OUR MISSION

Center for New Americans (CNA) is a community-based, non-profit adult education center that provides the underserved immigrant, refugee and migrant communities of Massachusetts’ Pioneer Valley with education and resources to learn English, become involved community members and obtain tools necessary to maintain economic independence and stability.
AS WE REFLECT ON THE YEAR 2019,
we also review a decade of welcoming and
serving immigrants in Western Massachusetts.
This past decade began under the banner of
“Yes, we can.”
And during that decade, yes, we did...we are
grateful for 10 years of remarkable highlights.
2019 marked our 10th annual naturalization
ceremony on the lawn of the historic Old
Courthouse in downtown Northampton. Even
after 10 years of this annual tradition, this
year’s ceremony was the most well-attended
yet—by community members, by media
partners, by elected representatives, and
by volunteers. All came to bear witness and
to celebrate with the immigrants who were
fulfilling their journeys to U.S. citizenship.
2019 also marked our 10th annual 30 Poems
in November! literary fundraiser. Even after
10 years of this annual write-a-thon with all
of its outreach, this event was the most
popular yet. 100 writers heeded the call of
our Event Chair, Sarah Sullivan, including many
who have written and raised with us for the
entire decade. And the more than 700
supporters who responded generously to
writers’ appeals included many familiar names.
A lot has changed in 10 years. The national
dialogue about immigrants and immigration
policy has become more charged, and fed-
eral policies have been proposed to restrict
immigration and immigrants’ options.

The proposed rule changes and the climate
in which they have occurred have contributed
to higher stress levels for our community’s
immigrant residents and a much heavier
workload for organizations like ours as we
rally to disseminate accurate information
while also challenging policies which are
unfair and illogical.
But much remains unchanged. Immigrants
continue to settle in Western Massachusetts
representing the state’s best hopes for
economic growth. Our local leaders and
judges continue to honor immigrants’
entrepreneurial spirit, persistence, and hard
work by welcoming them and legislating
policies in that context. Our community
members advocate for welcoming policies
and volunteer as an antidote to negative
national rhetoric. Our board shows up
monthly to guide the organization; our staff,
inspired by immigrants’ persistence, work
well beyond what they are paid.
We offer this report with gratitude to our
enlightened community of supporters and
with optimism for the next decade.

Laurie Millman
Executive Director
IT HAS BEEN A PRODUCTIVE YEAR as the board worked to meet our various oversight responsibilities. Two Board members, Bernie Baker and Jean Blakeman, retired from the Board and we wish them the very best and miss their wise counsel. We welcomed J Vaughn to the Board and we are lucky to have the benefit of his energy and ideas.

Center for New Americans is an easy organization to champion, both individually and as a Board. There is so much that goes on in this dynamic community that the challenge is to be concise when telling people about it. A simple list of classes and activities, although long and impressive, does not do justice to the work of Center for New Americans.

Those who are students, teachers, staff, and volunteers, among others, understand the extent to which Center for New Americans is a community. Our students have teachers who draw on a deep and nuanced understanding of the challenges immigrants navigate, not only in the classroom learning English but outside as well. When students walk through the doors of Center for New Americans in Amherst, Greenfield, and Northampton, they enter an environment that supports them and works diligently and collaboratively to make the programs as effective as possible.

Immigrant Voices is, I think, evidence of the vitality of the community at Center for New Americans. Year after year students sign up to share their talents as musicians, dancers, singers and poets in front of a huge audience at the Shea Theatre in Turners Falls. They know that some in the audience will be their friends and family but many will be people they have never met who travel from all parts of the Pioneer Valley to show their support and to have a wonderful afternoon of entertainment.

I thank my fellow Board members. They bring energy and thoughtfulness to the tasks of oversight as well as raising support for Center for New Americans. And I thank Laurie Millman, the staff, our students, and our supporters for their extraordinary dedication. The Board looks forward to being part of raising the visibility of, and support for, Center for New Americans throughout the Valley in the coming year.

Sincerely yours,

Frances South
Board Chair
CENTER FOR NEW AMERICANS IS FORTUNATE to be guided by dedicated volunteers who donate their time to serve as our Board of Directors. Their careful stewardship is essential to Center for New Americans’ capacity to fulfill our mission of welcoming and serving the community’s immigrants. Board members meet monthly to review program details and budgets. They join staff meetings, attend Center for New Americans’ events, serve on task forces and committees, introduce Center for New Americans to friends and associates, and some serve as program volunteers, coaching students and citizenship clients. Center for New Americans recognizes our Board of Directors with appreciation for its commitment and vision.
PROGRAM REPORT

“My name is Mohanad. I am from Iraq, and I have been in the U.S. for three years. I have a Ph.D. in physical education and sports science, and I was a lecturer for 15 years. I am married and I have two sons, and both of them are in college now. Could you imagine how is difficult when you come in to a new country has a different culture, different customs, and a completely different language? I remember the first month for me in the U.S., it was terrible, I did not understand what the cashier said when I went to the grocery market. For a moment, I thought my dreams had disappeared. Everything changed when I joined Center for New Americans. It was the best school ever. Teachers there helped me a lot to improve my language; they taught me a lot to be part of this community, to be positive with others. I learned from them that dreams without goals are just dreams…”

MOHANAD, ALUMNUS

Alumni like Mohanad remind us of two facts we have learned from serving immigrants for 27 years: classes in English, civics, and U.S. culture are the critical first step to opening doors to our country’s opportunities; our students approach these classes with focus and persistence, embracing the opportunity to build new lives. This is what it looked like in 2019:

Free classes in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

More than 120 students, including immigrants from Cape Verde, Ecuador, Cambodia, China, Ukraine, Venezuela, Haiti, refugees from Syria, Guatemala, Rwanda, and Democratic Republic of Congo, and asylum-seekers from Honduras and El Salvador attended our free classes in Amherst, Greenfield, and Northampton. Several students were able to attend class thanks to our provision of free childcare in Amherst and Greenfield. Civics came alive in conversations with Congressman Jim McGovern. Digital literacy involved researching health center service hours while planning a visit.

“…Moreover, they provided a good opportunity for nurse aide class. I graduated from the Nurse Aide training; they stayed in contact with me until I got a good job at Cooley Dickinson Hospital. I am still working there for more than one and a-half years. I think it is rare to find people who think of you and they strive to help you to find the best opportunity. I want to thank people who support this school. Likewise, I wish to get all immigrants the same opportunity that I got at Center for New Americans.”

MOHANAD, ALUMNUS
Career Support
At Center for New Americans - and in our region - our collective experience is that immigrants are hard workers. For this reason, manufacturing companies and healthcare facilities eagerly recruit our students and collaborate with us to offer career training programs. In 2019, we offered our direct care worker and nurse aide trainings again and were so pleased to see so many students hired into full-time jobs upon completion of the program. Our alumni who work in manufacturing, in the public schools, and in community health centers serve as powerful ambassadors for our program and role models to current students.

Citizenship and Immigration Legal Services

"I feel safe."
JAMPA, NEW U.S. CITIZEN

"Tutoring each new student is a learning experience for me at least as much as it is for her/him."
SUSAN, LONG-TIME CITIZENSHIP TUTOR

"Being here at this ceremony is the best way I know of to support the Fourth of July. And we know it's not easy to get to this point."
U.S. MAGISTRATE
KATHERINE ROBERTSON

Our annual naturalization ceremony is the most vivid representation of the journey immigrants take to become U.S. citizens. In 2019, 53 immigrants from 26 different countries took their oath of allegiance at our July 4th naturalization in front of 400 welcoming community members.

Less visible but equally impactful are the immigration legal services Center for New Americans provides year-round. We assisted more than 85 immigrants to naturalize last year, providing support with the application and matching many of the applicants with citizenship tutors. Our staff assisted another 90 immigrants with employment authorizations, green card renewals, family petitions, and information and referral services. As with English classes, successful applications open doors - to jobs, driver’s licenses, and further education.

Events Honoring Immigrants
Thanks to the enthusiastic participation of our students, alumni, and allies, 2019 saw the continuation of two beloved Center for New Americans traditions:

Immigrant Voices: A Celebration of Arts, our annual artistic showcase, filled the Shea Theater in April. Three sisters from Rwanda received a standing ovation for their a cappella performance. They were joined on stage by dancers from Mexico, Costa Rica, and El Salvador; poets from Iran and Venezuela; drummers from Senegal; singers from Haiti. Audience members marveled at the wide range of countries represented on stage.

30 Poems in November!—How many communities could engage 70 writers to write a poem every day in November while also enlisting the financial sponsorship of 700 friends and family members? Coaxed, coached, and cajoled by our indefatigable event chair, Sarah Sullivan, writers mused about their immigrant grandparents, their neighbors, and immigration policy while raising $58,000 to support our free classes for our immigrant students. The Reading & Celebration hosted by the Poetry Center at Smith College included some of our immigrant students as readers and was a joyous celebration of the power of positive words.
COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS & PARTNERS

This past year, volunteers served as tutors, classroom assistants, citizenship coaches, career mentors, English conversation group facilitators, administrative associates, and fundraisers. In these contexts, they enhanced our ability to offer students and clients individual attention, greatly expanding our capacity. With this listing, we express our appreciation.

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More than 1,000 donors contributed to Center for New Americans during this past year. Individuals, local businesses, foundations, and public funders helped us to raise a budget which supported education, career preparation, and immigration legal services for hundreds of immigrants. We list our supporters here with our gratitude.

We would like to acknowledge Sarah Sullivan, Chair of our 10th annual 30 Poems In November! literary fundraiser. Her inspired leadership encouraged an energetic community of writers to engage a generous community of supporters.

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- Massachusetts Office for Refugees & Immigrants
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James Johnson
Jean Johnson
Juleen Johnson
Margot Johnson
Mark Johnson
Norma Johnson
Sarah Johnson
Rebecca Johnston
Carol Jolly
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Lynne Jones
Pat Joyce
Hollie Kalkstein
Laurel Kallenbach
Joan Kalus
Ricki Kantrowitz
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Samira Karandish
Susan Karas
Elizabeth Karasik
Jacqueline Katz
Phyllis Katz
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Jane LeGrand
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Gregory Mattingly
Libby Mayx
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Pamela McBride
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Stacia McClaud
Mary McRae
Shery Meal
Susan Meal
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Julie Melrose
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Melissa Miller
Ellen Miller-Mack
Tracy & Steve Moncure
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Maureen Moore
CENTER FOR NEW AMERICANS ENJOYED A STRONG YEAR FINANCALLY.

Thanks to outreach by board members and 30 Poems in November! writers, and support from public and private funders, local businesses, and many individual donors, we ended the year with a surplus. We recognize this success as a manifestation of our community’s generous commitment to welcoming and serving immigrants, refugees, and asylum-seekers.

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Fanny Rothschild
Barbara Rouillard
Rosemary Roy
Stephen Roy
Daniel Russell
Cathy Ryerson

Statement of Activities
Year Ended August 31, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenues and other support</th>
<th>Without Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>With Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>Government grants and contracts</td>
<td>$559,762</td>
<td>$60,460</td>
<td>$596,222</td>
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<td>Non-government grants</td>
<td>41,321</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>42,171</td>
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<td>Contributions</td>
<td>128,820</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-kind contributions</td>
<td>27,532</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>5,514</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>59,610</td>
<td>(59,610)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total revenues and other support</td>
<td>822,559</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>823,409</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses and losses</th>
<th>Without Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>With Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>Program services</td>
<td>551,880</td>
<td>551,880</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting Services</td>
<td>106,643</td>
<td>106,643</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total program services</td>
<td>658,523</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support Services</td>
<td>85,556</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development</td>
<td>56,697</td>
<td>56,697</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total expenses</td>
<td>808,263</td>
<td>808,263</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loss on sale of property and equipment</td>
<td>7,487</td>
<td>7,487</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total expenses and losses</td>
<td>808,263</td>
<td>808,263</td>
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<tr>
<td>Change in net assets</td>
<td>14,296</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>15,146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets - beginning of year</td>
<td>(337)</td>
<td>41,299</td>
<td>40,962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets - end of year</td>
<td>$13,959</td>
<td>$42,149</td>
<td>$56,108</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
GIFTS IN HONOR OF & IN MEMORY OF
Janet E. Aalfs & Janis Totty in memory of Immigrant Grandparents
Anonymous in honor of Tina Sánchez (2)
Anonymous in honor of Peggy Johnson
Anonymous in memory of Nancy Johnson
Meri Ames in honor of Maureen McMahon
Carla Cooke in memory of Elizabeth Farnsworth
Annie Cheatham & Ann Gibson in honor of Alice Barrett
Anthony Hill in honor of Carlene Riccetti
Ariane Krumholz in memory of Her Parents, Wilhelm & Miriam Krumholz
Christine Linderman in memory of Andrea Raphael
Lynne Manring in honor of Tamara Kaplan
Registry of Deeds in honor of Frances South
Sarah McNamara in memory of Peter Jaquet
Judith Roberts & Jonathan Lagrèze in honor of Laurie Millman

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Liz Sacco
Rudy Sacco
Venice Sacco
Ponteir Sackrey
Robert Sacks
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Robert & Claire Sagor
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Ruth Santee
Jonathan Santiago
Priscilla Sapienza
John Sargent
Leo & Eva Sartori
Paula Sayword
Deborah Shifter
Sara Schley
Jane Schneeloch
Tanya Schneider
Ann Schroeder
Paul Schroeder
Jennie Schuetz
Jordan Scott
Molly Scott
Evi Seidman
Barbara Seneman
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Carol Smith
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Carolyn Smith
Leah Smith
Nadia Smith
Sarah Smith
Lisa Smulyan
Cindy Snow
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Caroline Soter
Sarah Sousa
Katherine South
Penelope Spearance
Lee Spector
Joel Spiro & Leigh Bailey
Joy Sprott
Anne St. Goar & Shippen Page
Erika Stallings
Jacklyn Stein

30 POEMS IN NOVEMBER!
FUNDRAISERS

$1,000+
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Amy Dryansky
Colleen Filler
Greg Kerstetter
Jennifer Ladd
Patricia Lee Lewis
Michael Mercurio
Nerissa Nields-Duffy
Sarah Sullivan
Kester Warlow-Harry
Joannah Whitney
Jane Yolen

$500–$999
Doug Anderson
Alice Barrett
Merle Feld
Katherine Fiveash
Anita Gallers
Marianne Gambaro
Juleen Johnson
Phyllis Katz
Mary Ellen Kelly
Laurie Millman
Regina & Celeste Monticone-Bloom
Burleigh Muten
Linda M. Rhinehart Neas
Martha Nelson
Katherine Sacco
Marguerite Sheehan
Ginny Sullivan
Lanette Sweeney
Adin Thayer
Helena Trey

$100–$499
Janet Aalfs
Jonathan Applefield
Robin Barber
Michael Biegner
Jean Blakeman
Janet Bowdan
Judson Brown
Nancy Case
Kate Cebik
George Cernada
Lori Desrosiers
Sierra Dickey
Matt Donovan
Howie Faerstein
Shery Mead & Beth Filson
Liz George
Madlynn Haber
Amy Horowitz
Jill Hughes
Peggy Johnson
Amy Leos-Urbel
Michael Macdonald
Mary Messick
Anna Mullen
Alison Murchie
Jayne Pearl
Philip B. Price
Jendi Reiter
Dorothy Riehm
Brooks Robards
Molly Scott
Jodie Shapiro
Mary Ellen Shaughan
Kathleen Shewman
Lisa Shore
Maureen Solomon
Frances South
Phyllis St. George
Alice Thomas
Sharon Tracey
Tommy Twilite
Melinda Underwood
Arianna Valocchi
Teresa Wong

$10–$99
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Corrine De Winter
Hillary Gardner
Brenda Hill
Tamara Kaplan
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Cathymann Sweeney  Pamela Szczesny
Joan Tabachnick
Lourdes Tallet & Florence Campanile
Judy Tancredi
Lisa Tener  Susan Taylor
Sarah Tenney  Brent Terry  Viva Thiel  Gail Thomas  Margot Thomas
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Virginia Euwer Wolf  Betsey Wolson  Olivia Wolpe  Steven Wong
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Marjory Zalk  Bettie Zakon-Anderson  Randy Zucker  Karen Zukas

OUR YEARLY IMPACT

YOUR DONATION TO CENTER FOR NEW AMERICANS helps to support our education and legal programs as follows:

120 Students served with English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes at program sites in Amherst, Greenfield, and Northampton

85 Clients naturalized; many registered to vote

15 Students trained annually through our healthcare jobs training with 90% of the graduates working at nursing homes and for home health aide agencies

30 Students learning English online

90+ Clients annually receive free or low-cost immigration legal services including green card renewals, change of status applications, family petitions, and employment authorizations
Center for New Americans Staff Members
Back row, left to right:
Sarah Wing, Laurie Millman, Kelly Day, Griselle Rivera, Robin Marion, Stephanie Pasternak, Michele Sedor
Front row, left to right:
Tina Sánchez, Rosa Guerra, Peg Johnson, Linda Neas, Ruth Hutton, Diana Stiles, Anahit Margaryan, Maureen McMahon
Not pictured: Peg Thibbitts