Center for New Americans
A Community-Based Education and Resource Center for Immigrants and Refugees in Western Massachusetts

Welcoming & Serving Immigrants
Since 1992

2018 ANNUAL REPORT
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.
FROM THE DIRECTOR

I’m like that [little] mermaid
I have many, many dreams
But, I can’t tell you myself.
I don’t speak English well
I can only show you my art.”
MELDA SHERMAN, “Little Mermaid”, 2018

IN 2018, CENTER FOR NEW AMERICANS’ community came together, as it has for many years, to lift up the dreams and skills of our immigrant students and clients.

Center for New Americans’ community, comprised of our Board of Directors, staff members, volunteers, alumni, donors, friends, partner organizations, and elected officials, effectively linked arms and resources in a protective circle around the immigrants we welcome and serve to ensure that the message they received locally was about possibility and opportunity.

As a result, students learned English. Quite a few enrolled in our direct care worker and certified nurse aide trainings. Upon graduation, they were hired as home health aides, as well as aides in nursing homes from Holyoke to Greenfield. Other students enrolled in our ServSafe training. Upon graduation, they obtained positions in the hospitality industry.

Our clients applied for citizenship, worked diligently with volunteer coaches, and were sworn in as U.S. citizens in Springfield, Ludlow, Worcester, and Northampton at our 10th annual naturalization on July 4th. Once naturalized, many returned to Center for New Americans to petition for family members to join them. Still others began their journey at Center for New Americans with green card applications.

If written mathematically, the equation might read like this:
A small organization + caring supporters + persistent immigrants and refugees x financial investment = a rich, diverse, thriving community.

Please accept our 2018 annual report with our appreciation,

Laurie Millman
Executive Director
FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

I STEPPED INTO KIT CARPENTER’S SHOES as Chair of the Board of Directors last fall. Center for New Americans benefited a great deal from her wise stewardship during her tenure as Interim Chair.

The successes of Center for New Americans this past year stem from the extraordinary dedication of the staff, the volunteers, the students, as well as the leadership of the Executive Director, Laurie Millman.

Each day the many moving parts of programming bring the students a bit closer to realizing their individual dreams. While programming is rooted in classroom English lessons, opportunities are available to become certified as Personal Care Assistants and Nursing Assistants, or in ServSafe and foundational manufacturing.

Beyond language proficiency, job training, and preparation for citizenship applications, students benefit from the camaraderie and support of being part of Center for New Americans. This and the students’ affection and gratitude for their teachers are apparent at the celebrations for end of cycle and certification programs.

In addition to its educational programming, Center for New Americans is known for three annual events: Immigrant Voices, July Fourth Naturalization Ceremony on the lawn of the Northampton Courthouse, and 30 Poems in November!

At last year’s Immigrant Voices: A Celebration of Arts, a large and exuberant audience at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls was entertained by the singing, dancing, music and poetry of students. The July 4th Citizenship Ceremony this past year had more Center for New Americans students than ever before, thanks in no small part to Maureen McMahon, Tina Sanchez and Linda Neas’s able management of the citizenship program. More writers than ever participated in the 10th anniversary of 30 Poems in November! and they raised more money than ever.

These events help to raise the profile of Center for New Americans in the communities from Greenfield to Northampton and they are a solid basis for increasing support. To build on and complement these events, a development committee comprised of board members, volunteers, staff, and members of the community works to ensure that all manner of fundraising efforts are both effective and creative.

I thank my fellow board members who not only make the monthly meetings a forum of ideas and insights but also take on extra committee work. I thank the staff, Laurie, our students, and our supporters for their extraordinary dedication. And I look forward to being part of all of this good work 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.
I appreciate the opportunity Center for New Americans has given me to move forward. I wish to fulfill my dream and I will never forget where I started.”
CENTER FOR NEW AMERICANS STUDENT UPON COMPLETING CLASS

In 2018, this is how we helped immigrants to move forward:

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

“Center for New Americans has changed my life for good. Since I came to this country, I was afraid to talk to someone in the store, in the park, in the daycare of my son for the simple reason that I did not know the language of this country. Thanks to you who provide the money for people like me without expecting anything in return. For that reason I strive every day so that every dollar invested is worth the pain.”
VANESSA, HEALTHCARE STUDENT

More than 120 students, including immigrants from Cape Verde, Ecuador, Cambodia, China, Guatemala, Ukraine, Venezuela, Haiti, refugees from Syria and Democratic Republic of Congo, and evacuees from Puerto Rico, learned English, civics, and digital literacy in our classrooms in Amherst, Greenfield, Northampton, and Turners Falls. Some traveled from West Springfield, some biked. Some brought children to our childcare. Thanks to class field trips, many obtained library cards, learned about Career Center workshops, toured Community Development Corporation kitchens. All made progress in English!

Career Support

“I am so happy. I work hard, I come home and I have time to take care of my daughter. I make enough money to support my family. I told the counselor, ‘thank you but I do not need your help any more!’”
NURSING STUDENT

We worked in partnership with such educational institutions as Smith Vocational & Agricultural High School and Greenfield Community College, with such organizations as the MassHire Franklin Hampshire Career Center, and with such local employers as Cooley Dickinson Healthcare, Comprehensive Home Care, Barton’s Angels, Linda Manor Extended Care. Our career advisors accompanied students to Career Fairs and advised them on interviews. Our alumni hold positions in healthcare, food service, and manufacturing, helping to power the local economy.
Citizenship and Immigration Legal Services

“I am happy to vote, help, and make a big difference for America—for equality, unification for a good future and to bring a brighter future to our people.”

EMILY, NATURALIZED ON JULY 4TH

We coached 65 immigrants through the 22-page application for citizenship, the process of naturalizing, and preparation for the interview. We were fortunate that 10 of our own clients were among the 58 new citizens who took their Oath of Allegiance on July 4th at our 10th annual naturalization in Northampton. U.S. Magistrate Katherine Robertson, Mayor David Narkewicz, local vocal artist Evelyn Harris, Girl Scout Troop 12926, and the largest crowd to date bore jubilant witness. Less visible were the close to 90 immigrants we assisted with Green Card renewals, employment authorizations, and family petitions.

Embracing Technology

“I found out that studying English online is the most easy way and more convenient. You know why? Because I can get a lot of information such as reading, writing, vocabulary, grammar, and it’s like I have a private teacher in my home, and I can study any time.”

DISTANCE LEARNING STUDENT

In 2018, Center for New Americans expanded our distance learning classes to serve students whose work or family schedules make class participation challenging. We also migrated our data into an online database to more effectively document all the ways students and clients interact with us.

2018 Events

“I had a dream of a better world without borders without wars without hate without discrimination.”

AUDI, STUDENT READING HER POEM AT IMMIGRANT VOICES: A CELEBRATION OF ARTS

Valley artists generously shared their talents this past year to celebrate diversity and support our efforts.

Immigrant Voices: A Celebration of Arts, our annual artistic showcase at the Shea Theater, helped to shine a spotlight on our students and alumni, thanks to their enthusiastic participation and the perfectionism of our volunteer director, Marilyn Sylla.

Meg Kelsey Wright, Estela Olevsky, Genie Malek, and Deborah Gilwood organized a benefit concert, Joining Hands, to support our program. Meg explained that, “Music is the universal language, helping to build the bridges, connections and harmonies that strengthen our communities.”


Writers signed up to write and raise for 30 Poems in November!, chaired in 2017 by Abigail Warren and Elsa Phillippi Cline and in 2018 by Sarah Sullivan. The event raised money for Center for New Americans’ classes while creating a platform for writers to reflect on their families’ immigrant histories, their immigrant neighbors, and ongoing debates about immigration.
COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS AND PARTNERS

AT CENTER FOR NEW AMERICANS, volunteers contribute their unique talents and skills to enrich the lives of our immigrant students, citizenship clients, classroom teachers, and office staff. Center for New Americans is a lean organization with a small staff. Thanks to the time and passion of more than 50 volunteers, Center for New Americans can offer individual attention and support to our students and clients. We are grateful to all of our volunteers for helping us to support the immigrants we serve on their journeys.

Joe Roberts
Devorah Rosenberg
Laura Rosenthal
Dianne Ryan
Carol Sartz
Jon Sass
Wendy Sinton
Karen Thomas
Emily Tiedtke
Anne Zulawski

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Amherst Health Department
Amherst Police Department
Amherst Regional Public Schools
Amherst Town Manager
Paul Bockelman
Berkshire Immigrant Center
Carnegie Library
Center for Women & Community
Community Action Pioneer Valley
Community Service Office at Smith College
Curran & Berger LLP
Edwards Public Library
Steve Ellis
Emily Williston Memorial Library
Forbes Library
Franklin County Council of Governments
Gill-Montague Community School Partnership
Gill-Montague Regional School District
Girl Scout Troop 12926, Greenfield
Greenfield Community College
Greenfield Public Health Department
Greenfield Public Schools
Hampshire Council of Governments
Holyoke Community College
Immigrant Protection Project, ACLU Massachusetts
International Language Institute
Lilly Library
Linda Manor Extended Care Facility
Maurice Lindsay, Deputy Clerk, U.S. District Court
Massachusetts Coalition for Adult Education
MassHire Franklin Hampshire Career Center
MassHire Franklin Hampshire Workforce Board
Mayor William Martin
Mayor David Narkewicz
Montague Police Department
Northampton Public Health Department
Northampton Public Schools
Northwestern District Attorney’s Office
Safe Passage
Shea Theater Arts Center
Smith College
Smith Vocational & Agricultural High School
The Amherst Survival Center
The Greenfield Public Library
The Honorable Katherine Robertson, U.S. Magistrate
The Jones Library
The League of Women Voters–Northampton and Amherst Chapters
The Literacy Project
The Montague Reporter
The Northampton Survival Center
Tilton Library
U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services
Westhampton Public Library
WHMP
WRSI-FM
WTCC-FM

IN-KIND DONATIONS

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Bueno Y Sano
City of Northampton
Atty. Scott Clark
Coca Cola N.A.
Community Action Pioneer Valley
Daily Hampshire Gazette
Deerfield Academy
Jay DiPuccio
Dropbox for Business
Nancy Haver
Historic Northampton
Levellers Press
Poetry Center at Smith College
Shea Theater Arts Center
Frances South
Sunraise Printing
Town of Amherst
CENTER FOR NEW AMERICANS, a community-based organization, is also community-supported. We list with much appreciation the government organizations, private foundations, businesses, and individuals who supported us during our fiscal year 2018, from September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2018.

We changed our approach to these listings this year. Historically, we listed donations made by organizations during the fiscal year. We listed donations made by individuals up to the time of publication. We felt this was the most respectful way to acknowledge individual supporters, by including their most recent gifts.

Since this report focuses on what happened between September 1, 2017 and August 31, 2018, in this report and going forward, we listed only those donations—whether from organizations or individuals—made during that period.

As a result, we must wait another year to truly honor the epic leadership of Sarah Sullivan, Event Chair for *30 Poems in November!* during the fall of 2018 which marked the beginning of our fiscal year 2019.

In this report, we listed people who wrote and raised for *30 Poems in November!* in the fall of 2017 when, thanks to Co-Chairs Elsa Phillippi Cline and Abigail Warren, we raised $40,000.

### ORGANIZATIONS

#### $100,000+

- Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education

#### $10,000–$99,999

- Amherst Community Development Block Grant
- Franklin Hampshire Employment & Training Consortium
- Massachusetts Bar Foundation
- Massachusetts Office for Refugees & Immigrants
- The Clowes Fund
- United Way of Franklin County
- United Way of Hampshire County

#### $1,000–$9,999

- Florence Bank
- Grace Church Parish
- Health New England
- Life Extension Foundation
- Northampton Community Development Block Grant
- Porth Associates Architects
- Pritchard Family Foundation
- Regional Employment Board of Hampden County
- River Valley Co-Op
- Sparks! A Generosity Community of Western Massachusetts
- The Agnes M. Lindsay Trust
- The Bete Family Foundation

#### $50–$999

- Amanouz Café
- Belly of the Beast
- Borawski Insurance
- Broadside Bookshop
- Bueno Y Sano
- Cambridge College
- Church of Christ Congregational
- Cohn & Company Real Estate
- Cooley Dickinson Healthcare
- Sarah Creighton Bookbinding
- Crestal Health Periodontics
- Delap Real Estate LLC
- Diana Stiles Designs
- First Churches of Northampton
- FitzGerald Law Company
- Franklin Community Cooperative
- Friends of the Amherst Senior Center, Inc.
- Gallery of Readers Press
- Greenfield Cooperative Bank
- Greenfield Savings Bank
- Grobman & Bollinger Family Fund
- Institute for Training & Development
- Integrity Development & Construction
- JoiaBeauty
- Jones Realty Group
- Melvin S. Cutler Charitable Foundation
- Mosaic Café
- Mount Holyoke College
- Nemetz Todd Charitable Fund
- Paul & Elizabeth’s
- Pengyew Catering

- PV Squared Solar
- Rick & Erin Charitable Fund
- Sasson, Turnbull, Ryan & Hoose
- Shelburne Falls Area Womens Club
- The People’s Pint
- The Synthesis Center
- The Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence
- The Village on Main
- Tire Warehouse
- TTrends Salon
- UMass Five College Federal Credit Union
- WEBS
- White Square - Fine Books & Art
- Wohl Family Dentistry
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INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

$1,000+

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$200–$999

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$100–199

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New citizens taking the Oath of Allegiance on July 4th
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Lucy Mueller
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Marlene Musante
Burleigh Mutén
Ladimer & Anna Nagurney
Phyllis Rahman
Center for New Americans is fortunate to receive significant public funding. Multi-year grants from various departments of the State of Massachusetts provide the continuity which makes it possible for Center for New Americans to offer free classes, healthcare job training, ongoing career and other support services including childcare.

The outpouring of support we saw starting in the fall of 2016 has continued. We are fortunate to work in a community that welcomes immigrants and provides financial support through direct donations and creative fundraising events.

While support by private foundations and local businesses represents the smallest share of our revenue, it provides funding for day-to-day program operations.

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| Dianne Ryan | Michleen Rygiel |
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| Debra Saltz | Priscilla Sapinias |
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Laura Rodley
Barbara Rouillard
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IN MEMORY OF
Anonymous in honor of
Tina Sanchez
Gail Gramarossa in honor of
Angelita Demita
Kathy Goos in honor of
Susan Sprung & Tim Mueller,
and in honor of Jeanne Hoose
Nicole Graves in memory of
Madeleine Beaudoin
Kathryn Herndon-Powell
in honor of Rosalind Reid
& Brian Hayes
Martin Wohl & Marisa
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Mildred Wohl

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Celebrating citizenship on July 4th

WHAT YOUR DONATION BUYS

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Childcare for one semester in one program site</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childcare for one semester in two program sites</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field trip to “College for a Day”</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini tablets for 10 students</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom white board</td>
<td>$350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff support for citizenship application and preparation assistance</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning journals for 3 classrooms for one semester</td>
<td>$200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer orientation &amp; training</td>
<td>$175</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Standing: Laurie Millman, Griselle Rivera
Back: Rosa Guerra, Sarah Wing, Kelly Day, Donna McCallum, Peg R. Johnson, Maureen McMahon, Stephanie Pasternak, Diana Stiles, Taryn Amina
Front: Linda Neas, Ruth Hutton, Michele Sedor, Tamara Kaplan, Peg Thibbitts
Not pictured: Tina Sanchez