

PAIFUP

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

June 2021 | Issue 13

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1 CLIENT RELEASED

6 NEW CLIENTS

10 HEARINGS

May Recap

Last month, we were able to help a client get released just in time to spend Memorial Day weekend with his boys!

We also encountered many detained individuals that were recently transferred from the border. We took on several of these cases and referred others whenever possible.

Lastly, we had several meetings with Philadelphia City Council Members to discuss PAIFUP in order to increase our funding next year. Support our efforts by participating in our social media campaign, [find more on this in our media toolkit!](#)

Client Success: Eddie

Eddie is a Lawful Permanent Resident who has lived in the United States since 2008. His spouse, mother, and eight-year-old are all U.S. citizens.

He was detained by ICE in March 2020 at Clinton County Correctional Facility at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. His family could not afford an attorney and they were desperate for help, worried about him getting infected.

PAIFUP attorneys took on Eddie's case and began representing him in April 2020. Eddie feared returning to the Dominican Republic, believing he would be murdered. His PAIFUP attorneys filed an application under the Convention Against

Torture, arguing that Eddie would suffer torture if he was sent back to the Dominican Republic. He had his individual merits hearing in July 2020, but the Immigration Judge denied his case. His PAIFUP attorneys quickly appealed that decision to the Board of Immigration Appeals. In doing so, his legal team pointed out errors in the Immigration Judge's decision and the Judge's failure to consider compelling evidence that Eddie could be killed if sent back.

While his case was pending before the BIA, there was a COVID-19 outbreak in the prison. He suffers from asthma and became very afraid. Eddie was infected and spent many weeks recovering. Shortly after, Eddie was transferred to another facility in Pennsylvania. At the same time, Eddie's lawyers got the news that the BIA agreed with their arguments on appeal, and so they sent Eddie's case back to the Immigration Judge to fix the errors.



Eddie's lawyers kept fighting for him, arguing to the Immigration Judge that his case should be granted, and in February 2021, the Immigration Judge granted Eddie's case, stopping his deportation. ICE continued to hold Eddie for 90 days but finally released him in May 2021 to his family.

Eddie surprised his son when he got home from school, tears running down both of their cheeks. He was greeted at his family home by his mother, his wife, cousins, aunts, and uncles, as well as his dog, who immediately recognized him as if he had never left. Eddie credits his PAIFUP lawyers for saving his life and allowing him to return to his family. His mother considers his PAIFUP attorneys "part of our family" and says she had no words for everything we have done for Eddie. "We are so happy and emotional. Thank you, a million times, thank you."

Stronger Together: Meet Our Affiliates



The mission of Casa de la Cultura is to promote the cultural rights of immigrant communities on local, regional, and global levels through community activities and collaboration with governmental, academic, and community partners. We strive to create a space for all people to explore the arts and healthy living, emphasizing Latino culture and its realities through education and reflection. We welcome participants, volunteers, and observers to develop and support projects and initiatives. [Learn more about their work here.](#)

In Other News



Philly must allocate \$100,000 more to deportation defense

An op-ed by fellow PAIFUP member, Erika Guadalupe Núñez, from Juntos in an effort to secure additional funding from the City of Philadelphia for next



PA Haitian community hails TPS, questions immigration future

Undocumented Haitians in the United States can now apply for Temporary Protected Status, or TPS. The status allows those who are eligible to legally live and work in the



Migrant Children in Federal Care, 'Sense of Desperation'

Interviews and a Times review showed a shelter system with wildly varying conditions, some of which are far below the standard that the Biden administration has promised.

[Read more](#)

year. Please share!

[Read more
www.inquirer.com](http://www.inquirer.com)

country for the next
18 months.

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

www.nytimes.com

[Catch up on the previous issue here](#)

Questions? Comments? News worth sharing? Send Karina, our PAIFUP coordinator, an email at ksuarez@pirclaw.org.

The Pennsylvania Immigrant 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.