



# 2007 Highlights

*"There are no words that could possibly express my gratitude for what you have done for [my husband] and me. I wanted to say thank you from the bottom of my heart for helping us, without your help [my husband] wouldn't have the opportunity to come here and start a life full of love with me. Thanks again for all of your help. God bless!"*

-Thank-you note from a fiancé visa client

*"Thank you for graciously assisting us, especially when we were needing direction from someone who knew what to do!... With your greatly appreciated support, we have completed the application process, and the Green Card has been issued. We have been richly blessed to have your guidance and encouragement. With a big sigh of relief we also wish to help support your center in continuing the good work. May the Lord bless you abundantly and others through your work."*

- Client from the United Kingdom

## Immigration and Citizenship Services

In the past twelve months IIC addressed approximately **6,000** client inquiries about immigration and citizenship issues via appointments, legal clinics, phone consultations and queries.

**128** legal clinics were held in Allston, Dorchester, South Boston and downtown Boston.

Our staff attorney, immigration specialist and pro bono attorneys had more than **250** active cases and provided more than **500** consultations.

During this year's 2007 Diversity Visa Application period, our citizenship volunteer assisted **131** individuals from **20** different countries in filing their applications.

Our citizenship coordinator responded to **903** client inquiries and assisted **258** clients with the completion and filing of their applications for naturalization.

## ESOL and Citizenship Classes

ESOL classes ran for three semesters with classes held twice a week. **169** students enrolled in the year 2007. Students came from **26** different countries and spoke a variety of languages.

IIC initiated a pilot citizenship preparation class in April. It was so successful that a second course was held in September. About **20** students participated in the class.

## Community Counseling Services

CCS served **200** clients in 2007, with **80** of these being new clients and **60** being New Wellness Screening clients. CCS saw an average of **6-7** new clients a month.

CCS held a series of weekly education sessions from May through June educating clients about depression, suicide, substance abuse and the impact these issues have on their family members. Approximately **4-5** clients attended each session.

## Events

- **275** people attended the Allston-Brighton Taste of Ireland event in October.
- **250** people attended the Cape Cod Taste of Ireland event in February.

- **50** people attended the B.A.B.E. rally (a sponsored car race to benefit IIC) in May.
- **175** people attended the Black and Green event in Dorchester in March.
- Almost **70** people attended our Community Counseling Services' free Health Screening Event last April and November.
- Nearly **700** guests attended our successful Solas Dinner in November honoring Gerard and Marilyn Doherty, Msgr. Thomas McDonnell and IIC's pro bono attorneys.

## Media

IIC had the broadest media coverage in its history and continued to be sought after by local, national and international media. Participating media outlets included: The Irish Emigrant, Boston Irish Reporter, Boston Metro, Patriot Ledger, Allston-Brighton TAB, Dedham Times, The Pilot, Charlestown Patriot-Bridge, West Roxbury and Roslindale Transcript, South Boston Tribune, Roslindale Tribune, Hometown News, County Times and, in radio, WROL and Sound of Erin.

## Community Outreach

Our community organizer became involved in the Welcoming Massachusetts campaign, which aims to change the public perception of immigration and immigrants through education, outreach and public campaigns. IIC plans to collect **1,000** signatures from community members in support of the campaign. We collected the first **70** at our most recent Taste of Ireland event. The steering committee has grown to **50** community members since its inception and continues to increase in size.

Our organizer has a statewide role in the Ya Es Hora campaign. IIC has collaborated with at least **10** community organizations, including MIRA, SEIU 615, Centro Presente, Agencia Alpha and Centro Latino de Chelsea.

IIC ran an outreach research project and met with approximately **130** people in the Irish immigrant community via pubs, coffee shops, popular stores, etc. People were asked what kinds of services they needed from IIC. We received a great response and reported the results to the Irish Consulate.

## Walsh Visa Program

The program provided excellent service and constant support to over **20** Walsh Visa Program participants, through regular communication with the participants on a monthly basis and ongoing conflict resolution training programs.

The program successfully assisted participants with repatriation to Ireland and Northern Ireland. It also continued to track alumni progress and provide support for returned participants, particularly with their job searches.

The program ran **8** different trainings throughout the year for the Walsh Visa Program participants, including:

- Violence Prevention & Gang Issues in the United States
- Diversity workshop: "Same Space, Different Worlds"
- A trip to Artists for Humanity studio
- A communication skills workshop at the Improv Asylum
- A multi-cultural holiday celebration
- Celebrated Carnevale at Northeastern University with the Arab Student Association

Multiple Walsh Visa Program participants received "Employee of the Month" awards and promotions from their employers.

*"I know I can always depend on all the folks at the IIC..."*

*Let's continue to offer the participants an outstanding experience and work toward closing out the program with the same degree of excellence and professionalism that has earmarked this program for the past few years."*

-Program Manager Fred Welch of Northrop Grumman

*"This has been a life-changing experience in so many ways. I stayed in the same job the whole time that I was here and I am so glad that I stuck with it. I am so grateful to all parties involved for making this happen."* Justin Donnelly - Ballymena, Co. Antrim, N. Ireland  
(Justin returned home in October 2007 after completing his two years on the Walsh Visa Program)

## Wider Horizons Program

**49** participants were served, and nearly **40** employers and host families participated, in Wider Horizons programs in 2007.

The Tyrone-Donnegal group brought a group of **6** community leaders over for two weeks. These community leaders both mentored the participants and gained some hands-on experience at Boston-area organizations that fit their area of interest within community development. These organizations included: Freedom House, ROCA, Casserly House, South Boston Community Health Center, and Project RIGHT.

Many trainings were scheduled throughout 2007 for the Wider Horizons groups, including the following:

- A diversity workshop with Carole Copeland Thomas
- Community Development training led by Hyde Square Task Force
- "Islam in Today's World" training facilitated by the Islamic Society of Boston
- Visits to Plymouth Plantation's Wampanoag Homesite
- "Street Talk" training with Alex Gordillo, who shared stories about his work with at-risk teenagers in communities affected by gang violence

Many representatives came to Boston for monitoring visits throughout the year including program managers, FAS and DEL representatives, and board members from the different agencies. IIC staff held meetings with these representatives, and escorted them around the Boston area to meet host families and visit participant's work sites. In addition, a number of local colleges were visited in order to develop relationships for possible future partnerships in International Programs.

*"We were very pleased with both [participants] Estelle and Laura. They were the best interns that we have ever had, the hardest workers, and the most professional."*

-Host employer at Corcoran Jen-nison, Boston