

IRISH IMMIGRATION CENTER

highlights

2006 IN REVIEW



Thousands of immigrants and their supporters — the IIC included — from all over the world united at the April 10 rally to support a single cause.

IIC RALLIES FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM

The IIC in early 2006 joined three massive rallies in Boston organized to celebrate immigrant contributions to our society and to demonstrate support for

immigration reform.

We were proud to come together with the many diverse groups we've worked with over the last two years in

our outreach and community education efforts. It was a great sight to see so many Irish flags flying alongside flags from all over the world.

BLACK & GREEN, ST. PATRICK'S DAY UNITED



Sr. Lena Deevy (left) accepts the IIC's award.

In a show of solidarity and a spirit of celebration, the IIC in March combined its annual St. Patrick's Day and

Black & Green events into one to emphasize the shared struggles of immigrants and displaced peoples around the world.

The event, featured in *The Boston Globe* the next day, was a lively combination of music, food

and speakers.

Also at the event, IIC Executive Director Sr. Lena Deevy received a City of Boston Citation for the IIC's efforts to build bridges between local communities. The award suited the event's mission perfectly.



The event brought together many generations and diverse nationalities — all sharing the same story.



IIC Volunteer Attorney Dan Harrington assists a client at an IIC legal clinic.

NEW LEGAL CLINICS CREATED

The IIC hosted immigration clinics in Canton during the summer in a new partnership with the

Irish Cultural Center. We also ran new clinics on Cape Cod when the busy summer season

kicked off. IIC staff and volunteer attorneys serve families from dozens of nations every week.

IIC SERVICE IS A MODEL FOR CENTERS NATIONWIDE

Our Substance Abuse Counselor, Danielle Bowles, was invited to present at the Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers' (CIIC) USA conference in April.

There Danielle shared the findings of research conducted and used by the IIC to create and implement

its substance abuse service.

The service's approach has proven so effective that it now serves as a model for other centers.

Danielle held two workshops to teach CIIC delegates the skills and practical application needed to replicate

the IIC's model in their own cities.

In April the Substance Abuse Service also had its first monthly Outreach Committee meeting where members of the Boston Irish community gathered to actively get the message of hope and recovery to those in need.



A new group of Walsh Visa Program participants partakes in pre-departure training in Belfast.

NEW WALSH VISA PARTICIPANTS ARRIVE

The IIC in April welcomed another group of young adults to Boston as the newest participants of the Walsh Visa Program.

We will provide them with work experience and personal and professional development training over the next two years

before helping them find work upon returning home. U.S. Congress created this program in 2001 to support the Irish peace process.

NEW HEALTH & DENTAL CLINICS OFFERED

Many immigrant families cannot afford health insurance or are intimidated by seeking healthcare because of their status.

In our new partnership with the Wellness Center of St Anthony's Shrine, we are bringing basic health and dental screenings to our offices.

This partnership grants families in need access to free, preventative care in the familiar and welcoming environment of the IIC.



Minister Noel Treacy (at left above) visits the IIC.



FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER DROPS BY

The IIC in 2006 continued to strengthen its long-standing relationship with the Irish Government.

We were delighted to welcome Minister Noel Treacy T.D., of the

Irish Department of Foreign Affairs, to the IIC in April.

The minister and his advisors toured IIC offices alongside David Barry, Consul General of Ireland, and Vice Consul Marianne Bolger.

IIC staff and board members gave a comprehensive presentation on our recent program accomplishments.

The minister applauded our work in New England's Irish community.

ESOL CLASSES COME TO THE IIC

We are delighted to be offering English for Speakers of Other Languages classes at the beginner and intermediate levels for the first time at the IIC. Our first classes commenced on May 1st.

Many immigrants are on long waiting lists for classes crucial to their ability to contribute fully to their new communities.

It's exciting for us to be

able to help immigrants in this effort now. IIC classes have filled up quickly and frequent inquiries about the program continue. We are clearly meeting a great need in the community.



Cahal Stephens, Mike O'Connor, Liz Walker, Arnold Hiatt, Sr. Lena Deevy, and Jim Brett.

2006 HONOREES

Arnold Hiatt
Social Justice Lifetime Achievement Award

Jim Brett
Corporate Leadership Award

Mike O'Connor
Culture Award

Gloria White-Hammond & Liz Walker
Humanitarian Award

SOLAS DINNER A GRAND SUCCESS

The annual Solas Awards Dinner on October 26 was one of the IIC's most memorable events.

We were proud to honor Arnold Hiatt, Liz Walker, Mike O'Connor, Jim Brett and Gloria White-Hammond, and even prouder to see so many IIC friends and supporters in one room!

More than 600 guests turned out to support the IIC and pay tribute to our outstanding honorees.

Adding to the energy of the night were CBS-4 Boston news anchor and Solas Master of Ceremonies Lisa Hughes, and Solas Chair Cahal Stephens, Chairman

and VP of Einhorn Yaffee Prescott Architecture & Engineering firm.

The Solas gala is the IIC's biggest event of the year and a major source of funds to support our programs and services year-round. This year's event was our most successful to date, raising nearly \$200k.



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