

A section of the community mural created by Galveston artists Rachel Rogers, Chula Ross Sánchez, and Kamila Szczesna during GHIRP Fest 2025.

GHIRP
Galveston-Houston Immigrant Representation Project

IMPACT REPORT 2025-2026

Lighting the Way

DEFENDING DIGNITY AND DUE PROCESS

Since 2020, GHIRP has worked to ensure immigrants have equal access to due process. No year has tested this mission more than FYE 2026.

What we saw in FYE 2026—and what continues to be the reality—is the most calculated, coordinated attack on immigrants' rights in modern U.S. history. ICE, now in coordination with local police, is arresting, detaining, and deporting immigrant families more rapidly and violently than ever before. In an unprecedented dismantling of due process, the administration has expanded its attacks to target access to representation and legal services. The government has defunded legal services for children and detained adults, leaving organizations like GHIRP with significant budget shortfalls. Children have borne the brunt of this campaign, increasingly left to face detention and deportation proceedings without a parent, a sponsor, or a lawyer by their side.

Yet in the face of unprecedented challenges, we have responded in the spirit that has always defined us, one of zealous hope and tireless resolve. In FYE 2026, we represented 1,180 new and existing clients and empowered 1,852 immigrants in the community with legal information and guidance. We went to court to hold the government accountable at every turn—winning the release of clients held in violation of their constitutional rights, forcing the return of clients who were unlawfully deported, and joining nationwide lawsuits to help restore legal services funding for detained populations.

Since 2020, our promise has been simple: no immigrant should face the system alone. Every release we won, every family we reunited, and every child who walked into court with a lawyer by their side was made possible by supporters like you. The attacks on due process are not slowing down, and neither are we. Thank you for standing up for immigrant rights and helping us protect access to justice.

> *"If defending due process makes us radicals, we'll wear that label with pride. Fairness and justice are what the rule of law requires."*

Chiqui Sanchez Kennedy
Executive Director & Co-Founder

YEAR AT A GLANCE

Impact that lights the way

GHIRP
Galveston-Houston Immigrant Representation Project

CLIENTS SERVED FOR NEW AND EXISTING CLIENTS (COMBINED)

1,180

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS & CONSULTATIONS PROVIDED

955

COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES

PRO SE ASSISTANCE

253

FRIEND OF COURT PARTICIPANTS

897

NEW CLIENTS REPRESENTED

DETAINED ADULTS

79

UNACCOMPANIED IMMIGRANT CHILDREN AND YOUTH

542

DEFENDING DIGNITY AND DUE PROCESS

Programs and services that transform lives

GENERAL IMMIGRATION PROGRAM

Providing client-centered legal representation to immigrants seeking family unity, freedom from abuse and persecution, protection from deportation, and citizenship.

IMMIGRANT CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAM

Protecting children and youth through trauma-informed legal representation, advocacy, and support.

SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, HUMAN TRAFFICKING & OTHER CRIMES

Representing immigrant survivors of domestic violence, crimes, and human trafficking to help them find safety, independence, and stability.

DETAINED ADULT PROGRAM

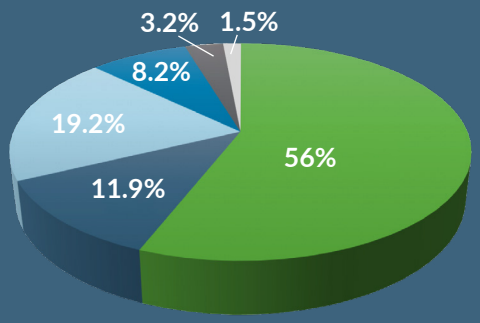
Defending the rights and freedom of immigrants facing detention and deportation.

FEDERAL LITIGATION PROGRAM

Representing immigrants in federal court to protect fundamental rights.

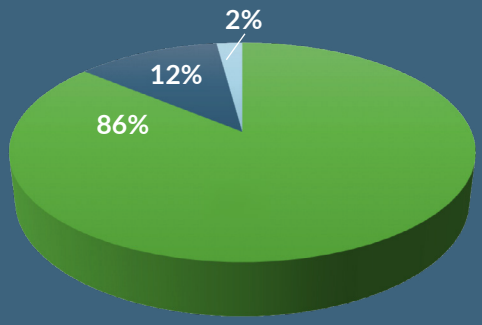
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Fueling the work forward



REVENUE TOTAL: $4,896,678

- National Organization Funding
- Government Grants, State and Local
- Foundation Contributions and Grants
- Individual Contributions
- Special Events Income
- Interest and Other Income



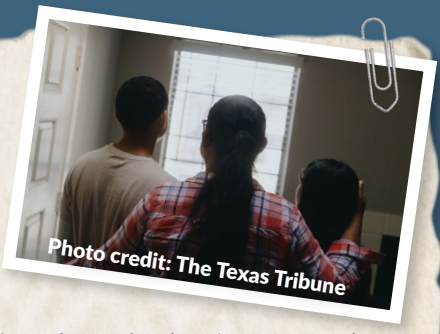
EXPENSES TOTAL: $4,523,232

- Program Services
- Support Services
- Fundraising

IMPACT STORIES
Your support changes lives

Soraya y Martin*

Immigrant Children & Youth Program


Photo credit: The Texas Tribune

For years, the Hernandez* family was subjected to extensive violence in their home country of Honduras—enduring abduction, torture, and continued attacks despite repeated efforts to escape. Desperate and terrified, Soraya (8) and Martin (12), decided to seek refuge in the U.S. with their parents. The family was denied entry and returned to Mexico, where a cartel kidnapped and held the children for ransom. Soraya and Martin managed to escape and returned to the U.S. border, this time alone, in hopes of reuniting with their Aunt Claudia, who was like a mother to them. Instead, they were apprehended by immigration officials and placed in a Houston-area detention facility, where they met the GHIRP team.

Aunt Claudia immediately came forward to start the reunification process and get Soraya and Martin out of detention—previously a straightforward process that took 1-3 months. She cooperated extensively with the government and provided all the evidence they needed to show that she was both willing and able to care for her young niece and nephew, including proof that she had lawfully entered the U.S. Despite the absence of any red flags, and against the recommendation of an independent child advocacy group, the government delayed reunification for nearly a year without explanation. During this time, Soraya and Martin became desperate and depressed. A GHIRP attorney intervened and requested that the government reunify the family, noting that the children's mental health was suffering greatly. However, the Department of Homeland Security came to Claudia's home, where they handcuffed her and transferred her to a detention facility hours away. This immediately halted the reunification process. Soraya and Martin were devastated.

GHIRP recruited a pro bono attorney to represent Aunt Claudia in ICE detention, who successfully obtained her release on bond, and continued to assist the two children in their immigration court proceedings. Managing attorney Alexa Sendukas filed a petition for habeas corpus in federal district court seeking the children's immediate release to their aunt. By that time, they had been detained for 380 days.

A federal judge granted Soraya and Martin's habeas petition and ordered the government to release the children to their aunt that same day. While they are happy to be with Aunt Claudia, their case is not over yet. GHIRP is continuing to assist them in fighting for protection in the United States.

Did you know? The reunification of unaccompanied children is under the purview of the Department of Health and Human Services, through its Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). Though the Department of Homeland Security has no authority over reunification cases, they now use lies and manipulation to lure parents into ICE custody, ultimately with the goal of arresting them. GHIRP has worked with many parents of unaccompanied children who were targeted after they came forward to sponsor their kids out of ORR custody, and we continue to represent young children being held in government shelters for prolonged periods despite having parents in the United States fighting to get them out.

Names changed to protect client privacy



Farid*

General Immigration Program

Farid is a former Afghan National Police officer who sought safety in the U.S. after the Taliban took over the government. While living in Afghanistan, the Taliban targeted Farid because of his work advocating for a democratic government, his anti-terrorism efforts, and his ethnicity. Farid was forced into hiding for over two years before he was able to flee Afghanistan.

GHIRP began representing Farid in immigration court shortly after his arrival. GHIRP's team helped him seek protection by preparing his asylum case, testimony, and evidence in immigration court. Farid bravely told his story to a judge with trauma-informed support and dedicated legal representation.

In 2025, Farid was granted asylum. Today, he is living safely in the U.S. and working with GHIRP to reunite with his wife and children, who are currently in Afghanistan.

> *"The services and support I received from GHIRP were more than just legal assistance. They listened to me with patience, respect, and compassion, answered my questions, and guided me through one of the most stressful and difficult times of my life."*
>
> — *Farid, GHIRP Client*

THANK YOU

This work is only possible because of a community that believes in justice and stands with us.

FOUNDATIONS & INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORTERS

For supporting us through the years, helping us protect immigrant children and families.

CORPORATE & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

For standing with us as we work for a more just and welcoming future.

PRO BONO PARTNERS & VOLUNTEERS

For your time, talent, and dedication which strengthen our mission every day.

INDIVIDUAL & RECURRING DONORS

For believing in our work and making justice possible.

Lighting the Way



"At one of the most difficult moments for our immigrant communities, GHIRP continues to defend dignity and due process."

— The GHIRP Team

SAVE DUE PROCESS

Your support fuels free legal services, protection, and hope for immigrants.

MONTHLY GIVING

Sustained support helps us plan ahead and respond quickly to urgent needs.

DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS

Recommend a grant to GHIRP through your DAF and make a lasting impact.

EMPLOYER MATCHING

Double or triple your gift through your employer's matching program.

LEGACY GIVING

Include GHIRP in your estate plans and help secure justice for generations to come.

Give today!

EVERY DONATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Scan to donate or visit

GHIRP.ORG/DONATE

GHIRP FEST 2027

SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2027
12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

DAN ELECTRO'S
1031 E. 24TH ST.
HOUSTON, TX 77009

GREAT MUSIC.
GREAT FOOD.
BIG IMPACT.

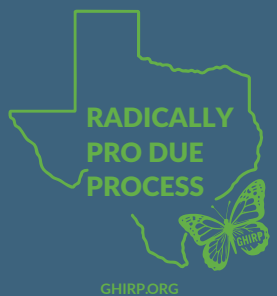
TICKETS	VIP	ADULT	KID	2 & UNDER	4-PACK
	$100	$35	$10	FREE	$120

Interested in sponsoring the 2027 Spring Festival?

Scan to learn more or email info@ghirp.org

GHIRP.org

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