



CENTRO LEGAL DE LA RAZA ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14

*Opening doors...  
to a brighter future*



**CENTRO LEGAL DE LA RAZA**  
KEEPING IMMIGRANTS' DREAMS ALIVE SINCE 1969



# Opening doors... so our communities can thrive



At Centro Legal de la Raza, we are passionate about providing high-quality legal and college access services to the East Bay's most vulnerable communities. Our staff is driven by compassion and actively listens to our clients to truly understand their needs. As our client Dorothee recently told us, *"After getting legal help, I felt like I had a voice. And my voice was heard."* Dorothee's words summarize the sentiment of so many of the individuals who seek our services. They tell us that being heard and understood is often just as powerful as obtaining a successful legal outcome.

We believe that our clients have every right to fulfill their dreams and to build a strong foundation for their families. Through our services, we help make the pathway to citizenship, access to a legal rights education, and economic stability a reality—all of which are essential for any community to thrive. We cannot do this work alone. We hope that as you read these pages, you will be inspired to help us continue to open doors to a brighter future for some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

# *Opening doors... to stable housing*



The challenge to secure stable and healthy housing can make all the difference for a low-income family trying to make ends meet. Last year, 585 low-income tenants living in the East Bay came to Centro Legal facing a wide range of challenges that threatened their housing stability, including unsafe living conditions, unjust evictions, and illegal rent increases. 94% of clients who sought legal representation for eviction-related cases were successful in preventing evictions and maintaining stable housing. Through our work, we were able to help Clara, a pregnant

woman scared of losing her home, defeat an eviction case brought by a new owner after the house she rented was foreclosed upon by the bank. Additionally, Centro Legal is currently the only legal services organization that represents tenants in administrative hearings before the City of Oakland's Rent Adjustment Program. Thanks to these services, we have successfully fought against hundreds of illegal rent increases and evictions and allowed numerous families to stay in their homes.



# *Opening doors... so immigrants can move out of the shadows*



Arturo and his wife Claudia both came to the Bay Area at a very young age. Today, they have two young sons who are citizens. Despite growing up in the Bay Area, this couple lives in constant fear of deportation and separation from their children. Lack of lawful status has prevented Arturo and Claudia from securing a stable life. Arturo was assaulted at gunpoint a few years ago while buying diapers for his sons, sustaining serious injuries. While attending one of our know-your-rights presentations, Arturo learned that as a victim of violent crime cooperating with law enforcement, he and Claudia were eligible to apply for legal status. For the first time in their lives, Claudia and Arturo are living without fear.

Arturo and Claudia are like so many of our clients, who come to the U.S. seeking a better way of life. Without access to the correct information, many immigrants suffer in silence for years, unaware of their rights. In the last year, we empowered 1,575 immigrants to move out of the shadows with legal rights education and assistance. We provided legal representation to 489 individuals and their families, helping them to avoid deportation and obtain lawful status. Our immigration attorneys helped 54 people become citizens and represented 32 youth in obtaining deferred action status.





photo: Joel Aguiar

## *Opening doors... to fair employment*

Safe and fair work conditions are essential for any community to thrive. Unfortunately, many low-income individuals and families are facing discrimination and retaliation in the workplace, such as wrongful terminations. Other workers need to recover wages stolen by their employers, through minimum wage violations and other kinds of wage theft. In the past year, Centro Legal educated 910 workers about their workplace rights. 330 of these workers received more intensive services including individual consultations with an attorney, assistance with wage claims, and full representation for lawsuits against unscrupulous employers. Thanks to our services, \$172,644 in stolen wages was recovered and returned to workers.

## *Opening doors... so our youth can achieve their dreams*







Since 2005, Centro Legal's Youth Law Academy has been breaking down the barriers that prevent the East Bay's low-income youth of color from graduating high school and attending college. Accessing a higher education can make a world of difference for our youth and help them move out of poverty. The YLA is an intensive seven-year program, spanning high school through college that develops leadership and academic skills. These skills are not only designed to aid them in the classroom, but are also critical in all areas of life so our students can

achieve their dreams. Since the program's inception, 100% of YLA students have successfully graduated from high school and eleven are college graduates. 97% of our students are the first in their family to attend college. As one of our youth recently said, "I can't believe that I went from having nothing—not even speaking English—to being on my high school debate team and getting into UC Berkeley. Thanks to Centro Legal, I know I can achieve my dreams."









## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION - JUNE 30, 2014\*

### Assets







Cash	\$556,201	
Grants & Contract Receivables	\$125,323	
Prepaid Expenses	\$13,760	
Fixed Assets	\$3,373	
Other Assets	\$3,070	
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$701,727</b>	

### Liabilities & Equity






Net Assets Unrestricted	\$509,368	
Net Assets Restricted	\$135,261	
Other Liabilities	\$28,550	
Accrued Vacations	\$22,314	
Accounts Payable	\$6,235	
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	<b>\$701,727</b>	


## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2014\*

### Revenue

Grants & Contract Support	\$752,766	
Cy Pres Funds	\$304,232	
Donations	\$106,607	
Annual Gala	\$94,459	
Fees & Miscellaneous Income	\$88,412	
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,346,477</b>	

### Expense

Salaries & Wages	\$585,306	
Non-personnel Costs	\$279,431	
Contracted Services	\$120,363	
Benefits & Payroll Taxes	\$92,966	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,078,067</b>	

<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$268,410</b>	
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\* Unaudited financials. Audited financial statements are available upon request.

*Centro Legal gratefully acknowledges the individuals, law firms, corporations, and foundations who have contributed major gifts to our work from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014:*

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Anonymous, on behalf of Los Insubordinados  
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\*Sustainer (monthly, quarterly or annual donations)

For a complete listing of all of our generous individual, law firm, corporation, foundation, and government supporters from the past year, please visit: [www.centrolegal.org/support-us](http://www.centrolegal.org/support-us)

Please contact us at (510) 437-1554 ext.127 to notify us of any modifications. We are grateful for the opportunity to update our records.

*Thanks to your ongoing support, Centro Legal continues to open doors that change lives.*



*Centro Legal de la Raza's mission is to protect and to advance the rights of low-income, immigrant, and Latino communities through bilingual legal representation, education, and advocacy. By combining quality legal services with know-your-rights education and youth development, we promote access to justice for thousands of individuals and families throughout Northern California.*



## CENTRO LEGAL DE LA RAZA STAFF

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*Special thanks to Brian Wolff for the photography featured throughout this report and Joel Aguiar for the portrait on page 4. Design by Michael Huang.*

*This report is available online at [www.centrolegal.org/about-us/annualreport](http://www.centrolegal.org/about-us/annualreport)*