

Our Mission and Core Values

The Galveston-Houston Immigrant Representation Project (GHIRP) is a team of dedicated lawyers and legal professionals committed to ensuring that every immigrant has access to high-quality, compassionate, and comprehensive legal representation.

Since our founding in 2020, GHIRP's mission has remained straightforward: to build a resilient and diverse community by providing holistic legal support and zealous advocacy for immigrants across the Galveston-Houston area.

Our work is grounded in the belief that every immigrant deserves a voice in their legal process. We affirm that safety and autonomy are essential for each person to reach their full potential, and we know that diverse and inclusive communities make us all stronger.



Our Commitment to Immigrant Justice

For five years, GHIRP has stood on the front lines of immigrant justice, defending the rights of thousands of children, families, and individuals navigating one of the most challenging legal systems in the world.

We have seen firsthand the transformative power of effective legal representation. When immigrants are represented, they are empowered to build safer and more stable futures for themselves, their loved ones, and society as a whole.

Our commitment extends far beyond the courtroom. We strive to amplify the voices of immigrants, provide education and mental health resources, and foster a culture of belonging and resilience. In an era of shifting immigration policies and rising enforcement, our mission has never been more necessary. Legal advocates are an essential line of defense for due process, human dignity, and the pursuit of justice.

Message from Our Executive Director

Dear GHIRP family, friends, and fellow immigrant advocates,

This year marks five years of GHIRP. Five years of standing with courage and compassion for immigrant communities across the Galveston-Houston region. What began around a dining room table has evolved into a movement driven by your trust, partnership, and conviction that every immigrant deserves dignity and protection.

In 2020, Liz, Vanessa, and I founded GHIRP with a vision to provide limitless advocacy for all immigrants in need. Our ideas and a handful of cases have grown into an organization of **42 fierce advocates** — attorneys, DOJ-accredited representatives, paralegals, social workers, and support staff — serving immigrants and families seeking safety and stability. This year, **GHIRP** served **2,765 immigrants** in the community and **filed 1,959 applications on behalf of our clients.**

We are living in a historic moment where aggressive policies and the weaponization of bureaucracy are stripping vulnerable children and families of their sense of safety and unity. GHIRP has witnessed children placed on "rocket dockets," parents detained in predawn raids, and families forced to make unthinkable choices.

Human rights and due process violations are escalating at an alarming rate. Immigration authorities are detaining people in record numbers while eliminating the right to be released from detention. Individuals attending immigration court hearings are being arrested in courthouses despite following the rules. Detained children were awoken in the middle of the night on a holiday weekend in an attempt to unlawfully deport them in violation of child protective laws. At a time when legal representation is needed most, the administration is defunding lawyers and shutting down access to free legal information.

Despite all of this, our clients' determination and resilience continue to drive our passion for zealous advocacy. GHIRP is responding by relentlessly fighting for our clients and litigating to uphold immigrant rights and the rule of law.

We are not alone. There is incredible hope in the rising resistance. The community — lawyers, teachers, doctors, social workers, elected leaders, and even neighbors — are standing up for immigrant children and families. Every time we choose compassion over complacency, I know that immigrant rights will persevere.

As we look ahead, we remain steadfast in our mission. **Protecting immigrant children and families is not a partisan issue; it is a human one.** Together, we will continue to advocate for justice, amplify the voices of immigrants, and build a future rooted in dignity and inclusion.

To our supporters, partners, families, and friends, thank you. Every dollar donated, every hour volunteered, every word of encouragement helps us move closer to the promise of justice for all.

We couldn't do it without you. Thank you for standing with us!

Chiqui Sanchez Kennedy Executive Director

Transforming Lives through Advocacy

Since 2020, GHIRP has protected children, defended family unity, and ensured due process through advocacy, education, and zealous legal representation.

From Know Your Rights (KYR) sessions and courtroom victories to local and national collaborations, our team has used every tool and resource available to break barriers to justice and advance dignity, safety, and inclusion for immigrants across the Galveston-Houston region, and beyond.

Behind the numbers are real stories of courage, resilience, and the pursuit of big dreams. As we enter our next chapter, we remain steadfast in our mission to open doors and opportunities for the most vulnerable in our community.

Our Reach and Growth

During 2024-2025, GHIRP represented clients from more than 60 countries around the world.





65 Countries Represented

Afghanistan, Angola, Argentina, Bahamas, Belgium, Belize, Bermuda, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burma, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Jamaica, Liberia, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Syria, Togo, Ukraine, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela, Vietnam, Zambia.

2024-2025 Numbers at a Glance

661 NEW CLIENTS (946% INCREASE FROM 23-24) 42 STAFF MEMBERS

APPLICATIONS FILED ON BEHALF OF OUR CLIENTS (\$81% INCREASE FROM 23-24)

2,765 CLIENTS SERVED 52,400+119

ADULTS IN DETENTION RECEIVED LEGAL REPRESENTATION (\$18% INCREASE FROM 23-24) CHILDREN AND YOUTH RECEIVED DIRECT LEGAL REPRESENTATION (♀31% INCREASE FROM 23-24)

PEOPLE APPLIED FOR U.S. CITIZENSHIP WITH OUR HELP (\$467% INCREASE FROM 23-24)

1,775 KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AND CONSULTATIONS PROVIDED

GALVESTON

269 PARTICIPANTS RECEIVED KYRs (全66% INCREASE FROM 23-24)

182 CLIENTS REPRESENTED (全168% INCREASE FROM 23-24)

HOUSTON

535 CONSULTATIONS PROVIDED (全41% INCREASE FROM 23-24)

190 CLIENTS REPRESENTED (全61% INCREASE FROM 23-24)

FRIEND OF COURT

UNREPRESENTED INDIVIDUALS

RECEIVED COURT ASSISTANCE
(\$113% INCREASE FROM 23-24)

A Brush of Hope

"Lucía's" Journey to Safety and Belonging (Client name changed to protect identity)

Lucía's Early Struggles

Lucía was just a child when her mother had to flee Central America to seek safety in the United States. Placed in the care of her father, she should have been protected and nurtured, but instead, she was left vulnerable to harm. Starting at a very young age, Lucia's father often took her to work with him, where an older man began to hurt and threaten her. Despite Lucía's desperate pleas for help, her father did nothing to intervene.

After continued threats, Lucia went to live with her aunt in a different city, hoping she would finally find safety. On the contrary, Lucía faced new and unimaginable hardships. Her caretakers abused her, refused to feed her, and neglected her basic needs. Her cousins physically beat her, and each day became a battle to survive.

By the time Lucía fled to reunite with her mother, she had endured years of neglect, abuse, and fear. Yet despite everything, she carried with her a quiet strength and an unshakable belief that her life could still change.



905
Detained children gained access to KYR education and legal screenings

Client's story covered on CNN

207
Children were connected to Social Services (\$62% increase from 23-24)





The Power of Holistic Legal Representation During Uncertain Times

GHIRP began to represent Lucía shortly after she arrived, assisting her in seeking protection in the U.S. Lucía's asylum interview was scheduled during a time of deep uncertainty for GHIRP. Federal funding for our Immigrant Children & Youth (ICY) Program had just been terminated, threatening our ability to represent unaccompanied children like Lucia.

Even so, our team refused to turn away our clients. With limited resources, GHIRP staff prepared Lucía's asylum case, determined that her story would be heard.

While staff worked long hours under enormous strain, GHIRP's interdisciplinary team ensured Lucía received trauma-informed care, consistent communication, and legal preparation for her asylum interview. Lucía bravely testified at her asylum interview, with her attorney, Abby, by her side. She was finally granted asylum, which protects her indefinitely from being deported to the harms she fled.

This **SUCCESS** is more than a legal victory; it's proof of what holistic legal representation makes **POSSIBLE**.

"Lucía's case was one of the most challenging I've assisted on due to the sensitive nature of her story," shares Enzo, a GHIRP Supervising Paralegal. "Our team was facing an uncertain future due to funding and staffing changes, but after meeting her, I was determined to help ensure she had a fair chance. Her win, during one of the most difficult times in immigration law, reminds me how necessary our work is. I am proud of our client and our team for accomplishing this."

Healing Through Art and Hope

Beyond legal representation, GHIRP's holistic approach helped Lucía begin healing. When asked if she needed any social services, her only request was for help finding art classes near her new home. Art became her way of expressing resilience and hope, and she even gifted paintings to her legal team, each one brighter than the last.

Today, Lucía is thriving in school and continues to use her creativity to tell her story and inspire others. Her journey represents the heart of GHIRP's mission: that every immigrant deserves safety, dignity, and the chance to dream again.

A Message from Our Client

"Adrian" (Client name changed to protect identity)
2 months in detention (2022)
2+ years seeking safety
1 life changed = Asylum granted (2025)

My name is Adrian. I am a 23-year-old with big dreams and goals. Growing up in Venezuela was extremely difficult. From a young age, I learned that survival took strength and determination. But the danger and persecution I faced eventually made it impossible to stay. To protect my life, I made the hardest decision: to leave everything behind.

Reaching the United States was not easy at all. I crossed the border near Tijuana, Mexico, in 2022 and was immediately detained. I remained in custody for nearly two months before being released in mid-December. I was then able to travel to Houston, where I hoped to finally find safety.

At the time, the fear did not go away. Not knowing whether I could stay in a place where I finally felt safe created constant anxiety. Everything changed when I connected with GHIRP, my incredible attorney, Liz Hoefer, and Sara Aguila (paralegal). For the first time, I felt seen and supported. They took my asylum case when others could not, and helped me access basic needs and education. They stood by me through every step, with respect and humanity.

Today, I am grateful. Grateful to God, to my legal team, and to every person who contributed to this victory. Now, I can look forward to a future where I am safe, a future where I can pursue an education, work hard, and achieve the goals I have carried with me since childhood.

To me, justice means peace — the peace that comes from being heard, protected, and treated with dignity. My message to others is: "Never lose HOPE. Even when life feels impossible, trust that change for the better is always possible. I am living proof."

141

Matters for Detained
Clients: requests,
filings, and applications

for relief (全10% increase from 23-24)

Never lose **HOPE**.

Even when life feels impossible, trust that change for the better is always possible. I am living proof.

6

Five Years of Justice, One Unstoppable Community



2020

2021

2022

Chiqui Sanchez Kennedy, along with colleagues Liz Hoefer and Vanessa Perez, **founded GHIRP** with a vision to provide high-quality legal services to immigrants in the Galveston-Houston area.

For the first few months, GHIRP operated with minimal funding, working from Chiqui's dining room table and later from an office provided by her uncle at Foreman, DeGeurin, and DeGeurin while awaiting 501(c) (3) status.

In January, GHIRP's application for 501(c)(3) status was approved, enabling our small team to apply for funding and secure our future growth.

GHIRP received seed funding to provide Know Your Rights (KYR) presentations in Galveston at St. Vincent's House and to operate the HILSC Immigrants' Rights Hotline.

GHIRP opened the **Houston office** with a team of five staff members, providing free legal services to immigrants, including survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, and individuals facing deportation.

Our Immigrant Children & Youth (ICY) Program grew tremendously, serving over 600 children in GHIRP's inaugural year.

GHIRP's legal team increased from 9 to 18 staff members, including social services coordinators connecting our clients to resources in the community.

We solidified new partners and funders to support our "Universal Representation" model of legal services, representing individuals on a first-come, first-served basis for detained adults and unaccompanied minors.

The Department of Justice approved GHIRP's status as a recognized organization enabling us to provide representation through trained accredited representatives.



2023

2024

2025

GHIRP opened a **fully staffed office in Galveston**, finally giving a permanent home to our services on the Island to comprehensively respond to the community needs.

We joined a program with partner organizations to represent individuals who are eligible for US citizenship.

GHIRP's Federal Litigation Program took wings, representing immigrants in federal courts to protect due process rights such as wrongful deportations and unlawful, prolonged detention.

GHIRP expanded the Immigrant Children & Youth (ICY) Program by providing services to a second Houston-area facility for detained unaccompanied children aged 6-17 years old.

GHIRP brought in its 4th year with a team of 38 bilingual employees, all working together to provide holistic legal services to our clients.

We launched and expanded community facing programs such as Friend of Court (similar to an attorney-of-the-day court program) and walk-in clinics — programs that are now critical for informing people in the community about their rights and legal options.

GHIRP's Federal Litigation and Detained Adult Programs achieved a significant victory by securing the release of "Ana," a transgender client who experienced mistreatment, wrongful deportation, and discrimination while in detention. Our team supported her at every step of the way, and she ultimately won her case in 2025!

GHIRP marks its **5th anniversary**, releasing the 2024–2025 Impact Report, highlighting key successes, powerful client stories, and the measurable difference made in the community. All of this was achieved during unprecedented challenges, which only strengthened our commitment to immigrant justice.

GHIRP has relentlessly advocated to protect due process and access to legal representation and information. As an organizational plaintiff, GHIRP joined nationwide lawsuits challenging the abrupt termination of legal programs funding lawyers for unaccompanied children and detained adults deemed mentally incompetent.

With continued growth and resilience, GHIRP remains a leading voice in immigrant advocacy, standing firm in its mission to ensure justice, dignity, and representation for all immigrants in need.

Community Engagement & Outreach

Our team at GHIRP believes that access to justice begins with access to knowledge. Over the past five years, GHIRP has hosted Know Your Rights (KYR) presentations, free consultations, and legal clinics throughout the Galveston-Houston area, reaching thousands of individuals and families. GHIRP proudly collaborates with schools, medical institutions, shelters, faith communities, and local government offices. This collaborative approach ensures that immigrants can access trusted legal information and resources where they live, learn, and work. We invite you to join us in this important work. Your support and partnership are crucial in our mission. Together, we're planting the seeds of empowerment, connection, and hope.

GHIRP in the Media

In 2024-2025, GHIRP's advocacy and client-centered work reached broader audiences through local, national, and international media. From breaking updates on harmful immigration enforcement actions to success stories uplifting the strength of immigrants in our community, news outlets turned to GHIRP for expertise and frontline perspectives. Our work was featured across a diverse range of digital, print, and broadcast platforms, ensuring that immigrant voices and urgent issues remain at the center of public conversations about justice and due process.



Your Support Makes It Possible

This year brought exceptional hardships which continue to challenge the organization's stability. When funding for GHIRP's largest program was abruptly terminated, it was the unwavering support of our community — through individual contributions, donations, and grants — that allowed our team to remain by our clients' side. These unrestricted dollars enabled us to meet the urgent needs of our clients, including the youngest among them, while also upholding our ethical duties as lawyers.

No matter the size, donations like yours ensure that our team responds to immigrants walking through our doors seeking help. With your support, GHIRP represents asylum seekers, children and youth, and survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, and other violent crimes who might otherwise face the system alone.

In a year marked by extreme uncertainty, our community of supporters shone brighter than ever before. **Individual contributions tripled**, and our **monthly donors doubled**, proving that compassion multiplies in times of challenge.

By becoming a recurring donor, you help build a foundation for lasting impact. Your ongoing commitment sustains our legal services, extends our reach, and ensures that immigrant children, families, and individuals receive the protection and dignity they deserve.

BECOME A

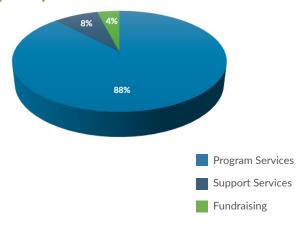
Financial Overview

Revenue: Sources of Funding \$4,672,372*



*Note: Certain funds are restricted into the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.

Operating Expenses \$3,921,662



Looking Ahead: Vision for the Future

At GHIRP, we are approaching the next five years with determination and hope. We envision a future where immigrants have access to free, high-quality representation, due process rights are protected, and immigrant safety is a right rather than a luxury. GHIRP's legal team will lead the community in making this vision a reality. We will zealously represent immigrant clients in the face of harsh laws and policies, expand walk-in services, and increase litigation efforts to protect fundamental rights. Stand with us to make transformative and lasting change so that our diverse community can thrive.

The Festival Promises Everything You Love and More

Mark your calendars! **GHIRP's 5th Anniversary Spring Festival Fundraiser** is set for Saturday, April 25, 2026, from 12:00 to 4:00 PM at Dan Electro's, Houston's historic live music venue.

After our last unforgettable event, where our community came together to raise an impressive \$60,000 in support of immigrant justice, we're back, bigger, bolder, and ready to make an even greater impact! Your past contributions have been essential to our journey, and we can't wait to see what we'll achieve together in the next one.



Live music, delicious cuisine, and the signature GHIRP-aritas



Games, raffles, and family fun for all ages



A community spirit that uplifts, inspires, and unites

Every ticket, every raffle, and every sponsorship directly fuels GHIRP's mission, helping immigrants find safety, dignity, and hope through access to free, high-quality legal representation.

Whether you join us as a guest, sponsor, or donor, your support ensures that GHIRP continues standing strong for immigrant justice across the Galveston-Houston area.

Let's make this milestone celebration one for the books. Get your tickets, become a sponsor, or make a donation today.

BECOME A SPONSOR TODAY!



= Every \$1,500 donation helps GHIRP represent an immigrant facing deportation.



Spring Festival Fundraiser

CELEBRATE 5 YEARS OF IMPACT - SUPPORT IMMIGRANT JUSTICE!

Dan Electro's 1031 E 24th St, Houston, TX 77009 713-561-3059 | info@ghirp.org

GHIRP.org

SATURDAY APRIL 25, 2026 12-4 PM

EXPERIENCE THE FESTIVAL

Delicious multi-cultural cuisine
Refreshing beverages
Live music & entertainment
Games for all ages
Kids' activities & crafts
Exciting raffle prizes... and so much more!

全TICKETS 金

VIP: \$100 Adult: \$35 Kid: \$10

2 & Under: FREE 4-Pack Tickets: \$120

Sponsorship Opportunites Available





BUY TICKETS OR DONATE

Your support helps GHIRP provide free legal services to immigrants in need.

12 GHIRP.org

Join the Movement

Here are a few meaningful ways you can stay involved and help GHIRP continue building a more just and compassionate community:

Donate this #GivingTuesday

GivingTuesday is a global movement that inspires people everywhere to give, collaborate, and celebrate kindness.

Join us to unleash the power of **generosity**, whether by donating, volunteering, or using your voice to uplift immigrant families.

Every act of kindness counts, from making someone smile, to helping a neighbor, to standing up for justice. Together, we can build the better world we all want to live in.



Support GHIRP's mission and wear your values proudly!

This December, our **GHIRP merch collection** returns, featuring shirts, totes, and mugs that give back. Every purchase directly supports immigrant families and ensures access to free, high-quality legal representation.



Stay Connected and Spread the Word

Become part of our growing community of advocates! Subscribe to our **newsletter** and follow GHIRP on **Facebook**, **Instagram**, and **LinkedIn** to stay updated on:

- Campaigns like #WelcomeWithDignity and #NationalHispanicHeritageMonth
- Client success stories, events, and calls to action
- The latest news and policy updates impacting immigrant families



Your **ENGAGEMENT** helps amplify immigrant voices and expands GHIRP's reach.

f o in Every SHARE, LIKE, and POST makes a difference.

The Power of Pro Bono Advocacy

In these times when immigrant communities face escalating enforcement measures and threats to due process, the need for dedicated legal advocates has never been greater. For five years, our impact has grown thanks to the tenacious partnership of law firms and pro bono attorneys who volunteer their time, expertise, and compassion to defend immigrants across Galveston and Houston.

This year, we leaned on our pro bono partners to meet the increased needs of the community. Pro bono attorneys appeared in court on behalf of vulnerable clients and joined us in conducting free consultations during our walk-in clinics. These remarkable attorneys stepped forward to represent clients at no cost. Simply put, they enable GHIRP to expand our reach in the community. Guided by GHIRP's training, mentorship, and trauma-informed approach, their commitment ensures that children, families, and survivors of violence do not have to face a judge alone.

Thank you to our pro bono partners who joined us this year in the fight for human dignity. Your skills and time have changed the trajectory of many lives.

Q&A Pro Bono Attorney: Diana Martinez, Associate, Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP

Why did you choose to volunteer with GHIRP?

I chose to volunteer with GHIRP because their mission to advocate for vulnerable immigrants in the community aligns with my personal values. As a Houstonian and a child of immigrants, it is important for me to give back to the immigrants of Houston. I continue to volunteer with GHIRP because their strong guidance and legal expertise allows me to better serve my pro bono clients.

Can you tell us more about your experience?

I worked on my first Special Immigrant Juvenile case through GHIRP, representing a mother and her two young daughters. Helping them navigate the court system, secure a favorable ruling, and move a step closer to legal status was truly rewarding.

What does immigrant justice mean to you?

To me, immigrant justice means having a fair and reasonable chance to secure legal status and safety. It also means being treated with human dignity in the process.

Why is pro bono representation important?

I believe it's an attorney's duty to do pro bono work, and it is important now more than ever given the heightened harsh and complex conditions that immigrants face across the world. In times when the rule of law and human rights are under threat, as they are now, it is critical to do one's part in ensuring immigrant justice is upheld.



L4 GHIRP.org

Sign up for GHIRP email updates!







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GHIRP.org

MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD MEMBERS

"As proud board members of GHIRP, we remain steadfast in our support of its mission to uphold the dignity and rights of immigrants, especially in this time marked by growing fear and anti-immigrant sentiment. GHIRP's work remains more vital than ever.

GHIRP embodies the belief that due process, human dignity, and the rule of law are not simply ideals, but are foundational principles necessary for maintaining just and thriving communities across this country. These principles must be continuously defended so they are not eroded by changing political agendas. With the help of its deeply compassionate and accomplished staff, GHIRP continues to provide holistic legal and social services that protect and empower immigrant families.

The Board is inspired by the resilience of the individuals GHIRP serves and employs, and by the measurable, lasting impact it continues to make. Being part of this work is a privilege. We invite others to demonstrate their resolve in these efforts by joining us in supporting GHIRP and helping to build a future where every voice is heard, every community is valued, and every person has the opportunity to thrive—ensuring a more just, equitable, and united nation for all."

- Board of Directors

Dalia Castillo-Granados, Billy Roberts, Alfredo R. Gutierrez, Monica Ortiz Holtkamp, Emma Doineau, Kelley Hodge<mark>s</mark>

THANK YOU TO OUR GHIRP COMMUNITY

As we celebrate five incredible years of immigrant advocacy, we pause to honor every person who has made this journey possible.

To our **dedicated staff**, whose passion, resilience, and kindness make justice possible every single day, thank you for showing up with heart and integrity, even in the most difficult moments.

To our **board of directors**, for your leadership and commitment to GHIRP's vision, your guidance has turned ideas into action and dreams into lasting impact.

To our **clients**, who inspire us with your courage and perseverance, your stories of strength remind us why this work is so important. We are deeply grateful for the trust you place in us and for allowing us to be part of your journey.

To our partners, funders, and volunteers, thank you for supporting in our mission and investing in justice, safety, and dignity for immigrants across Galveston and Houston. Your collaboration has transformed challenges into opportunities and compassion into tangible, positive change.

From all of us at GHIRP, thank you for standing firm with us, for believing in our work, and for helping us shape the future of immigrant justice.