

20

*International Institute of  
Metropolitan Detroit*

**ANNUAL  
IMPACT**

21

# ABOUT US

## *History*

The International Institute was founded as a movement in 1919 by Edith Terry Bremer. Ms. Bremer was involved in the Women's Trade Union League and the Settlement Movement. In collaboration with a group of YWCA, Ms. Bremer founded the first International Institute in New York City. IIMD, founded in 1919, was among 55 International Institutes located throughout urban areas across the U.S.

Throughout its history, IIMD has delivered uninterrupted services to new Americans throughout the greater metropolitan Detroit community.

## *Mission, Vision, & Values*

IIMD is a long-standing, Detroit-based nonprofit agency dedicated to transforming the lives of low-income immigrants and U.S. born Detroiters through innovative solutions leading to economic mobility.

This mission is guided by the following core values: 1. Service 2. Commitment 3. Inclusion and 4. Impact.

Services include: 1. Adult Education/Workforce Development/Occupational Training. 2. Legal Immigration. 3. Financial Coaching. 4. Job Coaching 5. Case Management/Income Support Services. 6. Community Development. 7. Entrepreneurship Training. and 8. Homeownership Guidance.

IIMD envisions a more equitable, inclusive and just society.



# COVID-19 PANDEMIC



## COVID-19 Update

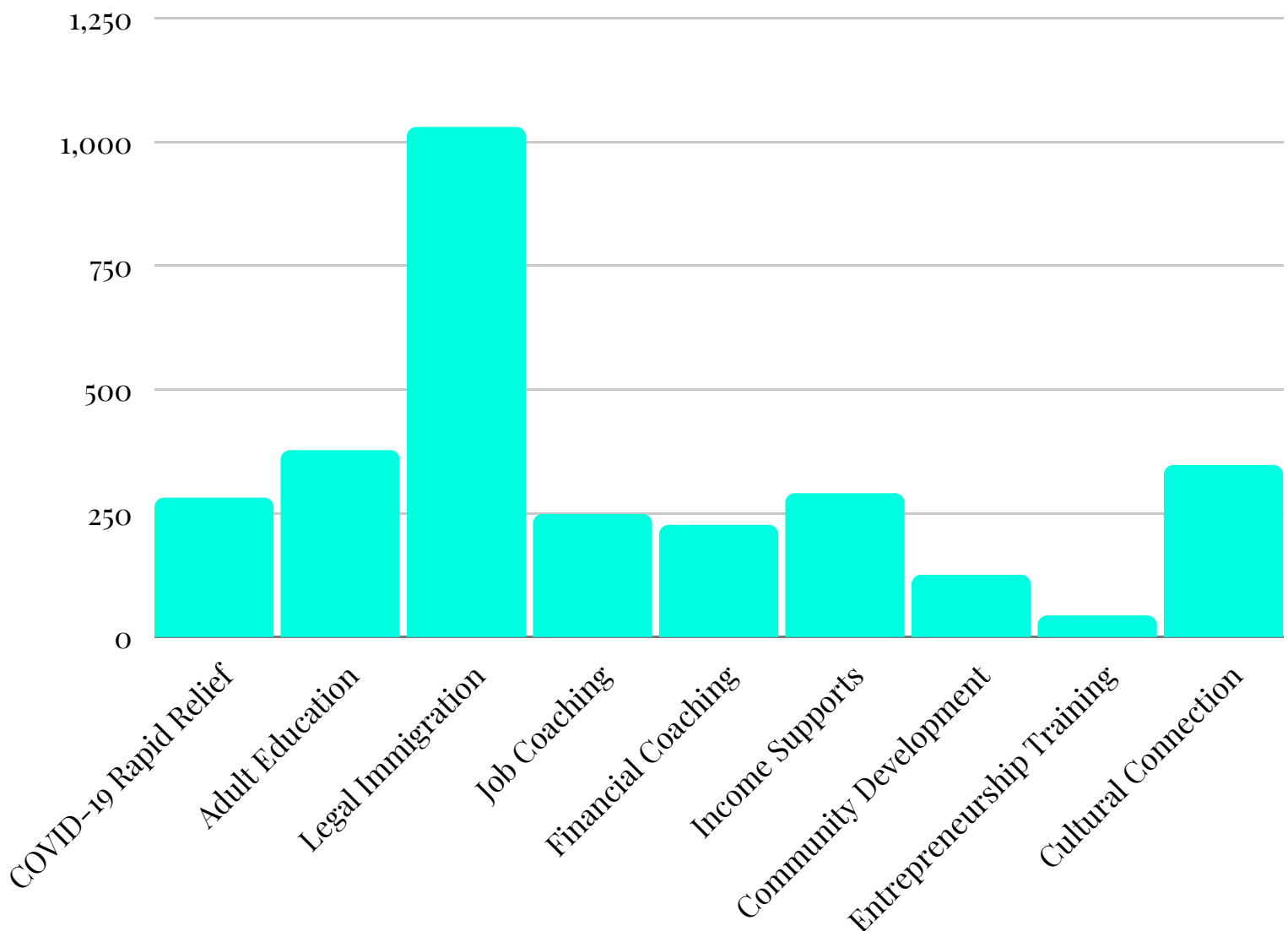
IIMD continues to abide by a multifaceted safety protocols to protect its staff and participants from COVID-19. This includes encouraging vaccinations, masks and social distancing measures.

Additionally, IIMD continues to assist immigrants and U.S. born residents throughout the continuation of the pandemic. This includes continuing its food program, delivering 280 food boxes to 280 families and providing income supports and job coaching to participants re-entering the workforce.



# 2020/2021 IMPACT

- COVID-19 Rapid Relief
- Adult Education/Workforce Development/Occupational Training
- Legal Immigration/Naturalization Assistance
- Job Coaching
- Financial Coaching
- Case Management/Income Support
- Community Development
- Entrepreneurship Training





## PROGRAM OUTCOMES

ADULT EDUCATION/WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT/OCCUPATIONAL TRAINING

*Client Testimonial: "I am Themila Muhandiramalage from Sri Lanka...Mr. Steven is the best English teacher in my life. The class helped me improve my grammar knowledge as well as my English speaking skills. Steven taught English lessons very simply so every student no matter what country they are from could understand...Steven is also a very kind hearted person. The classes and text books are free. I am grateful for all the support given by IIMD and my teacher Steven M Taillard."*

# PROGRAM OUTCOMES CONTINUED

## EDUCATION/WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT/ OCCUPATIONAL TRAINING CONTINUED

---

IIMD's Adult Education Program provides *free* integrated and contextualized education preparing participants for economic mobility and living wage employment.

Two segments are offered: Three levels of English as a Second Language classes [beginning, intermediate, and advanced] and Adult Basic Education. Courses are contextualized to workforce preparation and students are eligible to enroll in IIMD's occupational training in the high in-demand field of healthcare.

Students work with IIMD's Contextualized Integrated Education and Training [CIET] Manager, Alex Barton, who, upon successful completion of the program places them in employment and/or assists them with their career pathway goals, including advancing their careers through college and university enrollment.

In 2020, IIMD was awarded a grant from the State of Michigan, WIOA Title II Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education [IELCE] and in 2021 IIMD was awarded a the Contextualized Integrated Education and Training [CIET] grant through Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation [DESC].

The occupational training prepares students interested in the healthcare industry by offering CNA training in conjunction with IIMD's training partner, N.U.R.S.E.S. Upon successful completion of the program, the student receives the CNA credential through the State of Michigan and is eligible for living wage employment with one of IIMD's employer partners.

Since the beginning of the program, 25 students have enrolled and received CNA training, 23 have advanced grade levels, 23 successfully completed the course, 23 registered for CNA credential, and 8 have already been placed into living wage employment in the healthcare field.

# PROGRAM OUTCOMES CONTINUED

## Legal Immigration Services and Citizenship Instruction

Pictured below, a former student and client enrolled in IIMD's Citizenship Instruction and Application Assistance Program. Successfully completing the Citizenship Class, receiving naturalization application assistance, and passing the exam, she is now a naturalized U.S. citizen!



# PROGRAM OUTCOMES CONTINUED



## Legal Immigration Services and Citizenship Instruction Continued

Under the Citizenship and Assimilation Grant Program Citizenship Instruction and Naturalization Application Services, supported by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, IIMD provides naturalization application assistance and citizenship instruction to metropolitan Detroit's multi-ethnic Lawful Permanent Resident [LPR] communities.

In the year 2021, IIMD's Legal Immigration Department completed 202 Naturalization Applications. Of this, 170 successfully passed IIMD's Citizenship Instruction, and 106 became naturalized citizens.

Additionally, IIMD's Legal Immigration Department completed 689 application for the New Americans Campaign, conducted 718 1:1 meetings, 18 citizenship workshops, and 20 Naturalization Clinics.

Lastly, the legal immigration department submitted 248 of Family Reunification Petitions, 278 LPR Applications, and 186 DACA Applications

## Intern Highlight

Pictured left, Courtney Marsden, IIMD's Legal Immigration Intern, supervised by the Office Manager, Kaity Nicastrì, LMSW, is leaving us. Courtney is graduating with a Master of Social Work from the University of Michigan. She recently received the Presidential Management Fellowship with the federal government. We will miss her and are grateful for her insights in nonprofit organization and her awareness of DEI principles. Her deep commitment to service and respect for clients and staff stood out. While at IIMD, Courtney provided legal application support to Immigration Attorneys and DOJ Accredited Representatives, in part, assisting with a waiver for a client who will soon receive LPR status. We truly wish her the best!



# PROGRAM OUTCOMES CONTINUED

## OUTREACH/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

---

### Center for Working Families

IIMD's Center for Working Families framework, funded by United Way for Southeastern Michigan offers a unified approach to providing critical services, including: Job Coaching, Financial Coaching, and Income Supports. In FY 2020/2021, IIMD's CWF team assisted 348 participants in obtaining living-wage, sustainable employment, 123 increase their FICO credit scores, and connected 289 of participants to valuable income support services and state benefits.

### Kauffman FastTrac Entrepreneurial Training

In partnership with the City of Detroit Mayoral Office of Immigrant Affairs and Economic Inclusion, IIMD's Business Director/Financial Coach, Rodney Benifield, offers an immersive Entrepreneurial Leadership Training, providing information, tools, and best practices to immigrants and and U.S. born Detroit residents with an entrepreneurial vision.

The classes are offered in January and September. Since beginning the program, 20 participants have successfully completed the program. Of this, 80% have begun the process of opening their own business.

### Redistricting Commission

In December 2020, IIMD was awarded funding from the Michigan Nonprofit Association for its engagement and outreach to Detroit's immigrant communities. Since beginning the program, IIMD has organized, convened and facilitated 28 of community of interest engagement sessions, obtaining and providing feedback from community members to the redistricting commission.



## PROGRAM OUTCOMES CONTINUED

### Child Tax Credit [CTC]

In partnership with United Way for Southeastern Michigan, Community Development Advocates of Detroit, and the UM Poverty Solutions, IIMD engaged over 2500 of individuals in the Warrendale and Banglatown Communities. Of this, 75% received funding through the Child Tax Credit.

### Homeownership Education

In partnership with LISC, IIMD's Financial Opportunity Center will offer homeownership classes to immigrants and refugees in the Warrendale community. The classes aim to provide affordable and stable housing to low-income individuals. The classes are offered in January and September. 44 individuals completed Homeownership Program last year.

### Warrendale Community Integration Project

In partnership with the Islamic Center of Detroit, the Warrendale Community and The Kresge Foundation, IIMD and ICD brought Warrendale's diverse residents together to create a community development plan that would improve the quality of life for all residents. In completing the program, IIMD and ICD held 8 community wide meetings, 100 1:1 meetings, facilitated 12 internal stakeholder meetings, created a comprehensive community development plan and released a report. If interested, you can review the report on our website: <https://www.iimd.org>.

# STAFF LIST

---

- Alex Barton, Career Coach/Workforce Development
- Donna Beaurdgard, Immigration Attorney
- Rodney Benifield, Business Manager/Financial Coach
- Claude Bond, Operations Manager
- Barbra Brooks, Receptionist
- Barbra Burns, Receptionist
- Dannielle Chahbani, Paralegal, Legal Immigration
- Nada Dalgamouni, Cultural Connection Consultant
- Yumana Dubaisi, Director Legal Immigration  
Department/Supervising Attorney
- Ron Eng, IT and Support Volunteer
- Justine Flores, Citizenship Instructor
- Juilette Holden, Evening Manager
- Floyd Howard, Facilities Manager
- Kaity Nicastri, DOJ Accredited  
Representative/Immigration Office Manager
- Nene Tesija-Pocedic, DOJ Accredited Representative
- Gena Porter, Foundational Skills Instructor
- Anne Roth, Director of Grants Administration
- Robert Sullivan, Jr., Corp. Counsel
- Steven Taillard, Lead Instructor/ESL Coordinator
- Samer Zadoyan, CWF Coordinator
- Wojciech Zolnowski, Executive Director

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Dr. Phyllis Noda,  
President
- Reginald A. Pacis, Vice  
President
- Dr. Linda Leddick,  
Secretary
- Hadi Daia, D.D.S.,  
Member
- Wei-Chein [Sharon Dow,  
Member
- Nidhal Hakim, Member
- Ronland Hwang, Member
- Charles Moore, CPA
- Reverend Sahara Russel,  
Member

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## Revenue

Grants	\$699,627
Individual Donations	\$25,792
Membership Fees	\$27,038
Special Events	\$6,775.0
Rentals	\$136,436
Dividends	\$2,848
Total	\$898,516

## Expenses

Salaries	\$494,595
Taxes & Benefits	\$40,978
Health Insurance	\$30,141
Utilities	\$36,984
Building Maintenance	\$47,482
Supplies	\$15,872
Marketing	\$343.00
Membership Dues	\$10,719
Independent Contractors	\$29,057
Programs	\$59,821
Events	\$3,900
Insurance	\$14,358
Miscellaneous	\$17,937
Depreciation	\$11,227
Total	\$813,414

# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

As IIMD celebrates over 100 years of service, we look back at our achievements and look towards a future where immigrants and refugees are valued and integrated into the fabric of our society. As IIMD's Executive Director, it is a great honor to serve Detroit's most vulnerable by providing essential services necessary to lift individuals and families out of poverty, leading to economic mobility.

This goal could not be achieved without the dedication of our founders, Edith Terry Bremer and the YWCA. Built on fundamentals of inclusion and service, Ms. Bremer and the YWCA welcomed thousands of immigrants and refugees, providing vital programs such as legal immigration, job readiness, and English as a Second language classes.

Although IIMD's programs have transitioned throughout time to meet the ongoing needs, these services remain at the core of IIMD's work. Additionally, the values of inclusion, service, commitment and integrity also remain part of IIMD's mission and have helped impact over 1.5 million individuals throughout its decades of service.

# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

IIMD's success would not be possible if it were not for the individuals and families that seek our services each day. I am privileged to serve in my role and deeply humbled by their perseverance, courage, and resilience.

Furthermore, IIMD could not exist without its board of directors, who so freely donate their time, money, and expertise, ensuring the agency has the resources and support needed to continue its services.

IIMD also could not operate without the dedication, knowledge, expertise and authentic compassion of its hardworking staff.

IIMD's staff work tirelessly to ensure participants obtain the education, training and legal status necessary to fully become integrated citizens.

Lastly, I would like to thank IIMD's community partners, volunteers, and funding agencies for helping us achieve our vision of creating a more inclusive, equitable and just society.

Sincerely,

Wojciech Zolnowski