



YOU can make a difference!
Please join us.

Contact us at springfieldimmigrant@gmail.com to learn more about SIAN and find out how you can donate clothing, food, services, or financial assistance to the **Springfield Immigrant Advocacy Network Charitable Organization**.



www.springfieldimmigrant.com
springfieldimmigrant@gmail.com

Our organization advocates and supports immigrants and refugees in the Springfield and surrounding areas. Our 501(c)(3) organization, the Springfield Immigrant Advocacy Network Charitable Fund, assists local immigrant families and communities, particularly vulnerable and marginalized populations.

Our advocates include community members, civic leaders, faith-based organizations, labor organizers, students, teachers, business owners, and community organizers from diverse cultural, faith, ethnic, and socio-economic backgrounds. We take action at the local level to support our immigrant communities and promote positive change. We want to contribute to a Springfield in which ALL feel included, safe, valued, and welcome.

What We Do

Our organization works to educate our city on issues impacting immigrants and refugees. We work to understand the challenges and needs of recent and established immigrants and identify resources and networks that may assist in meeting such needs. We partner with organizations that share our mission, and we serve as a liaison between organizations working on common goals. SIAN strives to:

- celebrate the talents, experiences, and diversity that our immigrants contribute to our community;
- advocate for immigrants' rights and encourage immigrants' full participation in civic, cultural, social and political life in our community;
- educate the public about issues that affect local immigrant communities;
- promote policies that encourage positive changes to improve the quality of life of immigrants in our community; and
- organize and advocated for policies that lead to just and humane treatment of our community, including our immigrants and refugees.

CURRENT PROJECTS

Education

- **Workshops** to inform immigrants & community members about legal issues impacting immigrants



- **Community Engagement** through presentations to religious groups & civic organizations

Advocacy

- **Partnering with other groups** to advocate for laws & policies supporting immigrants rights
- **Bringing media attention** to issues affecting immigrants
- **Monitoring court proceedings** for immigrants by attending hearings
- **Addressing difficulties** (such as harassment) facing immigrants in our community & pursuing remedies



Outreach & Organizing

- **Identifying & collaborating with community organizations** to provide assistance with basic needs (food, clothing, household goods, etc.)
- **Partnership with the Immigration Project of Bloomington, Illinois** to connect immigrants with low-cost or pro-bono legal assistance
- **Building relationships with immigrant communities** to understand & address their needs & concerns
- **Establishing contacts within the School and Healthcare system** to address the needs of students & teachers
- **Assisting families** of individuals impacted by detention and family separation



We support the Welcoming City Resolution, a positive affirmation of immigrants in our community who bring a valuable range of contributions, talents, entrepreneurship, labor, and service to Springfield. By fostering respect for the innate dignity and value of all people, we will build a more inclusive, vibrant Springfield where all are welcome. This is a direct response to the message of hatred and fear that has come to dominate our national discourse.

WELCOMING CITY RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD AS A WELCOMING CITY THAT RESPECTS THE INNATE DIGNITY OF ALL PEOPLE

WHEREAS, the Welcoming Springfield initiative aims to build cooperation, respect, and compassion amongst all in our community, immigrants and non-immigrants alike; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Springfield wants to be recognized as a hospitable, safe, and welcoming place, where people, families, and institutions thrive and the contributions of all are celebrated and valued; and,

WHEREAS, residents of the City of Springfield want to live up to our highest American values of inclusion and equality, and embrace newcomers with decency and respect, creating a vibrant community for all to live in; and,

WHEREAS the people of Springfield have a long history of opening their community and welcoming immigrants and refugees from all ethnicities and religions; Springfield is proud to be an ethnically diverse city, where residents born outside the United States have identified origins from diverse world regions such as Europe, North, Central and South America, the Caribbean, Asia, South East Asia, Africa, and Oceania, indicating that Springfield has been and still is a city of immigrants; and,

WHEREAS Springfield recognizes that immigrants and refugees in our community contribute to the local economy by creating businesses, small and big enterprises, which extend to areas of commerce such as construction, hospitality and restaurant

industries, services, sports, education, and property management, amongst others; and

WHEREAS Springfield recognizes that immigrants and refugees in our community also provide invaluable services in areas and fields of benefit to our city, such as science, math, engineering, medicine, education, and professional services; and,

WHEREAS a public statement that Springfield is a welcoming community explicitly and clearly conveys that Springfield will self-identify as a compassionate, immigrant-friendly, and welcoming city; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Springfield is committed to continue building a neighborly and welcoming atmosphere in our community, where all are welcome, accepted and appreciated.

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the Springfield City Council, a body of elected officials that represent people from a multitude of ethnicities and religions, reaffirm our commitment to remain a place of support for the immigrants and refugees who have in past years and continue to make Springfield their home; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, _____, Mayor of the City of Springfield and on behalf of the City of Springfield, Do hereby recognize on this ___day of _____ two thousand and nineteen, the Welcoming Springfield initiative as helping to unite our community and ensure that all are welcome here. I urge residents of the City of Springfield to do their part and join with the Welcoming Springfield initiative.