

We are HIAS Chicago

The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society of Chicago (HIAS Chicago) began in the hearts and deeds of the Chicago Jewish community in 1911. Our core belief, that we must "Repair the World" (Tikkun Olam), drives our work for immigrant rights and in assisting individuals and families seeking refuge from desperate conditions through the immigration process.

Today, HIAS Chicago serves immigrants in the Jewish and other ethnic communities of the North and Northwest suburbs, assisting eligible individuals to get and stay on the path to citizenship. We also help current US Citizens to reunite with family members who are still living in their homeland. In the last three decades, HIAS Chicago has helped more than 36,000 refugees from the Former Soviet Union as well as thousands more who have come as immigrants to reunite with close family members and settle in our community. We have helped countless families to plant roots, find stability and raise their children with a sense of belonging in their new country.

Our mission is realized through the Jewish values Tikkun Olam, Tzedakah (acts of justice and good deeds), and Bruchim Ha'bayim (welcoming the stranger). Living these values demands of us that we make our services available to all those in need.

Services Provided

In FY 2013, the following services were provided to 1,221 individuals:

Holocaust Services	80
Citizenship	755
Family Based Immigration and Refugee Services	785
Community Outreach & Education	835
Additional Information Helpline Referrals for Service	4,993
TOTAL	7,448

Service Locations

Arlington Heights Palatine Skokie
West Rogers Park Uptown Chicago Loop

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2013 Annual Report

HIAS CHICAGO

Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society of Chicago



HIAS CHICAGO

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Chicago, IL 60606

HIAS Chicago is a partner in serving our community, receiving support from the Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation. We are a state licensed agency, accredited by the U.S. Board of Immigration Appeals and by the Council on Accreditation of Services for Families & Children, Inc.





This year has been a time of celebration, change, and growth for HIAS Chicago. Recognizing 100 years of helping individuals and families find safety, plant roots and build community in their new homeland, generous HIAS Chicago donors planted the *HIAS Chicago Freedom Grove* at Channel Runne Park in Lincolnwood, Illinois. The Freedom Grove now has 49 new trees and lovely benches dedicated in memory and honor of individuals impacted by HIAS Chicago. We invite you to add trees to our Grove so that HIAS Chicago can continue to help future generations of immigrants and refugees.

HIAS Chicago has seen reduced funding from some of our ongoing supporters, as they too struggle with our changing economy. Yet we are fortunate to have been able to expand legal support for clients through enhanced training and consultation; serve newly-identified youth seeking permission to remain legally in the US; expand our outreach and community education in the north and northwest suburbs; and continue our critical support for those taking the next step to become US Citizens and for those seeking to reunite with family members. We have also been actively advocating for fair and humane comprehensive immigration reform, and cultivating opportunities for organizational growth.

HIAS Chicago experienced a bittersweet transition in leadership this past year. After 22 years with the agency, Suzanne Franklin retired. Suzanne held an unmatched passion for engaging new donors in the HIAS Chicago story. As we wished her farewell, the new Director Jodi Doane was welcomed to the agency. Jodi's expertise in program development and government relations is making a positive impact at the agency.

Our Board of Directors also underwent a transition with President Jeffrey Kriezelman stepping down. The Board is grateful for his seven years of leadership, support, guidance and inspiration. Irena Persky was welcomed as our new President. She has been on the board for ten years and her commitment to advancing the agency's role in the community is influenced by the services she and her family received from HIAS Chicago as they made their own immigration journey.

HIAS Chicago anticipates continued growth and renewed excitement in the coming year. We invite you to join us as our journey continues!

Best regards,

Irena Persky
President

Jodi Doane
Director

Pre-Migration: coordinates refugee processing, helps clients sponsor relatives' immigration and assists with consular authorities, while providing emotional support throughout the journey.

Post-Migration: supports new immigrants and refugees by helping them apply for lawful permanent residence, assists Holocaust survivors seeking reparations, and reunites family members with long-lost relatives and friends.

Citizenship Services: accredited caseworkers guide and support clients through the many steps of the citizenship process.

I taught a citizenship preparation class to a group of immigrants from the Former Soviet Union. The group of adults in the class, including some grandparents, were clearly very conscientious and determined to get everything right. After they passed their tests, we had a party for the students and their family members. We said The Pledge of Allegiance together. They were so proud. The party was so moving. I was grateful for the opportunity to share the experience with them.

Community Outreach and Education: informs the community about pertinent immigration issues and promotes the importance of getting on the path to citizenship and becoming a U.S. Citizen.

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA): a deferral program that allows eligible youth and young adults to remain in the U.S.

Sylvia came to HIAS Chicago for help completing her DACA paperwork. She came to the U.S. from Mexico when she was five years old; she is now 26 and is tired of living in fear of being deported. Sylvia is married and has an eight-year-old son with autism. HIAS also helped her husband apply for DACA. She is highly ambitious—obtaining her GED in 2012 and working at a hotel for over four years. She used to be a caregiver in an assisted living facility. Now that Sylvia has Deferred Action she will be able to realize her dream of becoming a Certified Nursing Assistant.

Scholarships: recognizes the many talents that immigrants contribute to their new country by awarding undergraduate and graduate school scholarships.

Advocacy Services: engages in local and national advocacy for the needs and rights of immigrants and refugees, keeping the community informed about any changes in the laws that affect immigration.



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Scholarship Fund

The Max and Anna
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FY 13 Operating Revenue & Expenses

Operating Revenue

Jewish Federation	\$97,240
Government grants	257,413
Income from investments and HIAS Endowment Foundation	202,524
Restricted grants and income for scholarships	32,000
Contributions	261,210
Program fees and revenue	80,777
Fund transfers	20,161
Total Operating Revenue	\$951,325

Operating Expenses

Personnel	\$594,735
Occupancy	132,051
Scholarships	32,000
Other program expenses	101,435
Administrative expenses	91,104
Total Operating Expenses	\$951,325