

PAIFUP

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

February 2024 | Issue 2

[Subscribe Here!](#)

[View as Webpage](#)

What's Happening?

1 CLIENT RELEASED

1 NEW CLIENT

9 HEARINGS

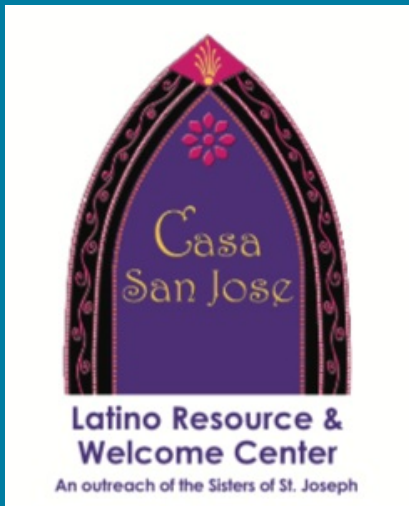
Happy Black History Month!

In February PAIFUP secured the release of a community member thanks to the efforts of our legal services and community partners. Please read the client success story below.

This month we are highlighting one of our affiliates, Casa San Jose, they are located in the Pittsburgh region.

Check out a below, articles from among the PA immigrant community.

Stronger Together: Meet Our Affiliates



Casa San Jose was established in 2013 by Sister Janice Vanderneck to serve as a base of support for English language learners, especially children, youth, and families. Casa San Jose works to acclimatize clients to their new homes in the Pittsburgh area and now has a base of more than 100 active volunteers.

From their website: "Our Mission is to connect, support, and advocate with and for the Latino community. Our Vision is a Pittsburgh region that celebrates Latino culture, welcomes immigrants, and embraces inclusion, dignity, and respect."

Client Success: X

PAIFUP celebrates the release of a Senegalese asylum seeker from ICE custody. He recently arrived to the United States fleeing persecution because of his sexual identity. PAIFUP was contacted by our partners at AFRICOM. They alerted us that a family friend of a Philadelphia community member had been apprehended and detained at the border and needed assistance. Before we met our client, he had been given a credible fear interview (CE) to determine if he had a credible fear of persecution. Though he told the asylum officer about the extensive violence he faced as a gay man in Senegal, a country where same-sex relationships are criminalized, the officer found that he did not have a credible fear case. He asked for review by an Immigration judge, which is his legal right

and received a hearing the next day. Without counsel he asked for more time to obtain an attorney and through AFRICOM, PAIFUP was able to take his case quickly. Just 24 hours later, his PAIFUP attorney appeared before the Immigration Court to try to reverse this incorrect decision. PAIFUP filed evidence late at night for the hearing the next day. Our efforts were successful and the Judge found that our client did have credible fear and should be able to pursue his case! Given this outcome by the Immigration Judge, the Department of Homeland Security released him from custody. Now he will be able to pursue his asylum claim in full before an Immigration Judge in Philadelphia, supported by his family, community, and PAIFUP attorneys.

In Other News



Philadelphia nonprofit receives 'Welcoming Award' for helping immigrants acclimate to city

"Many of us have been studying English for so many years, but never expected it to be so difficult to communicate when we landed," said Yushan Chou, the cofounder of Let's Talk Philly!

[Read More](#)



Thousands attend African American Children's Book Fair in Philly

NBC10's Fred Shropshire was the emcee for the annual African American Children's Book Fair. As NBC10's Karen Hua shows us, it's one of several events in Philly celebrating the opening weekend of Black History Month.

[Read More](#)



Pitt alum's short film 'In Good Hands' celebrates Black doctors in Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh is a medical city. UPMC buildings are scattered across its neighborhoods, employing nearly 5,000 physicians. The Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh is one of the largest hospitals in the city. Yet according to filmmaker Yasmine Crawley, there is only one Black pediatric emergency attending physician working there - Dr. Sylvia Owusu-Ansah.

[Read More](#)

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

Questions? Comments? News worth sharing? Send **Yomayra Burgos**, our PAIFUP coordinator, an email at yburgos@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 facing removal proceedings in PA.

[Unsubscribe emiller@pirclaw.org](mailto:emiller@pirclaw.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data
Notice](#)

Sent by byburgos@pirclaw.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!