

# PAIFUP

News from the fight for freedom, safety and dignity for all immigrants detained in Pennsylvania.

August 2020 | Issue 3

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Feel free to forward this newsletter to your network! If you are new, welcome!

Subscribe

1 NEW CLIENT  
3 CLIENTS RELEASED  
10 HEARINGS

## JULY RECAP

July was full of highs and lows. We were able to secure the release of three clients, right in time for one client to meet his newborn baby!

COVID-19 continues to affect our work on a daily basis. We struggle to communicate with clients that are quarantined, and are navigating the challenges around court hearings being postponed due to the pandemic.

Here's something to look forward to: we are developing a website to share more of our work and our resilient clients. Be on the lookout for that soon!

## Client Success: Meet J and R

J and R are a father and son who are in the US seeking asylum. They spent over six months in Tijuana last year as part of the "Migrant Protection Protocol"- also known as the Remain in Mexico policy- before finally being allowed to come join their family members outside Philadelphia. They complied with all that was asked of them, including wearing ankle monitors, but at a routine check-in this year, they were detained by ICE.

This family was referred to NSC by the New Sanctuary Movement, whose members stepped forward and volunteered to help in any capacity, including writing letters of support to try and secure the family's release. NSC submitted multiple release requests for the family, and had submitted briefing to the court on why they should be granted bond; in April, J and R were finally released from detention.

\*Client's name has been changed to protect anonymity.



**Yali Romagoza**, *90 Miles*, Living Art  
Installation/Performance, 2018

## Staff Highlight

Alissa joined PAIFUP in March 2020 as a staff attorney.

### What do you enjoy most about your position?

I am both excited to be helping detainees in removal proceedings and saddened by the reality. It is unfortunate that most individuals go through this complicated process unrepresented. However, with the help of PAIFUP, we are slowly working towards universal representation one case at a time.



## We Are Stronger Together: Meet Our Affiliates

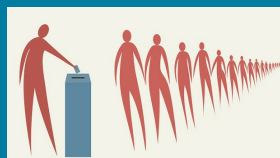
Through grassroots organizing led by affected immigrants, New Sanctuary Movement fights and wins immigrant justice campaigns with their members across nationality, faith, class, and immigration status. Their community organizing in Philadelphia builds power in immigrant communities to alter the power imbalance, organizes direct action campaigns, builds the individual and collective capacity of the immigrant community and brings immigrant and ally communities together in solidarity to work for change. [Read more about their current campaigns here.](#)

## In Other News



### How water sustains movements from BLM to the borderlands

Providing water destabilizes and defies militarization. Water sustains social and migratory movements during



### PA immigrants may not be able to become citizens in time to vote

According to a new report, there are about 315,000 immigrants in the U.S. who are on the path to become naturalized U.S. citizens, but likely



### Fear, language barriers hinder immigrant contact-tracing

The crucial job of reaching people who test positive for the coronavirus and those they've come in contact with is proving especially difficult in immigrant communities because

the heat of the summer — whether they're on stretches of asphalt road or barren deserts.

[Read more  
southerlymag.org](http://southerlymag.org)

won't get to citizenship by November.

[Read more  
www.pghcitypaper.c  
om](http://www.pghcitypaper.com)

of language barriers, confusion and fear of the government.

[Read more  
www.readingeagle.c  
om](http://www.readingeagle.com)

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**The Pennsylvania Family Unity Project (PAIFUP)** is a collaborative of nonprofit organizations in Pennsylvania formed in order to achieve universal representation for detained immigrants in removal proceedings in PA.