

WASHINGTON IMMIGRANT SOLIDARITY NETWORK

2024 Annual Report

A Year of
**Resilience,
Pride, and
Gratitude**



WASHINGTON IMMIGRANT
**SOLIDARITY
NETWORK**

www.waisn.org

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LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

By the time you have this report in front of you we will be at the frontlines responding to a mass deportation agenda that has only fueled more violence, pain, and division in this country.

Immigrants and refugees have long been at the crosshairs of cruel and racist attacks on our humanity, from across the political spectrum. But as a network, we refuse to give in to despair — instead we choose to channel that pain and anger into collective action because we know that while we might be tired, angry or hurting, as a community, we are never alone.

Together, we can create a world where immigrants, refugees, Indigenous folks and people of color will not only survive, but thrive. And we know that to undo this harm, it will take more than just one individual or organization. It requires a multi-ethnic, multi-race, multi-faith, queer and trans collective of love to fight back and win.

That is what WAISN is. It's the north star that's guided us to this point, and what will carry us long into the future.

2024 has been a critical year for WAISN to deepen our relationships and solidarity with each other. Whether it's been by coming together for our annual Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Day in Olympia to champion an intersectional policy agenda,

to convening the network for the first time since 2019 to set a collective agenda for our movement for the next 5 years, we've refused to lead from a place of fear.

We have been loud and proud at every event in our community from Pasco to Seattle, to Toppenish and Olympia. We have grown the impact of our deportation defense infrastructure by reuniting more families through our Fair Fight Bond Fund, accompanying more community members to their hearings and immigration appointments, reactivating Rapid Response teams in preparation for the year ahead and increasing the capacity of our Hotline with full time organizers.

Every year our movement has grown stronger, and 2024 was no exception!

Our commitment as WAISN is to always work to do better and be better, grounded in our values of joy, care, integrity, and solidarity across differences and accountability.

We are honored to be leading this network and grateful to be organizing alongside all of you.

With gratitude,
Brenda and Catalina

ABOUT

WAISN is the *largest*
immigrant justice network
in Washington.

We are community-centered, which means engaging with impacted communities is critical to our process. We seek input from the communities we serve, from the early planning stages of our programming to the execution of our work. Our volunteer-driven network is in 27 counties and provides support, capacity, and opportunities to local power-building efforts through resources from the private, nonprofit, government, and philanthropic sectors.

OUR MISSION

WAISN convenes and cultivates a statewide transnational solidarity coalition to protect and advance the power and rights of all immigrant and refugee communities. As a queer and transgender-founded and led nonprofit, we organize from a place of abundance and commit to intersectional, multifaith, intergenerational, multilingual, multiracial, and multiethnic immigrant-led efforts by investing in base building and growing the leadership of forced migrants.

OUR PURPOSE

- Growing Organizations & Grassroots Capacity Statewide
- Monitoring & Responding to Reported Violations of Constitutional Rights and Civil Liberties
- Leadership Development of Directly Impacted Communities
- Organizing Resources & Services to Empower the Movement

CORE VALUES

- Accountability
- Integrity
- Solidarity Across Differences
- Care
- Joy

PROGRAMS

We are building a world where **all Washingtonians regardless of immigration status** have full political and economic rights and access to the resources we need to thrive.

Our core initiatives respond directly to the field needs we uncover through WAISN's Deportation Defense Hotline and our work with organizational members, partners, and impacted communities.

DEPORTATION DEFENSE

"Deportation defense" represents our intentional reclamation of language typically confined to legal contexts. We have purposefully expanded this concept to honor the knowledge and resistance strategies that exist beyond traditional legal frameworks, reflecting our commitment to community-centered approaches.

At WAISN, deportation defense is a cross-team effort, in coordination with coalition partners, for the safety and well-being of immigrants in the face of harmful immigration enforcement.

4 PILLARS OF DEPORTATION DEFENSE



Deportation Defense Hotline

Rapid Response



Fair Fight Bond Fund

Accompaniment





Deportation Defense Hotline

The WAISN Deportation Defense Hotline has been a critical lifeline for immigrant and refugee communities across Washington since 2017.

It's the only statewide hotline dedicated to serving all Washingtonians regardless of immigration status. With bilingual operators and interpretation services available in nearly 300 languages, the Hotline operates twelve hours a day, five days a week.

We received **5,115 CALLS** from **2,587** community members,



we expanded our team

FROM 2 TO 5

organizers,

& we assisted **815** community members, from 29 counties.



Rapid Response

2024 was a year of rebuilding. We launched 8 new Rapid Response teams and reactivated others, ending the year with teams across Washington state: Benton/Franklin, Chelan, Douglas, King, Pacific, Skagit, Snohomish, Walla Walla, Yakima.

WAISN's Rapid Response network supports the human rights, civil liberties, and constitutional rights of immigrant families and all Washingtonians.

We also aid in building immigrant power and resilience by sharing information about our rights before, during, and after immigration activity.

We hosted community clinics and trainings that reached **OVER 1,950** community members...



= 100 community members

450+ community members from 12 rapid response trainings

300+ community members from 13 *know your rights* trainings

1200+ community members from 3 Legal Clinics providing *know your rights* information



Fair Fight Bond Fund

The Fair Fight Bond Fund is the only community-sourced immigration bond fund based in Washington State and the Pacific Northwest that supports the release of people from immigration detention, to reunite them with their families and allow them to pursue their immigration cases outside of detention. This increases their chances of a successful outcome in their case.

Because of the Fair Fight Bond Fund, individuals who faced unjust detention can now live with dignity and pursue their cases with the support they need.



Accompaniment

The WAISN Accompaniment Program ensures no one has to attend legal or administrative appointments alone.




By training volunteers to accompany immigrants to legal and administrative appointments, we provide emotional support and document any violations to immigrant's due process and civil and constitutional liberties.

This visible solidarity also demonstrates to judges, ICE officers, and other officials that our communities stand united against unjust deportations.

••• We paid a total of **\$133,500** in bonds, resulting in the release of **17 INDIVIDUALS**



These individuals: •••••

-  *Represented 13 countries*
-  *Spoke 12 different languages*
-  *Resided in 7 states: WA, OR, OH, CO, IN, CA, TX*

••• We supported **18 INDIVIDUALS**

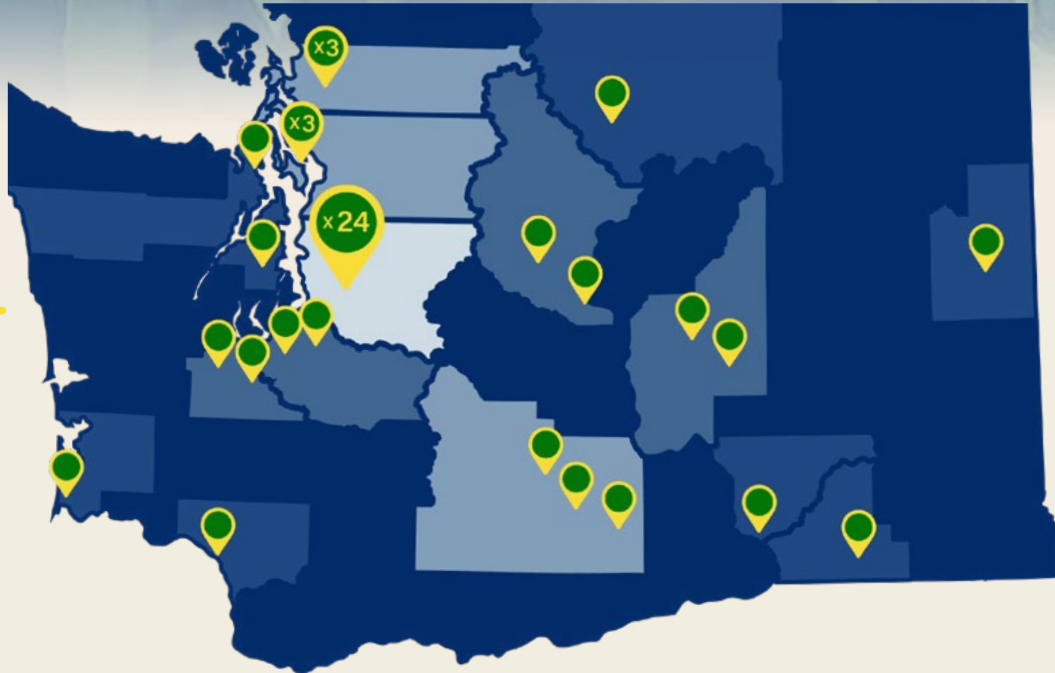


and distributed **200+ BROCHURES** in **4 LANGUAGES:** •••••

- English
- Spanish
- French
- Portuguese



MEMBERSHIP & COMMUNITY RESOURCES



19 COUNTIES WITH MEMBERS

- = county has 1 network member
- = county has 2 network members
- = county has 3 network members
- = county has 4+ network members

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AIDNW 2. Amigos de Seattle 3. APIC SPS 4. Asian Counseling and Referral Service 5. Association of Manufactured Home Owners 6. CAIR Washington 7. Casa Latina 8. Central WA Legal Aid 9. Central Washington Justice for Our Neighbors 10. Colectiva Legal del Pueblo 11. Comunidades Sin Fronteras WA 12. Empower Next Generations 13. Ethiopian Community in Seattle (ECS) 14. Faith Action Network (FAN) 15. Firelands Workers United/Trabajadores Unidos 16. Immigration/Race Justice Group 17. Indivisible Skagit | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 18. Jefferson County Immigrant Rights Advocates 19. Jewish Coalition for Immigrant Justice NW 20. Kitsap Immigrant Assistance Center 21. Korean Community Service Center 22. Latino Center for Health 23. Latino Community Fund of Washington State 24. Latino Educational Training Institute - LETI 25. Latinos en Spokane 26. MULTI-SERVICE CENTER 27. Northwest Immigrant Rights Project 28. Nuestra Casa 29. OneAmerica 30. Pacific County Immigrant Support 31. Para Los Niños de Highline 32. People of Color Community Coalition 33. Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates 34. Poder Latinx | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 35. Rescue Mission and Prayer Network International (REMAP INT'L) 36. Room One 37. Scholar Fund 38. Seattle Indivisible / Indivisible Seattle 39. Skagit Valley Navigators / Las navegadoras 40. Somali Health Board 41. The Church Council of Greater Seattle 42. Timberland Legal Aid 43. Unidos Nueva Alianza Foundation 44. WAISN - (Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network) 45. Washington Defender Association 46. Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO 47. Washington West African Center 48. Wenatchee for Immigrant Justice (WIJ) / La Red de Justicia Para Inmigrantes de Wenatchee 49. Yakima Immigrant Response Network |
|---|--|---|



We added
57 NEW RESOURCES to our directory of
1,300+ RESOURCES
available in all 39 Washington counties



2024 Membership Convening

Our statewide, paid membership network of 55+ organizations and community groups in Washington centers and amplifies the leadership and decision-making power of immigrant and refugee-led, directly-impacted community partners, including transgender and queer immigrants, in the movement for immigrant justice. Beyond our formal membership, WAISN is in relationship with an ecosystem of 400 organizations.

WAISN Resource Finder

We created our Resource Finder to respond to COVID-19 and the lack of a centralized database with resources vetted for accessibility to immigrant community members in Washington State.

Our evidence-driven Resource Finder is an example of the network of care that transcends borders and bureaucracy.

Each entry in our database contains detailed information about ID requirements, language accessibility, and how immigration status might impact access to the resource.

As the most comprehensive database of its kind in Washington, WAISN hotline operators, service providers, and

government agencies can directly access the information about a resource that matters most to immigrants.

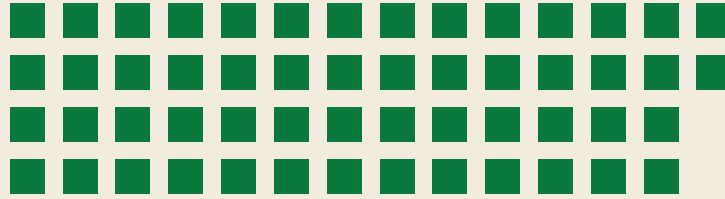
2024 Membership Convening

In 2024, WAISN member organizations from 19 Washington counties gathered for three days on Yakima Nation land to deepen strategic planning and identify organizing priorities for the next five years.

We bridged our power-building with healing justice by experiencing indigenous-led community accu-detox sessions and celebrating with Yakima Nation dancers, West-African drumming, and a drag show.

OUR LANGUAGE JUSTICE INITIATIVES HAVE INVOLVED:

54 MEETINGS WITH INTERPRETATION



LANGUAGES REQUESTED FOR TRANSLATION:

- KOREAN
- UKRAINIAN
- PORTUGUESE
- FRENCH

LANGUAGES REQUESTED FOR INTERPRETATION:

- SPANISH
- ENGLISH
- WOLOF
- MAM
- PORTUGUESE

Language Justice

At WAISN, we envision a broad movement led by and made up of immigrants of all languages and backgrounds. Language justice recognizes that our liberation is tied to each other and that we all need language justice to communicate, connect, and build people power for our collective freedom.

In 2024, we worked towards this vision by integrating language justice values into our membership structure, staffing, organizing strategy, budgeting, and day-to-day operations. Our membership offers access to interpretation equipment free of cost and a variety of language justice training catered to each organization's specific needs.

ORGANIC SOCIAL MEDIA VIEWS:

Facebook:

300,396

Instagram:

120,002



296 MEDIA HITS

» 1,873.33% INCREASE
from 2023

Digital Organizing

Our digital efforts made a significant difference by expanding WAISN's reach and mobilizing supporters. Through engaging posts, calls to action, and educational content on Facebook and Instagram, we informed the public, activated community participation, and raised awareness about immigrant rights.

This led to more people taking action in campaigns, petitions, and virtual events.

Communities benefited from enhanced visibility and empowerment, particularly historically and currently oppressed groups like immigrant women and LGBTQIA+ individuals, whose voices were elevated through our platforms.

By showcasing their experiences, we created a more inclusive movement and strengthened solidarity among supporters.

We bridged the gap between online and offline activism, helping to build a more connected, informed, and resilient community committed to immigrant justice and collective action.

Media Relations & Communications

Through WAISN's media relations, press statements, and coordinated interviews, the organization garnered hundreds of news stories from across Washington state and several national outlets.

WAISN spokespeople appeared on local radio, broadcast TV, podcasts, and local print and online stories in both English and Spanish discussing a range of WAISN's work, including WAISN's policy priorities, Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Day, and the Deportation Defense Hotline, reaching hundreds of thousands of immigrants and allies.

By showing up in the media on our own terms, we are reclaiming the narratives about our communities, rooted in dignity and resilience. We are actively shaping how we are represented, and are ensuring our voices are heard in the dialogue on immigrant justice.



Washington State Standard

'Work of passion:' How Catalina Velasquez's life led her to immigrant rights advocacy

The Standard spoke to Velasquez about being one of the few trans, queer people leading the immigrant rights movement in Washington.

BY: GRACE DENG - APRIL 1, 2024 2:19 PM



Powering Action Through Email

In 2024, WAISN's email program was a powerful tool for mobilization, fundraising, and deepening trust with our communities. Over the course of the year, WAISN sent more than 1.9 million emails: delivering urgent actions, critical policy updates, and sharing important community resources to our multilingual, multiracial network. As a result, thousands engaged with our content, from taking action on important policy proposals for immigrants and refugees during the WA legislative session, to accessing needed resources.

Top performing emails (listed by headings) uplifted:

- Critical healthcare access for immigrants
- Policy wins
- WAISN media hits

1.9 MILLION EMAILS SENT



\$4,500+ RAISED

➤ 3X END-OF-YEAR DONATIONS FROM 2023



PROMOTED

24 COMMUNITY EVENTS

INCLUDING MEETINGS, TRAININGS, AND WEBINARS

Where Values Become Practice

WAISN's People Operations & Finance (POpF) team supports all departments through event and logistical planning support, being a critical connective piece in bringing together over 1,000 community members through our events.

We continue to practice and operationalize our core values of Solidarity Across Difference, Care, and Joy, by providing comprehensive support across departments to make organizing spaces more intentional, accessible, and safe. In creating an internal culture that is in alignment with our values and frameworks, we rolled out:

- Menstrual Leave Policy
- Mental Health Days
- Learning & reflection spaces
- Professional Development & Wellness Fund

IN EVERY COMMUNITY EVENT WE HOST, WE OFFER:



LACTATION ROOMS



CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE FOOD



GENDER NEUTRAL BATHROOMS



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



PRAYER SPACES



SOMATIC PRACTICES



LANGUAGE JUSTICE SUPPORT

POLICY & ADVOCACY

At WAISN, our Policy & Advocacy work is centered on our mission of supporting and building the rights and dignity of immigrants and refugees in Washington.

Our Policy Platform outlines the priorities of our communities and our network, and reflects our commitment to intersectional, multifaith, intergenerational, multi-lingual, multiracial, multiethnic, immigrant-led organizing from a place of abundance.

In 2024, we secured funding for vital programs that will expand healthcare access, we provided life-saving support for newly arriving migrants, moved forward our goal of providing wage replacement for ALL workers in Washington, and so much more!



Wage Replacement Campaign



Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Day (IRAD)



Steering Committee Convening



Artivism Nights



Wage Replacement for Excluded Workers Campaign

Immigrant workers are essential and deserve real support. We're advocating to ensure they are never left behind. The Wage Replacement for Excluded Workers campaign seeks to promote a bill to provide unemployment insurance benefits to immigrant workers in Washington.

Our Impact:



1,500 LETTERS

ISSUED TO OUR NETWORK



113 CALLS

ISSUED TO LEGISLATORS



72 SIGN-ONS

GARNERED FROM ORGANIZATIONS



\$100K ADDED

IN SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET FOR EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT WORK GROUP



Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Day

On Wednesday, February 7th, 2024, we brought together over 450 immigrants and refugees in Olympia to advocate for Health Equity and Wage Replacement campaigns for our immigrant and refugee communities. IRAD gives immigrants the opportunity to engage with their peers from across the state, and continue learning through collective organizing. IRAD 2024 was the largest advocacy day in WAISN's history!

Our Impact:



BROUGHT TOGETHER
**450+ IMMIGRANTS
AND REFUGEES**



PARTICIPANTS ATTENDED
**81 MEETINGS WITH
STATE ELECTED
OFFICIALS**



ATTENDEES JOINED
US FROM
**38 OUT OF 39
STATE LEGISLATIVE
DISTRICTS**



PROVIDED INTERPRETATION IN
**ENGLISH, MAM,
PORTUGUESE, AND
SPANISH**





Steering Committee Convening

The WAISN Steering Committee is composed of 11 active member organizations from across Washington that help shape our policy priorities, inform our programs, and ensure our work remains rooted in the needs of directly impacted communities.

On August 13th, we convened our Steering Committee members in person to review and vote on our policy priorities for the legislative session. In addition to setting WAISN's 2025-2026 policy platform, the Convening was also an opportunity to strengthen relationships, strategize how we will achieve victories for our immigrant justice campaigns, and engage in scenario planning.

Our Impact:



BROUGHT TOGETHER

REPRESENTATIVES FROM 11 ORGANIZATIONS:

- Entre Hermanos
- One America
- Northwest Immigrant Rights Project
- Church Council of Greater Seattle
- Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-WA)
- WA State Labor Council AFL-CIO
- Casa Latina
- WA West African Center
- Para Los Niños de Highline
- Korean Community Service Center
- Kitsap Immigrant Assistance Center





Artivism Nights

In support of IRAD 2025, WAISN also held multiple artivism nights. Artivism nights allowed individuals to meet with members of their local communities, bond over their shared passion for advocating for themselves and their communities, and express their hopes, dreams, grief, and fears about the issues that they care about through art.

Our Impact:



4 EVENTS
ACROSS THE STATE



REACHED NEARLY
400 PEOPLE

Secondary and Tertiary Policy Platform

HB 1889 passed in the legislature : *Professional Licenses for Washington's Immigrants*

- Updates our state laws so that all Washingtonians can receive professional licenses and certifications regardless of immigration or citizenship status

HB 1541 passed in the legislature : *Nothing About Us Without Us*

- Increases access and representation in policy-making by requiring legislative task forces, work groups, and advisory committees for issues affecting underrepresented populations, to include at least three people with direct lived experience on that issue

HB 1228 passed in the legislature : *Dual & Tribal Language Education*

- Will establish and expand dual language and tribal language education programs in schools

\$350K included in the budget : *Deferred Action for Workers*

- Funding will go towards legal services, training, outreach, and education to immigrant workers who are victims of labor violations

Support for Newly Arrived Migrants

HB 2368 passed in the legislature

- Officially designates DSHS ORIA as the agency that coordinates statewide support to immigrants and refugees and clarifies the authority of the agency to administer services to immigrants ineligible for federally funded services

\$33.7M included in budget

- **\$25.2M** for housing assistance, food, transportation, childhood education services, education and employment supports, connection to legal services, and social services navigation
- **\$7.5M** to Department of Commerce for grants to King County and the City of Tukwila for transitional and long-term housing support
- **\$1M** for community & technical colleges to expand existing educational programming for refugees and immigrants

COMMUNITY EVENTS & AWARDS



January 19, 2024

**LGBTQ Task Force
Creating Change 2024**

New Orleans, LA

June 2, 2024

Tri-Cities Pride

*Peanuts Park,
Pasco, WA*

June 29, 2024

Seattle Pride March

*Downtown
Seattle, WA*

May 4-5, 2024

Cinco De Mayo

*Peanuts Park,
Pasco, WA*

June 2024

Trans Pride

*Volunteer Park,
Seattle, WA*



October 2024

**Philanthropy
Northwest Conference**

Missoula, MT



July 13, 2024

**Netroots Nation
Conference 2024**

*Baltimore Convention
Center, Baltimore, MA*

October 28, 2024

**Mobilizing
Philanthropy
Shifting Power**

Detroit, MI

Always there for *each other!*

Training and Education

WAISN reached hundreds of community members at over 20 events, centered around Know Your Rights, Rapid Response, advocacy, and accompaniment. Our team also participated in Trans Pride, the Seattle Pride March, the annual Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence Conference, the SEIU 775 Leadership Conference, the Philanthropy Northwest Conference, and Netroots Nation.

Creating Change Immigration Award 2024

The Creating Change Immigration Award is organized and presented by The National LGBTQ+ Task Force. This award signifies Outstanding LGBTQ Leadership on behalf of immigrant rights.

Awarded to Catalina Velasquez

“

We will only achieve our liberation by building solidarity across our identities, histories, and differences. By organizing at the state and local level, celebrating diverse leadership, and owning our collective responsibility to care for one another. Immigrants and queer and trans people have been at the forefront of our most important social justice fights for generations...May we all be guided by kindness and empathy for each other as we continue to build intersectional resistance in moments where a loud few continue to choose hate.

Together I am certain we will win because LOVE always WINS.

”

Catalina Velasquez,
Creating Change
Immigration Award



Our fund development efforts brought us...

OVER
\$340,000
IN DONATIONS

... **\$30,000+** ...
from businesses

... **\$85,000+** ...
from individuals

... **\$225,000+** ...
from foundations



GRANTMAKING & FUND DEVELOPMENT

In 2024, WAISN experienced meaningful growth in its grantmaking and fund development capacity, marking a key step in strengthening our long-term sustainability. This year, we expanded our team to include a Donor Program Manager, deepening our ability to steward relationships and ensuring that our fundraising practices reflect the love, hope, and collective care that define our work. With this expanded capacity, WAISN invested in planning, community outreach, and values-aligned infrastructure to support the launch of our love- and hope-rooted initiative: the Thriving Communities Giving Program.

Starting in early 2025, the Thriving Communities Giving Program (formerly known as the Thriving Communities Donor Program) is an educational and resource-mobilizing journey that centers on belonging, solidarity, and informed action. Through this program, participants will develop a deeper understanding of immigrant justice and the conditions impacting our communities across Washington. They will step into leadership as resource mobilizers by giving a meaningful gift and fundraising within their networks. Leaders in this program are defined not by titles, but by commitment: the commitment to mobilizing resources, sharpening power analysis, and participating in a long-term collective strategy to build a future where immigrant and refugee communities can thrive and live fully.



I give to WAISN because it is an immigrant-led organization dedicated to protecting the rights and well-being of immigrants and refugees in Washington State. WAISN not only helps immigrants find resources with its resource finder and hotline, it helps with them with bonds, it protects immigrants through its accompaniment and rapid response programs, and it is a leader in developing and advocating for state policies that protect the rights and wellbeing of immigrants. And it does all these things with such *grace and positivity* that it leaves me in awe of the people who make up WAISN!"

- WAISN Donor

CLOSING

WAISN'S STORY IN 2024 WAS ONE OF RESILIENCE, PRIDE, AND GRATITUDE.

And it is only the beginning. Our communities are facing escalating threats, but also seizing unprecedented opportunities to advance immigrant justice statewide. This moment requires more community building, resources, and people taking action. Washington cannot afford to slow down: our Deportation Defense programs are expanding, our statewide membership is growing, and our advocacy campaigns are breaking ground on issues once thought impossible. In 2024, we witnessed historic participation at Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Day, deepened cross-sector coalitions to advance wage replacement for excluded workers, expanded

programs that meet the urgent needs of newly arrived migrants, and made health care accessible for many. The momentum of our movement is undeniable—we can only grow from here.

The future of Washington's immigrant justice movement is being built right now, by all of us. WAISN is fueled by members, donors, and allies who believe in a Washington where all families belong and are safe. Together, we are proving that solidarity across differences is not only possible: It is powerful. As we write into this next chapter, we invite you to continue walking with us: to organize, to advocate, to sustain, and to give. Every hotline call answered, every family reunited, every policy win, and every act of care proves that another Washington is possible—and we will build it, side by side.

MORE WAYS TO GET INVOLVED:

- [Become a member](#)
- [Support WAISN with a donation](#)
- [Donate to our Fair Fight Bond Fund](#)
- [Explore and share our Know Your Rights resources](#)
- [Become an accompaniment volunteer](#)
- [Join a Rapid Response Team](#)

Contact us at info@waisn.org or [visit our website at waisn.org](http://waisn.org)