Welcome to the International Institute of the Bay Area’s story of the last three years! The International Institute of San Francisco used to publish an Annual Report every year, but we haven’t done that since 2005, and it’s time we told you why.

The short answer is that we have been merging and planning. In August of 2006, we were approached by the International Institute of the East Bay about joining forces, as they were losing an executive and facing other challenges that could be best addressed with a strong partner. This began a series of meetings between the boards of both organizations, a detailed exchange of information, and a joint search for pro bono attorneys who could lead us through the official process of merging, deceasing one corporation, and changing the name of the surviving corporation. Fortunately, Baker & McKenzie and Fenwick & West stepped up, and by the end of June, 2007, we were officially merged into The International Institute of the Bay Area.

The year that followed was consumed with the administrative and structural challenges of integrating the two organizations, and with the substantial help of the Zellerbach Family Fund, we engaged the services of Maridel Moulton, an inspiring and skilled organization development consultant, to help us create a strategic plan for IIBA. Mark Ong, of Side By Side Studios, contributed a new logo design, and François Richardson helped to create a new website. Johan Martin consulted with us on the integration of both telephone and computer systems.

Our new mission, values, and goals statement is included in this report. As I look at the simple and eloquent plan on the occasion of our 90th anniversary, I’m reminded that it is the product of a process that included both boards, both staffs, numerous external stakeholders, funders, clients, and students. I’m proud of the way it came out, and I’m very much looking forward to our next 90 years.

The International Institute of the Bay Area welcomes, educates and serves immigrants, refugees, and their families as they join and contribute to the community.

GOALS

Programs & Services
The International Institute of the Bay Area will continue its core programming efforts, building on the success of the 2007 merger, and will identify and explore regional expansion opportunities as resources allow.

Fund Development
The International Institute of the Bay Area will develop and implement a strategy to increase funding.

Community Leadership
The International Institute of the Bay Area will play a more visible leadership role on immigration issues in the broader Bay Area community.

Organization Infrastructure
The International Institute of the Bay Area will strengthen its organizational infrastructure.
### IIBA SERVICE SUMMARIES 1998-2008

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<td>FOIA/FBI Requests</td>
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<td>Declarations, Letters, Translations</td>
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| **YouthCares Program**        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |
| YC Enrollments                | 59   | 78   | 75   | 70   | 73   | 78   | 166  | 227  | 122  | 948  | —    |       |
| YC Beneficiaries: Seniors & NHS | 250 | 200 | 196  | 380  | 610  | 664  | 739  | 722  | 1,400| 670  | 5,831 |

### VISION

Immigrants, including youth and seniors, will be viewed positively, and will be acknowledged as resources in the community.

Immigrants will have access to the information they need to understand and exercise their rights and responsibilities.

Immigrants and their families will be effectively served through collaborative efforts of local and regional service providers.

More immigrant families will have stable legal status.

### CORE VALUES

Our global perspective motivates us to be respectful, inclusive, and open-minded.

Our work is enriched by the knowledge and diversity of our staff, clients, and partners.

We believe that equal and informed access to justice empowers people in vulnerable positions.
Looking back 90 years; they began their new lives in the US. We worked diligently to assist newcomers and refugees after our victories in Europe and Asia in the Second World War. Again, after the Korean conflict, the Solidarity Movement in Poland, the Vietnam War and the Balkans War, the Institute provided valuable services to immigrants and refugees. And we have always fought to honor immigrant labor. We have worked to confront the notion that people and their families can be imported when needed and then deported when the economic climate changes. When families come and work hard and put down roots, they should be allowed to stay.

How is it possible for the International Institute to navigate the turbulent waters of immigration policy over the past 90 years? This success is due to a dedicated and talented staff governed by an enlightened Board of Directors.

I would like to congratulate and recognize the extraordinary staff and board of the International Institute.

Since 2003, it has been my privilege to serve as a board member. During this anti-immigrant time, I witnessed the devotion of the Institute’s employees in serving clients of the Institute. The staff pulled together, much as a family does, to overcome what often seemed to be insurmountable odds. This team has overcome the frustrating lack of progress on immigration reform, the demonization of immigrants, the personal witnessing of families torn apart by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) raids, declining funding sources, changes in funding policies and focus, and merging two organizations into one. Despite these odds, the staff has maintained the Institute’s reputation as a top service provider.

And I’ve witnessed the participation of our YouthCares Program in a nation-wide forum on inter-generational programming, our recent commitment to work with a national collaboration to explore effective strategies to prevent domestic violence in immigrant
Looking back 90 years; looking ahead to more families, and our Executive Director’s participation in a seminar in Albuquerque to address and allay concerns about relations between immigrants and native-born people after an incident of flag-burning at the University of New Mexico.

The people who make up the staff are by far the most valuable asset of the organization, 35 people from thirteen different countries, all determined to welcome, educate, and serve people who are new to our country.

With the historical presidential election this year, we look forward to a less hostile environment in which to serve our clients. The Institute’s work has never been more needed as a new wave of immigrants and deserving refugees emerge who might arrive in the United States at the close of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. It hasn’t happened yet, but shouldn’t those 4.7 million Iraqis who were displaced somehow be given recompense?

Please consider a generous donation to the International Institute of the Bay Area so that newcomers to our community are able to experience the values of democracy, liberty, and opportunity. Go to our website, www.iibayarea.org, and click on the DONATE button.
Hana Hsiao  
YouthCares Coordinator  

Last Year, YouthCares programming touched the lives of 300 youth, ages 14-18, in San Francisco. We provided paid employment positions and leadership training to 72 youth, and community service training and opportunities to 50 more. Twenty youth returned for more than one cycle of the program, and offered leadership and guidance for newer participants. Youth facilitated classes and activities with more than 60 senior citizens and provided interactive English as a Second Language (ESL) tutoring to 150 students at Newcomer High School. Each week, we distributed food to 160 mostly low-income immigrant families in the Richmond District. Locally, youth collaborated with Safety Network and represented the IIBA at the annual SoMaFest and 6th Street Fair. Globally, following the earthquake in China in May 2008, youth organized a fundraiser and raised $260 for the American Red Cross Chinese earthquake relief fund.

YouthCares provided 157 hours of small group training on professionalism, college preparation, career readiness, and life skills. In the Fall, we held our annual College Panel in San...
Program for Our Youth

Francisco’s City Hall as panelists from colleges throughout the Bay Area shared their experiences with youth participants. In the Spring, youth met and mingled with professionals at our annual Career Panel held at the law offices of Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP, and learned about banking, photo-journalism, aerospace engineering, medicine, law enforcement, and social work. To augment this experience, 15 youth signed up for Career Exploration and shadowed professional mentors from Wells Fargo Bank, Tartine Bakery, MetaDesign, On Lok Senior Services, and more.

As we move forward, with a tighter budget, we are experiencing staff changes and new partnerships. The YouthCares Intergenerational Program is thriving under the management of staff from the Richmond Village Beacon at George Washington High School. To conform to the Beacon’s mandate, program sites have shifted from the SoMa District to the Richmond District, while still employing youth from all over the City. YouthCares Partners in Learning is going into its 11th year of partnership with Newcomer High School, with a new garden, a new coordinator, and the proud result that seven of our current youth tutors were once Newcomer students who first knew YouthCares as tutees at Newcomer High School themselves.

We also want to share our multimedia projects! See our blog, where participants share their experiences, goals, and visions with each other and the community at large, at www.sfyouthcares.blogspot.com. We have a new 5-minute movie filmed entirely by youth, which can be viewed at www.youtube.com/youthcares. To see the simple things that keep us smiling every day, ranging from pumpkin carving contests to mock presidential elections, go to the YouthCares Flickr page: http://www.flickr.com/photos/30363318@N06.
Sheryl Muñoz-Bergman  
San Mateo County Program Director

The IIBA provides quality legal service, and accurate, relevant information and education to one of the most marginalized sectors of our community. Our services, targeted to residents of North Fair Oaks, East Palo Alto, and Redwood City, include drop-in consultation services where newcomers receive comprehensive answers to case-specific questions regarding immigration and citizenship.

Many of our clients live in mixed status households, where someone in the family is a US citizen or green card holder, and another family member is not.

For people who are eligible based on current US laws, IIBA provides assistance with the arduous process of adjustment of status for their spouse or children.

A secure legal status results in economic and social stability for the family. It gives them the base from which to find more stable housing, and enables them to further educate themselves and their children to become more civically engaged, and to contribute to the success of their communities. Their next step is to become US citizens, a process that IIBA case-workers will facilitate.

We see a remarkable improvement in the welfare of the families we serve when these goals are achieved. Census data shows 24.5% of foreign-born non-citizens in California live in poverty, compared to only 10.6% of those who have naturalized.

Complementing our legal assistance to newcomer families, IIBA has also developed a Community Education and Outreach Strategy in order to provide information to the newcomer community on immigrant rights, access to services, and immigration legislation. Greater awareness and understanding of existing immigration laws will empower community members to make informed decisions that benefit their families.

At IIBA, our work is building self-sufficient families and healthy, inclusive communities. We strive to meet the needs of some of the most vulnerable members of our society, when there are too few options for low-income, hard working people who are trying to build brighter futures for their children.
Legal Services in Oakland:

Strong support for immigrant victims of crime

Susan Bowyer
Managing Attorney

The core work of our office in Oakland is to help people get the immigration status that US law prescribes. We educate immigrants about their rights and responsibilities, represent immigrants in applications for legal status, and collect and disseminate immigrants’ stories to media outlets. Since the merger, we’ve educated more than 9,000 immigrants through presentations and community consultations, and provided semi-monthly free deportation defense clinics.

We also work with social service and law enforcement agencies to protect immigrant crime victims and help them gain stability and legal immigration status through the U Visa.

We developed curricula for attorneys and law enforcement officials that are used by advocates nationwide; we are offering technical assistance through fifty-four training workshops to the staff of county departments, elected officials, hospitals, schools, law enforcement, legal service organizations, and domestic violence, sexual assault, child protective, and public health agencies.

We strengthen the local immigrant community’s access to justice by working with Alameda County community organizations and leaders to improve police/immigrant community relations, working with the Oakland City Council on a City Resolution supporting immigrant crime victims, and coordinating the administrative implementation of a new law providing public benefits to U visa applicants.

I was very scared about how my life would be without my husband even through he treated me badly. But now that I am on my own, I’m surprised how happy I am. I feel good being alone and having enough time for myself and for my children, and to be there when my children need me. I also feel in control of my life for the first time in years. But I still want to create an even better life for my children. I want to get a job once my youngest can go to school so that I don’t have to depend on other people to support us and make my children happy. I want to go to school to study English so that I can find a good job and help my children with their homework. I am doing everything I can right now to ensure a better life for me and my children.
SAN FRANCISCO IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP:
Supporting immigrants’ rights and responsibilities

Ildar Hafizov
San Francisco County Program Director

IIBA’s San Francisco Immigration and Citizenship Program continues to provide necessary legal immigration services to low-income families. In 2008 we helped more than 1,100 people from Europe, Latin America, the Philippines, and the former Soviet Union with legal consultations, visa petitions, adjustments of status, citizenship services and much more. We also helped many people from El Salvador to extend their Temporary Protective Status by bringing their registration up to date.

Carlota Garcia, our legal clerk, translated numerous documents from Spanish to English and reviewed dozens of old cases. Dannhae Herrera-Wilson, our new immigration caseworker, hit the ground running, taking on a variety of new and pending cases, and starting a citizenship preparation class for Spanish-speaking clients. As Program Director, I kept our reporting up to date while assisting clients to complete many complex immigration procedures. I also represented those most in need at selected naturalization and adjustment of status interviews. I continue to teach citizenship preparation class for seniors.

We are grateful for our volunteers Olena Zmiychuk, Aigul Charles, and Arusyak Abrahanyan, who interviewed clients to assess their eligibility for various immigration benefits, completed several immigration procedures for clients, and researched complex cases.

We also hosted free informational workshops that provided immigrants with basic understanding of the US immigration system, requirements for permanent residency and US citizenship. Workshops also focused on immigrants’ rights and responsibilities while educating them about legal services offered at IIBA.

Mrs. S. has four children and eight grandchildren living in the United States. All have become US citizens. Mrs. S. made an appointment with IIBA Citizenship Coordinator Maria Barraza-Calderon, because she, too, wanted to naturalize. Despite her 70 years of age, Mrs. S. diligently attended English and Citizenship Preparation classes all year long, learning more about US government and history than most high school students know. She passed her citizenship interview, and proudly attended her swearing-in ceremony. Mrs. S. told us that becoming a US citizen was the biggest accomplishment in her entire life, and she is excited to vote in the next election.
IIBA’S COMMUNITY ORGANIZING EFFORTS:

Helping neighborhoods improve public safety

Dina Hilliard
Safety Network Coordinator

For almost ten years now, the IIBA has been a host agency for the city-wide Safety Network Partnership, which uses community organizing to promote resident-driven, community-based problem solving in neighborhoods where public safety issues threaten city life. Immigrants are a significant part of the population in these neighborhoods.

In the Fall of 2008, a major reorganization of the program took place, taking the Safety Network out of the Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice and placing it instead in the Department of Children, Youth, and their Families as a part of an initiative aimed at substantially improving communication between city agencies and community-based organizations. As a part of the change, the IIBA has taken on responsibility not only for the South of Market and Tenderloin neighborhoods, but for city-wide coordination of all Safety Network Community Organizers as we work to preserve our resident-driven problem solving efforts.

The community organizers at IIBA work on establishing resident-driven priorities and solutions to public safety. The organizers partner with residents to empower them to communicate their public safety concerns and solutions effectively to city government.

In the past three years, our safety campaigns have built community awareness and encouraged civic participation to reduce violent crimes and drug trafficking. We have also worked to improve pedestrian safety with traffic calming measures, and called attention to health and building code violations in SRO hotels. We’ve worked to strengthen police and community relations, and protested the activities of gangs.

“International Institute of San Francisco has been a second home for my family and me for more than 30 years now,” says Mr. L. “We came to San Francisco a long time ago as refugees from Cambodia. At that time we lost all of our belongings in the war, did not have any money and could not speak any English. The staff of International Institute helped us to resettle in our new home country; we studied English in the Institute’s classrooms; and we got our family reunited with the help of the Institute’s legal workers.

Several years later we filed our Naturalization applications through the Institute’s immigration and citizenship program and we’re very happy and proud to become US citizens.”