develop a five-year strategic plan. The project team included Francisco A. Hernandez, Jr., Edmond Ebeid, Enrique Bello, Juan Diego Marquez, Noehmi Moctezuma, Lucas Galindez Peschi, Michael Schilling, and Luis Valera. Ayuda thanks the volunteer consulting team, board, staff, and community members who contributed ideas and insights.



In its April 2017 issue, Washingtonian Magazine named Ayuda's executive director, Paula Fitzgerald, as one of Washingtonian's "40 Under 40." In hearing the news, Paula said, "In these challenging times, we are taking bold steps to involve many more people in our mission and to reach out and partner with organizations across D.C., Maryland, and Virginia. I am grateful to Washingtonian and to the many people stepping forward to connect with our cause."



Susannah Volpe, a managing attorney at Ayuda, was quoted in a February 10, 2017 New York Times article about ICE raids: "These are agents going into apartment buildings or agents going to worksites,' said Ms. Volpe, who had a client arrested, along with five others, at a construction site in Washington last week. 'This is new.'"



In November 2016, the DC Bar's Washington Lawyer highlighted Ayuda's work to stop human trafficking, a growing issue that has placed D.C. among the top 20 cities in the nation for reported trafficking calls. "Their desperation to flee situations such as gang violence and poverty in Central America causes a lot of these individuals to end up in trafficking situation," according to staff attorney Katherine Soltis.



Sandra Grossman, immigration attorney, human rights advocate, and Ayuda donor wrote an open letter to President-elect Trump that was published by *The Huffington Post*, in November 2016. She called for thoughtful conversation on what's "really best for America in terms of immigration policy."



Ayuda helped Anne's husband arrive to the U.S. from Cameroon, reuniting their family of four. Grateful for the assistance, Anne named her daughter, Rebecka Joy, after the staff attorney who helped her.

# You and I Build the Ayuda Community



Thanks to Ayuda's Project END and attorney Anne Schaufele, Washington, D.C. now has a statute to combat notario/immigration services fraud. The bill passed as part of the Omnibus Public Safety and Justice Amendment Act of 2016. Ayuda collaborated with the American University WCL Immigrant Justice Clinic, Hispanic Bar Association of D.C., Council for Court Excellence, and D.C. Office of the Attorney General to draft, edit, and testify in support of this bill.



A restaurant worker, April Shettle, supported Ayuda during "A Day Without Immigrants" in February. "I am an hourly-paid member of the staff. I independently decided to donate all of my tips from the evening, because I felt so many immigrants have enriched my life, both at work and at home." April's enthusiasm and passion led Ayuda to invite her to volunteer in new ways. Thank you April!



"You are Ayuda, and without your continuing support, encouragement, and active participation there would be no Ayuda and hence no place for those vulnerable individuals to seek assistance. Our community and our nation would be immeasurably poorer if that happened," federal immigration judge Paul W. Schmidt (retired) spoke at Ayuda's January Thank You Reception.



Takoma Park Mobilization has been incredibly supportive of Ayuda in promoting Ayuda's work in Takoma Park, through advocacy, community mobilization, and solidifying Ayuda's presence in the Takoma area.



Ayuda thanks Charly Shane Gilfoil and Katie Dilks, J.D. candidates, Class of 2018, and all Georgetown Law Public Interest Fellows, for donating the proceeds of their Valentine's Day fundraiser to Ayuda. These aspiring attorneys visited Ayuda in March to present their \$280 donation.



Corie O'Rourke is a recipient of the Gallogly Foundation Public Interest Fellowship at the University of Oklahoma. "For as long as I can remember, public service has been an important part of my life," Corie notes on OU's Sooner Lawyer magazine.

### Ayuda Operations Office Opens in Downtown D.C.

In fiscal year 2017, Ayuda secured several multi-year grants that will enable us to hire additional attorneys and social workers—and serve more immigrants in need Ayuda's Washington, D.C. and Falls Church, Virginia offices will continue to be the hub for serving immigrant families with direct legal and social services.

As of May 1, 2017, Ayuda's management, development and communication, and language access teams are located at 1413 K Street NW, 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20005. Ayuda is grateful to Employment Justice Center for notifying us of the availability of the space and facilitating our transition to the office.

# Ayuda's heroes for more than 44 years.

Your sense of justice, empathy, fairness, humanity, and respect for the dignity of all lives has helped tens-of-thousands of low-income immigrants in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

### \$5,000,000+

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Please contact Ayuda's Giving Office at (202) 387-4848 ext.143 if you have questions.

present are highlighted.

Thank you.



Family networks. Accessible language. Familiar surroundings. Many immigrants leave these behind—and feel disoriented or bewildered as they navigate in a new country. The effects are even more profound for immigrants facing abuse and trauma. In many cases, abusers are family members on whom the victims depend for food and shelter. Without intervention, the cycle of trauma causes perpetual physical and mental pain.

Ayuda's social services team is here for people in times of crisis and healing. The team provides culturally sensitive crisis management, case management, and individual or group therapy for low-income immigrant victims and survivors of human trafficking, domestic violence, and sexual assault. When clients need emergency services, Ayuda helps them secure basic necessities, such as a temporary place to stay, food, clothing, medical care and mental health care. Once their circumstances are stable, immigrant clients work with Ayuda to rebuild their lives through education, language, literacy and job training programs. When they need to heal emotionally, and rebuild their confidence, immigrants trust Ayuda's therapists to help.

### "I have never been as happy and free as I am now. And my children are so happy because our home is safe and peaceful. I am so glad I met with the staff at Ayuda."

Thanks to critical government, corporate, foundation and individual funding, the Social Services Program is part of Ayuda's holistic approach to serving immigrants in the Washington area, complementing Ayuda's legal immigration, domestic violence/family law, and language access services. In 2016, the social services team helped 88 domestic violence and sexual assault survivors, 10 unaccompanied youth, and 67 human traffic survivors on their path toward healthy and happy lives.

For a survivor, a major accomplishment may be the sum of many small achievements. For example, Ayuda's case managers will ride the metro with their clients to help them learn how to use it. "Clients learn to live healthier, more complete lives with the therapy we provide," according to Carolina De Los Rios, program director.

Ayuda also sees an immigrant community that wants to be a part of the larger society. "We are their advocate and connection to a sometimes perplexing world. It is important to invest in a community that wants to do good in society," notes De Los Rios. Access to services such as job readiness, skills preparation, and life skills development programs at Ayuda can transform lives.

# Your gifts transform lives.

By: Emma Bott, Intern Concordia University of Edmonton

# **Ayuda Impact**

Resolve Legal Issues: Immigration



2,360 Legal matters resolved 970 Consultations provided

1,200 women, children and men served

93 Legal representations

Resolve Legal Issues: Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault

parental custody for children won

civil protection cases won

Rebuild Lives Through Social Services



### 10 UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH

domestic violence and sexual assault survivors

**Human Trafficking** Survivors

Ensure Language Access



HEARING INDIVIDUALS

884 in-person interpretation sessions

100s of lawyers & victims advocates at 83 partner organizations served

# Who We Help

5,000 Immigrant women, children, and men annually 104 Countries of origin across the continents 40 Languages 100% Low-income Serving the DC-metro region (DC-MD-VA)

# How We Help

44 years of service 95% of cases successfully resolved Assists approximately 2,000 clients yearly

# **Ayuda Community**

You are the force behind our mission. The support of generous donors, superb partners, outstanding pro bono attorneys, and loyal volunteers makes our work possible.

25,000 hours volunteered

100 Legal, civil, community & student volunteers

30 Ambassadors

13 Board members

10 Ayuda Advisory Council members

\$3,500,000 Grants and gifts

33 Law firms and corporations

10 Foundations

### **Give**

Call: 202-387-4848 x116

Visit: http://donatenow.networkforgood.org/ayuda

Address: 6925B Willow Street, NW, Washington, DC 20012

# Financial Statement

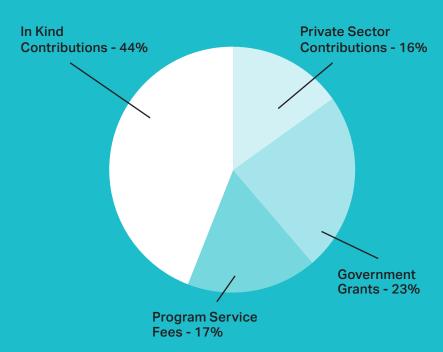
### Ayuda inc.

Statement of activities and change in net assets for the year ended September 30, 2016 with summarized financial information for 2015.

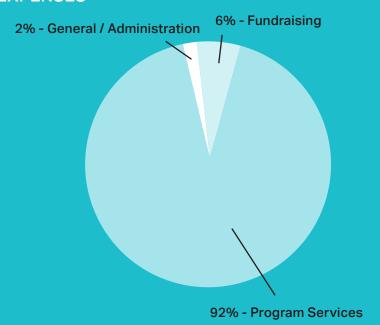
2016			2015	
		Temporarily		
	<b>Jnrestricted</b>	Restricted	Total	Total
REVENUE				
Foundation Grant	\$ 53,170	\$ 666,811	\$ 719,981	\$ 1,085,330
Government Grant	1,454,479	148,250	1,602,729	1,688,845
Program Service Fees	613,856		613,856	669,644
In-Kind Contributions	1,563,810		1,563,810	2,609,079
Contributions	78,680		78,680	79,714
Indirect Contributions	20,663		20,663	22,889
Special Events	104,224		104,224	71,120
Miscellaneous	225		225	361
Net assets released from donor imposed restrictions	851,552	(851,552)		
Total Revenue	4,740,659	(36,491)	4,704,168	6,226,982

		2016		2015
		Temporarily		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
EXPENSES				
Program Services	4,289,383		4,289,383	5,619,948
General and Administrative	75,124		75,124	151,630
Fundraising	279,866		279,866	322,113
Total Expenses	4,644,373		4,644,373	6,093,691
Changes in net assets	96,286	(36,491)	59,795	133,291
Net assets beginning				
of the year	251,131	611,557	862,688	729,397
Net assets end of year	\$ 347,417	\$ 575,066	\$ 922,483	\$ 862,688

### **REVENUE**



### **EXPENSES**



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# You help vulnerable immigrants access justice.

By: Sarah Block



"As a single parent and a survivor of domestic violence, I found myself lost and depressed. Ayuda came to my rescue. I was offered all the help that I needed – from counseling and mental evaluation, to assistance in obtaining a green card, which finally allowed me to see my family after 15 years in the United States. Through Ayuda's dedicated help, I regained hope," -- Moussa, a former client.

Because of your support, Ayuda is able to provide holistic legal and social services that offer healing and hope for people like Moussa.

Moussa never expected to be where he is today. He came to the United States as an honors exchange student from Senegal and lived in a university campus in Ohio. Despite many successes at his university, he missed his tight knit family and the politically conscious hip-hop scene in his hometown. When his academic program ended, Moussa was more than ready to return home.

Moussa and other classmates went to New York City to sightsee and catch flights to their home countries. While shopping in the Big Apple, he received a phone call that would change his life forever. The girl he was dating was expecting a child – their child. Rather than take his scheduled flight, Moussa stayed in the United States. In the months that passed while awaiting word of his child's birth, he overstayed his academic visa. Finally, he received word that the child's mother, without Moussa's knowledge, had placed their baby for adoption. After learning this, Moussa acted quickly, and secured sole legal custody of his daughter.

Moussa cared for the child, tried to make a living, and took shelter in an inadequate basement. Raising a child on his own, in a country where he knew no one and did not have legal authorization to work, tested him completely.

# "Ayuda came to my rescue."

Moussa's relationship with another woman left him abused, desperate, and broken. He was too scared to call the police because he was undocumented. He found a way to send his daughter, then two-years-old, back to Senegal to be raised by his family while he was going through this dark period.

Upon seeing the depths of his depression, Moussa's friend suggested that he visit Ayuda. At Ayuda, Moussa received therapy to help with the trauma of the abuse and learned that he was eligible for a U visa, which is a visa for survivors of crime. While working on this case, Moussa began working for Trader Joe's with his new work permit. Moussa received his green card in March 2016, and traveled to Senegal to see his daughter and his family for the first time in 15 years. Moussa said that when he got off the plane, the first hugs from his mom and daughter "instantly healed my heart."

### 44th Anniversary Event

Impact Award/Keynote

**Program Host** 

Hall of Fame

Panel Discussion Beyond the Headlines: A Closer Look on Immigration Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD)

Christina Wilkes, Ayuda Board Chair

Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP DC Bar Foundation

**Steve Scully,** Washington Journal Host C-SPAN (moderator)

**Paula Fitzgerald,** Executive Director Ayuda

**Sandra Grossman,** Partner Grossman Law, LLC

**Lynden Melmed,** Partner Berry Appleman, Leiden LLP

**Julia Preston,** Journalist, Reporter Former *New York Times* National Immigration Correspondent

The Honorable Paul W. Schmidt
Federal Immigration Court Judge (retired)

**The Honorable J. Walter Tejada**Former Arlington County Board Chair

Managing Attorney (Virginia)

# This event is made possible by Microsoft

	2015 - 42ND ANNIVERSARY EVENT	2016 - 43RD ANNIVERSARY EVENT	
Impact Award/Keynote	Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-IL)	Rep. Donna Edwards (D-MD)	
Program Host	Armando Trull, WAMU	Maureen Bunyan, WJLA News	
Hall of Fame	Barbara Laur	Lisa Dewey, DLA Piper LLP	
	Michelle Exline Minovi The Meyer Foundation	George Grandison, Steptoe & Johnson LLP	
Panel Discussion	Steve Scully, Washington Journal Host	Steve Scully, Washington Journal Host	
Conversation on	C-SPAN (moderator)	C-SPAN (moderator)	
the Immigrant Experience	Celeste Carrasco, Director of Public Affairs	Daniel Flores, Vice President	
	AT&T	Greater Washington Board of Trade	
	Norman Y. Mineta, Former Secretary	Tom Gjelten, Senior Correspondent	
	of Transportation	National Public Radio	
	J. Walter Tejada, Arlington County	Milagros Pongo, Immigrant, artist	
	Board Vice Chair	former Ayuda client	
	<b>Tiesa,</b> an Ayuda client	David Ramos, Vice President of	
		Multicultural Banking, BB&T Bank	
		Rebecca Walters, Interim	



2016 Annual Report

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