



# Our Report to You

January–June 2024

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## Introducing Amica Center

After 25 years of defending immigrants, we have changed our name to reaffirm our commitment to our clients and community and to reflect our expanded geographic footprint.

As of June 10th, CAIR Coalition has officially become Amica Center for Immigrant Rights, or “Amica Center.” “Amica” is the Latin word for “friend,” and that echoes the way we approach what we do. Just as friends stand with one another, Amica Center stands with our clients to fight for the safety, stability, and opportunity we all deserve.

**40+**

Lawsuits litigated by the Immigration Impact Lab.

**1,600+**

Immigrants received consultations, Know Your Rights presentations, and social services support.

**8,000+**

Calls answered on our free Detention Hotline.



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Join us for our 25th Anniversary Bash, which will raise funds for legal defense and strategic litigation to support local immigrants facing detention and deportation.

**When:** Thurs, Sept 26, 2024  
**Time:** 6:30 to 9:30 PM

**National Museum of Women in the Arts**  
1250 New York Ave NW  
Washington, D.C. 20005

**Get your tickets online today!**

Or call us at (202) 899-3987 to order them over the phone.



The logo for Amica Center for Immigrant Rights, featuring the word "Amica" in a bold, white, sans-serif font inside a dark rounded rectangle.

Center for  
Immigrant  
Rights

Formerly known as CAIR Coalition

A photograph of a man and a woman smiling together outdoors. The man is on the right, wearing a dark, textured jacket and a pearl necklace. The woman is on the left, wearing a dark sleeveless top. They are standing in front of a blurred background of trees and a street.

Andrés García, former Amica Center client (right) and Emily Cornett, Amica Center Social Services Coordinator (left).

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## **“I just wanted to be myself and not get hurt.”**

Andrés García, a former Amica Center client, came to the U.S. in 2016, fleeing anti-LGBTQ+ violence in El Salvador. He was jailed in a detention center in Virginia for over a year before winning asylum with the help of Amica Center.

**“I was really scared, and I didn’t know what to do next,” said Andrés.**

While he was detained, Andrés saw a poster and contacted Amica Center. He was connected with an attorney who helped him apply for asylum.

As Andrés told us, “When you’re [in detention], you don’t know your rights, I didn’t even know I could have looked for asylum. . . I didn’t know anything about those rights until I got in touch with Amica Center.”

**“I got assigned to the greatest, lovely woman that I will be grateful for my whole life,” Andrés said. “More than just being my lawyer, she was somebody I could trust.”**

When he was released from detention, Amica Center’s social services team helped him navigate the different resources and services available to him, including exploring classes in interior design.

**After receiving asylum, Andrés was reunited with his husband and daughter. “My life has been really impacted by winning my case,” he said.**

**He now uses his voice to advocate for his community and immigrants’ rights. Andrés has shared his story of seeking asylum with news outlets and has spoken at rallies urging lawmakers to protect immigrants’ rights.**

**“Regardless of your sexual orientation, regardless of your race, regardless of how you look, it doesn’t matter who you are because Amica Center is going to help you out.”**

- Andrés García, former Amica Center client -