RIAN IMMIGRANT CENTER

Standing With Our Neighbors

2025 Annual Report



36 Years of building community on Greater Boston's shores



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About Us.

Our vision is a shared society where all are welcomed and valued, and enjoy equal opportunities and protections. By embracing our Irish traditions of hospitality and social justice, we empower over 3,000 immigrant and refugee clients from more than 120 countries every year with a comprehensive range of support services.

Message from our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Thank you for standing with our neighbors during this tumultuous time.

As America celebrates its 250th year, the founding promise that all are created equal is being tested. Rian stands for that promise, and for the rule of law. We are inspired by our clients. Their resilience amid uncertainty motivates us to persevere.

The administration said it would focus on the "worst of the worst." Instead, it is working to deport 1 million immigrants a year, regardless of their status. The rules keep changing, making every case harder and leaving families confused and afraid. Advocating for our clients is daunting, both in the number of people who need our services and the complexity of their cases.

Through all of it, our Immigration Legal Services team has been a trusted advisor to those we serve. Our Resource and Support Services staff have been there too, with confidential counseling, advocacy, and accompaniment.

Our attorneys are carrying full caseloads. Demand for our services is greater than our capacity, and we have had to turn people away. There are few options for those we cannot help. Some turn to people who prey on the desperate. Others get bad advice from people who mean well. In immigration law, bad advice can do lasting harm.

In this report, you will read about some of our work, including clinics at Boston Public Library branches and our work with our medical and other partners. You will also read about the great work our Learning Exchange Program is doing with recent Irish university graduates who come to work in the US for a year. Just as the World Cup gave the world a fuller view of life in America, our Learning Exchange Program has provided more than 4,500 Irish students and graduates with the opportunity to experience American life firsthand over the last several years.

On the administrative side, we continue to work on expense management, efficiency, and risk management. Our board of directors has expanded and is very supportive, especially with development, finances, and strategic planning. You can be sure that every dollar we receive is well spent and mission-aligned.

I close by asking for your help. We need unrestricted funds. We need to hire staff, and we need to compensate current staff fairly, so that we can help everyone who comes to us with an issue we can address. We are grateful to the funders who support specific programs, like our library clinics. But we don't have the capacity for most new projects in this hostile environment.

A gift you make every month is worth more to us than its size suggests. It is money we can count on a year from now, and it is what lets us hire. A multi-year pledge does the same thing at a larger scale. Brenda, whose story is in these pages, first came to us in 2020. Her family's case is still open. We need ongoing support.

Please help us expand our capacity so that we do not have to turn anyone away.

Thank you,
Kevin

Year in Numbers

3,043

TOTAL CLIENTS SERVED

Behind every number is a neighbor.

IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES

962
Legal consultations

763
Full representation cases

149
Pro se cases
(clients filing on their own)

809
Individuals served at clinics

75
Clinics held

RESOURCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

35
Clients received
1:1 Resource and
Support Services

LEARNING EXCHANGE PROGRAM

263
Irish students and
graduates sponsored
through Rian's J-1 program

246
Irish J-1 participants
employed within
the 90-day deadline





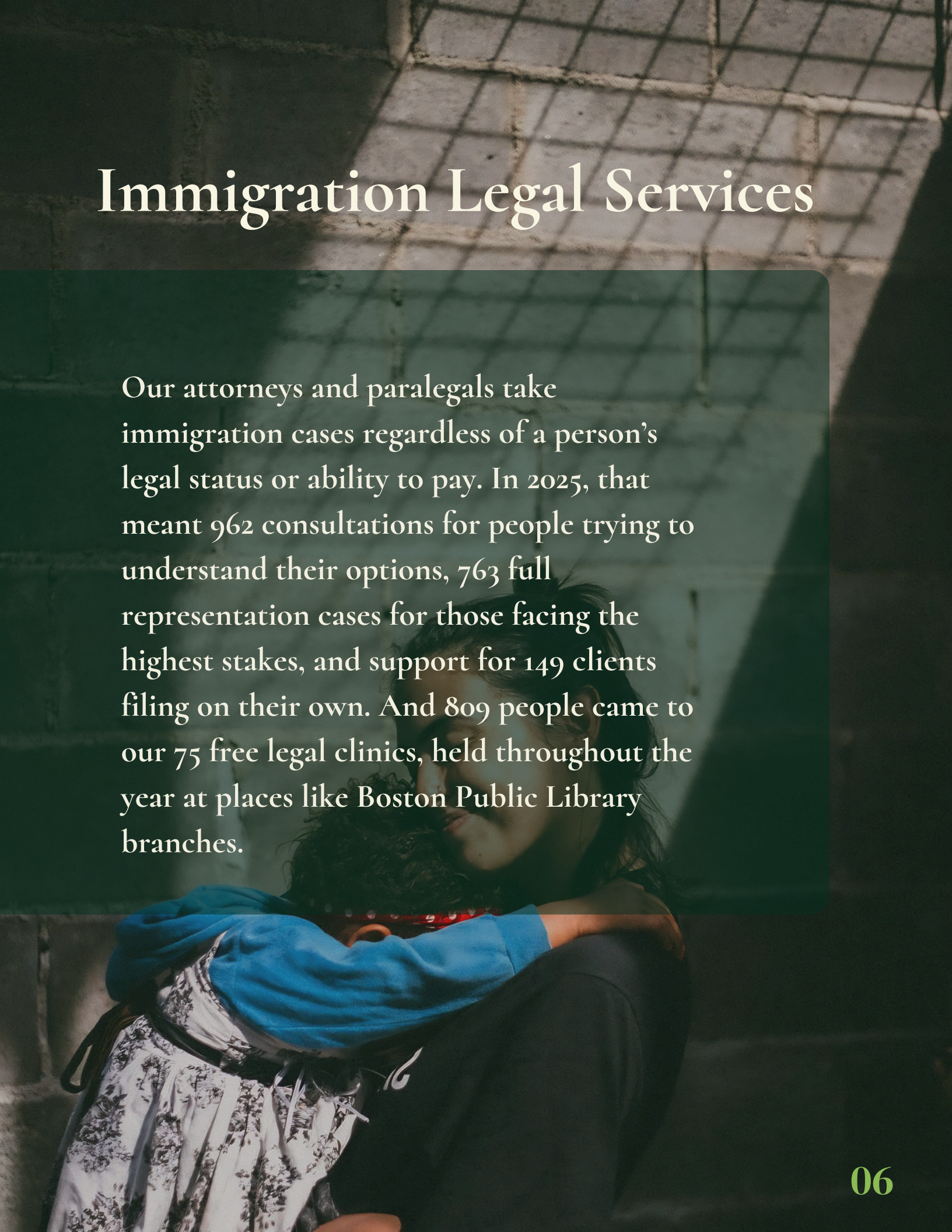




Creating Pathways to New Beginnings

Immigration Legal Services

Our attorneys and paralegals take immigration cases regardless of a person's legal status or ability to pay. In 2025, that meant 962 consultations for people trying to understand their options, 763 full representation cases for those facing the highest stakes, and support for 149 clients filing on their own. And 809 people came to our 75 free legal clinics, held throughout the year at places like Boston Public Library branches.



WHAT ILS OFFERS

Consultations

ILS offers free legal consultations to immigrants and their families. Our attorneys review each new client's immigration history, assess their eligibility for status, and help them make informed decisions.

Pro Se Case Assistance

Our legal team helps clients file their own applications in simple cases, such as petitions for family abroad, straightforward naturalization, and some work permits. We confirm eligibility, help with the forms, and review everything before it is filed.

Full Legal Representation

Our attorneys represent clients before the government, often for years. Cases include green cards, family reunification, deportation defense, work permits, DACA, medical stays, citizenship, and protection for survivors of violence and trafficking. Legal status opens access to jobs, health care, housing, and education, and often reunites families.

Brenda's siblings arrive after 18 years

Brenda was 18 when she landed in Massachusetts in January 1989. Her father had come to Boston eleven years before that, in 1978, with big dreams to build a better future for his children. He was the one who was going to bring everyone else over, all of them eventually in one country.

When Brenda was 23, her father passed away, leaving his dream of reuniting their family unfulfilled.

Determined to carry on what he had started, Brenda became a U.S. citizen in 1997 and filed petitions for her four siblings in Guatemala in 2007.

But the years passed with little progress. Brenda called immigration officials, sent countless emails, and waited for answers that never came. Every summer, she traveled to Guatemala to spend three weeks with her siblings, only to return to Boston without them. For nearly two decades, she held on to the hope that they would one day be together again.

In 2020, thirteen years after she filed, the petitions were finally approved. Even so, Brenda's siblings still faced a lengthy immigration process before they could reunite with her in the United States.

That same year, Brenda turned to Rian Immigrant Center for help. After thirteen years of navigating the process on her own, she finally had a legal team to guide her through the remaining steps. Rian worked closely with Brenda and her family to move their cases forward, and in mid-2022, the State Department accepted their documentation.

Then the family settled in to wait once more. Congress caps how many visas go to the siblings of U.S. citizens each year, and on top of that, the U.S. Embassy in Guatemala City has a waitlist for interviews. Between the day the State Department accepted the documents and the day her siblings sat down for their interviews, more than 34 months went by.



"This is my home. I've been here almost 40 years, and this is my home. And I would never move from Boston."

Through the wait, Julian Zuzarte, the Rian staff attorney who has worked with Brenda for years, made sure she had all the support she needed. He emailed her at night after work. He set up Zoom calls whenever she needed one. He wrote to her siblings in Spanish so they could follow their own case in their own language.

In 2025, all four of Brenda's siblings finally arrived in the United States as green card holders, marking a long-awaited family reunion. Their spouses and children are still in Guatemala, and for now the four siblings are living together with Brenda.

The wait is not finished. Rian is already working on the next round of petitions to reunite Brenda's siblings with their spouses and children.

Asked whether Boston feels like home, Brenda did not hesitate.
"This is my home. I've been here almost 40 years, and this is my home. And I would never move from Boston."

Our Partners in Hope

Rian partners with organizations across Massachusetts to bring free legal help to immigrants and their families.

Through our partnership with Rosie's Place, Rian supports women and families experiencing homelessness, and survivors of domestic violence. Alongside Boston Medical Center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and Health Law Advocates, Rian brings legal help to immigrant and refugee patients so they can get the care they need and live healthier lives. With Boston Public Schools, Rian stands with immigrant students and their families by holding consultations and informational sessions within schools. With the Boston Public Library system, Rian leverages the comfort and accessibility of library branches to provide critical access to legal aid.

We are grateful to each of these partners for opening their doors to the people we serve.

603
served through Rosie's Place

370
served through Boston Medical Center

115
served through Dana Farber

179
referred through the Massachusetts Immigrant Collaborative

49
students in Boston Public Schools

A Year of Constant Change



In 2025, policy changes reached nearly every area of our legal practice. Young people seeking Special Immigrant Juvenile Status faced shifting rules on deferred action and work authorization. Travel restrictions blocked many family reunification and consular cases. An extended pause stopped USCIS from issuing final decisions for nationals of dozens of countries. New rules on adjustment of status, naturalization, public charge, Family Reunification Parole, and advance parole meant our attorneys had to reassess pending cases and advise clients again and again as policies and court rulings shifted.

Winning cases also became harder. Our attorneys received far more Requests for Evidence and Notices of Intent to Deny, often asking for information already provided. Interviews grew more adversarial, even for clearly eligible clients. Some applications can now be denied without warning, and a denial can lead directly to deportation proceedings. Every filing carries higher stakes.

Our attorneys met each change with careful preparation and kept every client informed. Through it all, families held on to their hope, and we stood beside them every step of the way.

Resource and Support Services

In 2025, the RSS team focused on one thing: being there. As federal immigration policy shifted week to week, our clients carried each change home with them. RSS helped them carry that weight and work through the fear and grief that came with it.

The weight did not fall evenly. It landed hardest on women. Lost income, unstable housing, and food insecurity spread fear and anxiety through Boston's immigrant communities, and that stress followed families home. We saw domestic violence rise. Many RSS clients are single mothers. When they cannot work, no one else is there to support the children or keep the household running. Some mothers could not bring their children with them when they came here, and they live with that separation every day.

Throughout the year, RSS walked alongside 35 clients through one-on-one accompaniment. Each client came to us with different needs. Each client sought the support of someone who would really listen and understand.

Healing and progress require room to breathe. Rather than expecting people to fit into predetermined boxes, we show up with patient presence, working deeply and listening closely to what each moment calls for. The time and attention dedicated to our most vulnerable clients is what makes the program so effective, and it depends entirely on people who choose to fund it. When our donors give to RSS, they keep the door open for the next mother who walks in carrying more than anyone should carry alone.



RSS is designed to have as few barriers as possible. There is no complicated intake paperwork.. Instead, we start with one question: what kind of support are you looking for? Since people's lives and the challenges they face are all unique, we don't follow a fixed formula for support, but instead meet people where they are and intervene in the ways they ask us to. We might work to accompany someone intensively for three weeks as they navigate a housing crisis, or work with them deeply for years. We are here whenever our clients need us.



> One client, a single mother of a son with high-needs autism, had to move. We helped her settle into her new apartment and connected her to resources for her son. We also worked with her on self-advocacy, so she could claim the support her family is entitled to. We stayed by her side all year so she wouldn't be alone.
>
> Victoria DiCianni, Deputy Director, RSS

rian J-1

Learning Exchange Program

The Learning Exchange Program grows out of Rian's Irish roots. In 2025, Rian sponsored 263 Irish students and graduates through our J-1 visa program. Of those, 246 (94%) found work before the Department of State's 90-day deadline.

These numbers reflect the support our J-1s receive from the start. Before arriving in the U.S. we meet with each participant to advise them on their job search. That includes help with resume development, employer research & outreach, and networking. We also help with their general orientation needs, for example by connecting them to all the other J-1s in the same city in advance of their travel. All of this preparation sets them up for the challenges of getting settled and finding suitable paid work in the U.S.

After arrival, our Intern Placement service picks up where pre-arrival support left off. We focus on the job search itself and work to connect participants directly with employers wherever opportunities exist.

263
Irish students and graduates sponsored

246
Employed within 90 days

Making the Most of Every Moment: Shane's J-1 Experience in Boston

Shane Kilmartin came to Boston determined to make the most of every day on his J-1 visa. A third-year mechanical engineering student at Queen's University Belfast, he joined Rian's Learning Exchange Program to gain international work experience before finishing his degree.

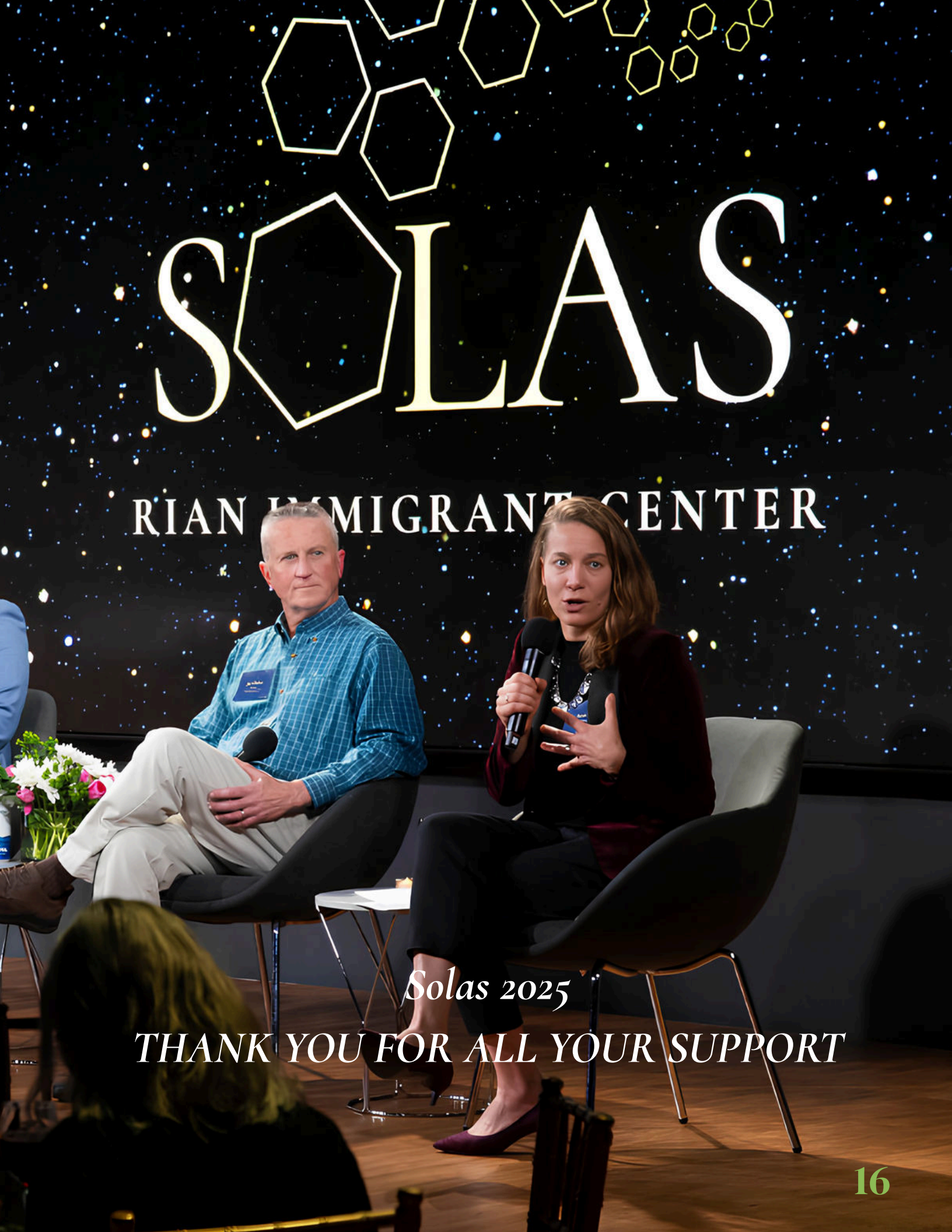
His visa could not begin until he had a confirmed placement, so time was short. Rian helped him rework his CV for American employers and stay organized through each step. Along the way, Shane changed how he thinks about finding work. "I learned to build connections and a network, which is a lifelong skill," he said. "I don't think I'll ever apply to a job the same way again."

With Rian's help Shane landed an internship with Feldman Geospatial. "I saw a lot of places I would never have expected to," he said.

Boston's Irish community welcomed him from the start. "If you walk into any place in Boston with an Irish accent, everyone loves you," he said. "I felt welcome right away." Shane gave back to his new city too, volunteering at Pine Street Inn, which supports people experiencing homelessness. The experience changed him. "It has given me a really good sense of independence," he said. It also widened his sense of what his career could look like: "It expands where you think you can work and what you think you can do."

His advice for the next group of J-1 participants is simple: "Get yourself out there. It's a great opportunity personally and professionally."





Solas 2025

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT

We are so grateful to the community members, sponsors, panelists, and speakers who made the 2025 Solas Awards truly meaningful. We hope everyone who joined us left feeling inspired and connected to the work we are doing together. Thank you for standing with our community and for being such an important part of it.

$157,500

Raised at Rian's Annual Solas Awards!

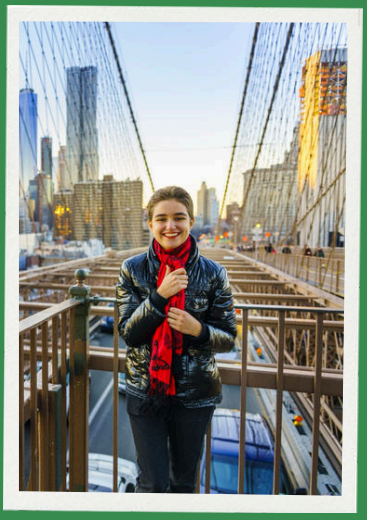
To view Rian Immigrant Center's complete financial audits and learn more about the impact of your support, please visit: www.riancenter.org.

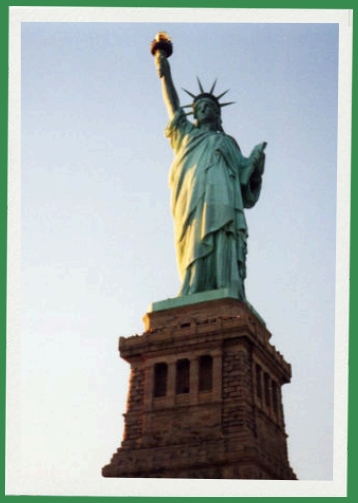
For questions about how to make a financial contribution or support our mission in other ways, contact Executive Director, Kevin Mawe: kmawe@riancenter.org.



Tracy Kidder
November 12, 1945 – March 24, 2026

We mourn the death of one of our speakers, Tracy Kidder, Pulitzer-winning author, but we will not forget him or the phrase he shared - "tout moun se moun" - we are all human beings.








rian
IMMIGRANT CENTER
pathways to new be
s.

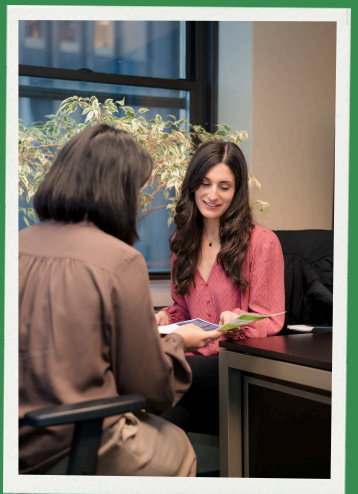









Live & work in the U.S for 12 months on the J-1 Grad visa!
rian J-1





Financial Report

2025 FINANCIALS

Where our funding came from, and where it went

Revenue



Program fees & earned income	$573,775	29%
Foundations	$525,980	27%
Individual donors	$291,315	15%
Government grants	$231,762	12%
Corporations	$158,556	8%
Special events	$157,518	8%
Investments & other	$12,827	1%
Total	**$1,951,733**	**100%**

Expenses



Staff salaries & benefits	$1,242,475	63%
Consultants & professional fees	$317,765	16%
Rent & utilities	$197,894	10%
Technology	$87,817	4%
Events & outreach	$44,742	2%
Insurance, fees & operations	$91,821	5%
Total	**$1,982,514**	**100%**

Figures are for Rian Immigrant Center for 2025, rounded to the nearest dollar.

Thank you for standing with our neighbors

In 2025, your generosity kept Rian's doors open to immigrants and refugees who needed free legal help and a place to turn. We are deeply grateful to every one of you.

Individuals

Morteza Ahmadifar
Ronald J. Albuquerque
Emanuel Alves
Nestor A. Aquino Medina
William M. Averill
Susan Ballis
Stuart B. Bassler
John Beasley
Laurie Beaulieu
Neeta Beepath
Joe Belmonte
Scott Bennett
Charles Bent
Madeline Boyce
Michael T. Buckley
Jean Buikema
Angella Burns
Michael J. Cahalane
Eliza Campbell
Teresa Cardosi
Thomas W. Carty
Alicia Chen
Wesline Chery
Tej Chhabra
Larry Childs
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Miriam Coffey
Nina L. Coil
Ann Colean
Annette Conklin
Christina Conklin
Cathal P. Conlon
Catherine Conneely
Joanna Connolly
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Philip Costa
Christopher Crawley
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Madeline C. Cronin
James J. Crown
John J. Cullinane
Maura Curran
Cheryl Curry
Paula Cushner
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Kathleen O'Toole Davis
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Frank Domino
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Janet Donovan
Pierre Dorilus
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Meghan Dwyer
Noon Elhassan
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Ashley Enochs
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Jillian Ferrari
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Martin Sheerin
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Lisa Soo Hoo
Ada Stefanescu
Cahal Stephens
Micah Strube
Bruce D. Sunstein
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Timothy Tardiff
Manejah Terzi
Amy Tesoro
Nancy Ellen Thorn
Amelia Thrall
Michael Tran
Jennifer Tripp
Jameson Twomey
Patrizio Urciuoli
Joel R. Vargas
Adrienne Vaughan
Claire Vogel
Kathleen Warmington
Caroline Waweru
Scott Weisel
Judith Weiss
Stephen Whelan
Grant Whitney
Amy Willens
Roy Wilsker
Mary Alice Wistman
Susan Workum

...and the donors who chose to give anonymously.

Foundations, Businesses & Organizations

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Albuquerque & Austin Family Fund
Ansara Family Fund
Arbella Insurance Foundation
Borman/Singer Family Fund
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Campen Fund
Cleary Insurance
Comcast
Darling Restaurant
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Scott Gelber Donor Advised Fund
Sheahan Family Fund
Starbucks Foundation
State Street Corporation
State Street Foundation
Statewide R.M. Corporation
Sullivan & Young, LLP
The TJX Foundation, Inc.
Town Fair Tire Foundation
Tufts Cheap Sox
United Way of Massachusetts Bay & Merrimack Valley
White Lilly Foundation

...and the organizations that chose to give anonymously.





Rian Immigrant Center
89 South Street, Suite 406, Boston, MA 02111
(617) 542-7654
www.riancenter.org