



MULTICULTURAL  
INSTITUTE

CONNECTING THE MULTICULTURAL INSTITUTE

# MI LINKS

TO ITS FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS

*Dear Friends,*

I find myself walking in the backyard with ambivalent feelings. The fallen leaves of the pomegranate, fig and cherry trees are mixed with pink and white camellias. Deep red poinsettias smile down on unseen roots that will flower in the spring. Each has its time.

This year has been filled with unprecedented violence against the poor, slash and burn executive orders that lead to contentious politics and irrational attacks against refugees and immigrant families. It would be rather easy to justify my feelings of anger and sadness. But woven into this knotty and confusing tapestry, are threads of generosity, courage and strength for the year ahead with its challenges and opportunities. The garden brings me comfort and renewed hope.

In my personal life and my daily work, I strive to be a bridge-builder. Today, more than ever there is need for a renewed commitment to respectful dialogue by all. Such dialogue might lead us beyond overt displays of violence and intolerance into respect and peace in our communities.

At the Multicultural Institute we are optimistic about people and what they can achieve. We also believe in the positive impact of our advocacy work and our partnership with others.

The New Year is a time for healing and transformation. This is the time to cherish, celebrate and reconnect with others and to renew our trust in the power of human kindness. This is the time to thank you for helping us do our work. Your generosity is crucial to our work. *Peace, fr. Rigo*



# 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

MI served a total of **3,052** people this year.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MI addresses the issue of economic inequity by offering access to skills and competencies that direct workers on pathways to economic security. Our team provides day laborers and other low-income individuals workforce development, job placement assistance, and housing while advocating for fair-wage paying jobs.

- ◆ Job Placement Assistance. This service creates a pathway to financial self-sufficiency, economic advancement and overall stability for day laborers and other low-income adults.
  - ◆ 777 Day laborers registered
  - ◆ 748 Other low-income
  - ◆ 314 Employers registered
  - ◆ 897 Job placements
- ◆ Day Laborer Housing. MI offers transitional housing to unsheltered day laborers and other homeless to offer a safe and dignified way of living and leadership opportunities.
  - ◆ 14 day laborers in MI housing
- ◆ Worker Advocacy. MI offers life skills workshops on-the-street corners where day laborers congregate. They provide direct and indirect paths to being a more competent worker.
  - ◆ 53 on-the-street workshops were hosted

## VOCATIONAL SKILLS

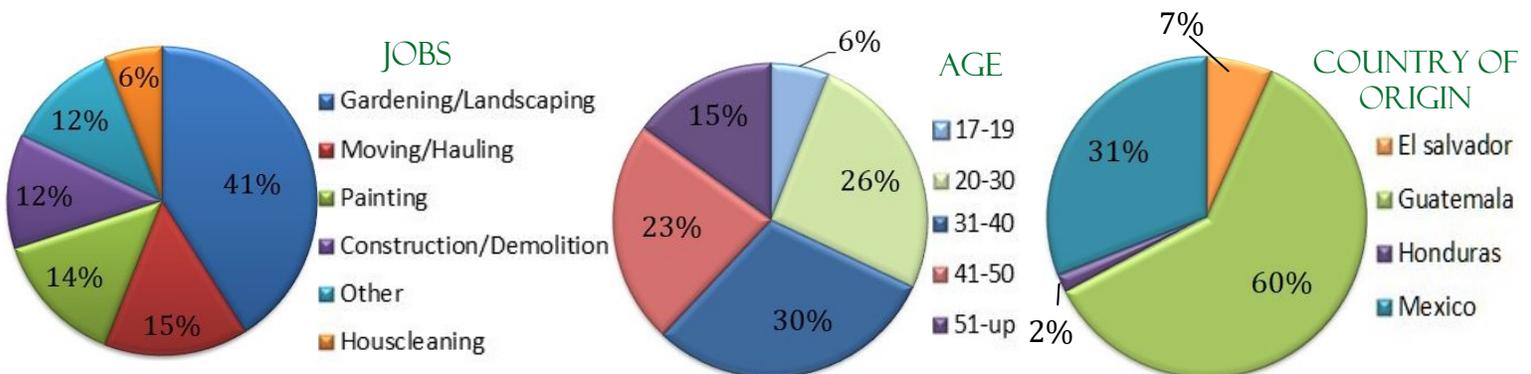
MI's vocational skill development courses assist participants in acquiring the skills and certifications required to continue on pathways to better employment and careers. They benefit from courses that increase their capacity to apply to higher paying jobs or open their own businesses.

- ◆ Business Entrepreneurship. This intensive 5 week-long course in Spanish offers an additional 50 hours of 1 on 1 business coaching.
  - ◆ 12 Adults participated in a business course and received 1 on1 coaching
- ◆ GED Preparation in Spanish. Participants can take advantage of an intensive 6 week course in Spanish along with assistance to pass and register for the exam.
  - ◆ 42 adult students participated in the preparation courses.



## WHO ARE THE DAY LABORERS AND WHAT TYPES OF JOBS DO THEY DO?

Currently jobs offered to day laborers are mostly in gardening and landscaping. Job matching is based on each individual's skill and experience. MI advocates for a minimum of \$20/hr. and a 3/hr. minimum with an increase in hourly wage based on the type of job and the skill level needed.





## LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

*Reflecting national trends, the local school system shows entrenched disparities in student outcomes correlated with racial and economic backgrounds. MI offers educational programs that aim to reduce the achievement gap by offering academic tutorial and Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematic (STEAM) instruction to 3rd– 9th graders.*

- ◆ Mentoring for Academic Success (MAS). MAS offers afterschool academic tutoring four days a week and STEAM instruction once a week. In the summer the Youth Writing Festival (YWF) provides daily writing and STEAM instruction during the summer.
  - ◆ **144** Youth participated in MAS/YWF
  - ◆ **34** Dedicated tutors mentored the youth throughout the academic year and summer
  - ◆ **129** Parents attending parent meetings and workshops and were connected to different resources throughout the academic year and during the summer

## A WORD FROM A MAS TUTOR...

“When I joined the Multicultural Institute, I was a freshman at UC Berkeley. I began tutoring at the Richmond site and I found a lot of happiness there. Happiness while assisting the students with their homework and happiness when I witnessed how much they improved in their academics. I learned how to interact better with children and thanks to working as a tutor, I realized that I want to be a teacher. I really hope this program continues to thrive because it makes a real difference.”

- Jocelyn

## IMMIGRATION AND HEALTH

*Because of language and resources barriers there is always a constant need for accurate and up to date information about immigration and health policies and resources in the communities MI serves. To help with this MI offers various immigration, legal and health workshops, community events and courses.*

- ◆ **139** Other low-income individuals served
- ◆ **23** Participants in Naturalization Courses
- ◆ **6, 279** Grocery bags/Hot meals
- ◆ **559** Health Referrals
- ◆ **230** Legal/Immigration Referrals



◆ With the help of volunteers, MI helped **530** refugees in Athens Greece in 14 months.



## VOLUNTEERS

- ◆ **121** individuals volunteered at MI in at least one program, assisting with an event, through Project 22, or as part of our Board of Directors.

## 2.2 MILLION GREEN CARD HOLDERS IN CA ARE ELIGIBLE FOR NATURALIZATION

Lupe, a 74-year-old Mexican woman, has lived in the United States for over 35 years. Lupe was aware that she was eligible for citizenship but never applied because she was not fluent in English. Unaware of the exception to the English Language, Lupe spent years taking English language courses hoping to one day become a U.S. citizen. Unfortunately, her busy work schedule did not allow her enough free time to immerse herself in the language so she gave up on the possibility of becoming a U.S. citizen. On one Sunday afternoon, she saw a flyer for MI's Naturalization Course and learned that there was an exemption to the English language component of the citizenship interview.

At MI's Naturalization Course she learned U.S. civics through repetition and interactive games despite her previous inability to memorize. She mentioned that her favorite study method was to practice questions using flashcards, because she could take them with her and study during her free time. Although she was intimidated by the material initially, the relaxed classroom structure helped her gain the confidence she needed. In the 5 weeks, Lupe went from shy to confident. Lupe was walked through the entire application by staff as she gathered the information and documents she needed. She attended MI's Naturalization Clinic where Marco Garzon, MI board member, reviewed her application and gave her advice. Lupe has attended her biometrics appointment and is awaiting her citizenship interview.



### A WORD FROM A GED STUDENT...

"I am extremely grateful to MI for having the GED program. It helped me tremendously to continue my education. The class was a pleasant environment and the GED instructor was excellent! She was really professional and motivated us to study more. Thanks to MI I now have my GED certificate!" - *Maria*

### A WORD FROM A BERKELEY TEACHER...

"As the founding and lead teacher of a program for ninth grade students who struggled academically in middle school, I have personally seen the huge impact MAS has on the academic achievement of my students. MAS has organized, trained and provided a group of UC Berkeley students to mentor and tutor our students as part of a skills enhancement class. This class has been a resounding success. The students love developing relationships with the MAS tutors and take great advantage of the opportunity to get 1-on-1 help with their work." - *Mr. Kraft*

### A WORD FROM AN EMPLOYER...

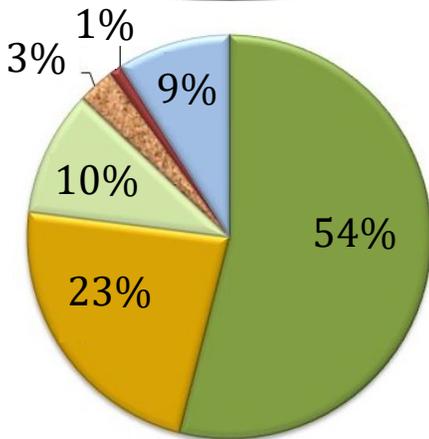
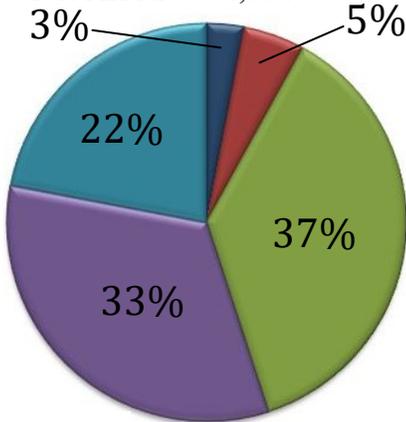
"Words cannot fully capture my appreciation for the team at MI. As a property manager for two properties, I have a near constant stream of minor, and sometimes significant issues. Time and again, the team of MI, have worked hand-in-glove to find a fit for what I need." - *Joshua*

The Multicultural Institute is a nonprofit organization.  
Donations and contributions are tax-exempt as allowed by law.  
Federal Tax ID #: 91-1823468

# MI FINANCIALS

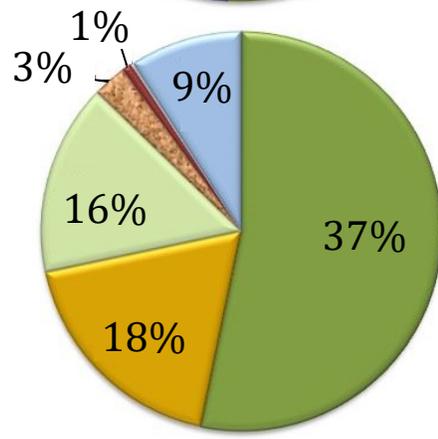
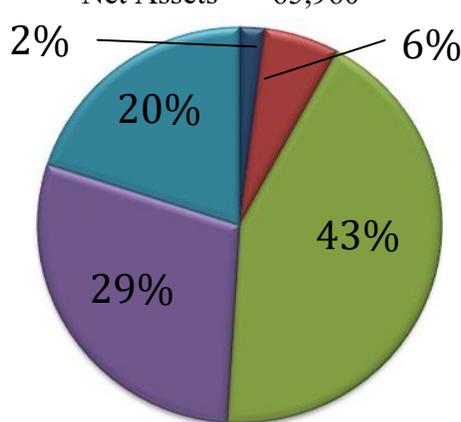
## Fiscal Year Ending, June 2016

Revenue 641,63  
 Expenses 636,749  
 Net Assets 4,884



## Fiscal Year Ending, June 2017

Revenue 740,355  
 Expenses 674,395  
 Net Assets 65,960



- Expenses**
- GED
  - Administration
  - Day Laborer- East Bay
  - Day Laborer- San Mateo
  - Mentoring for Academic Success
- Revenue**
- Contracts
  - Grants
  - Other Income
  - Program Fees
  - In Kind Donations
  - Fundraising & Gifts

MI has cultivated a mix of financial sources and other resources in order not to be overly dependent on any single source. Programming is sustained by a combination of funding from public sector, contracts, and private foundations and they are augmented by individual donations and in-kind

support. MI also has the ability to scale-up and scale-down in a way that does not diminish the core offerings of its programs or the number of people served. Fundraising events close any potential funding gaps and have the additional benefit of engaging our donor base.

IN JANUARY **2017** MI COMPLETED ITS BUILDING ADDITION

MI's asset distribution has changed overtime due to MI purchasing an renovating its building located in West Berkeley. MI's overall net assets related to ownership of property and equipment have increased since 2014.



## 2017 ANNUAL DINNER EVENT SPONSORS

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Les Guliasi, *President*  
Jacqueline DeAnda, *Vice-President*  
Charlotte TerKeurst, *Secretary*  
Lonjino Lazcano, *Treasurer*  
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Nicki Ghafari  
Martín González  
Lee Medina  
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Victor Weisser

### STAFF

Rigoberto Caloca-Rivas  
*Founder & Executive Director*

Mirna Cervantes  
*Associate Director*

Phurbu Tsewang  
*Accountant*

Jessica Solis  
*Immigration Program  
Coordinator*

Maria de los Angeles Caloca  
*Richmond Site Coordinator*

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Oscar Macias  
*North Fair Oaks Site Coordinator*

Josue Revolorio  
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Program Director*

Rudy Lara  
*Richmond Life Skills/Day Laborer  
Program Director*

Cesar Meza-Esveile  
*San Mateo County  
Programs Director*

Stephanie Martinez  
*North Fair Oaks  
Program Assistant*

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Marco & Amy Garzon  
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St. Lawrence O'Toole Parish  
Victor Weisser

## 2017 INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORTERS

Alameda County Food Bank  
Alameda County- Health Care Services  
Agency  
Amani Fund  
Atkinson Foundation  
Barracuda Networks  
Black Pine Circle Private School  
California Department of Social Services  
Catholic Worker House of Redwood City  
Chevron Richmond  
City of Berkeley  
City of San Pablo  
Contra Costa County  
ECIA Community Grant Richmond  
Facebook  
Fair Oaks Community School

Firedoll Foundation  
Google  
Life Long Medical Center  
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)  
Los Moles Restaurant  
National Park Services  
PG & E Foundation  
Richmond Community Foundation  
San Mateo County  
San Mateo Credit Union  
Second Harvest-Food Bank  
Silicon Valley SV2  
St Mary's College Moraga  
Stephen Rico  
UC Berkeley  
UC Berkeley Chancellor's CPF  
Y&H Soda Foundation



### Our MISSION

We accompany immigrants in their transition from isolation and poverty to workforce prosperity and participation.

### Our VISION

We envision a community in which immigrants, regardless of their immigration status, are embraced and valued in the communities in which they work and live.

### Questions or comments?

Contact Jessica Solis or Mirna Cervantes at [jessica@mionline.org](mailto:jessica@mionline.org) or [mirna@mionline.org](mailto:mirna@mionline.org)

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Learn more about MI at:  
[www.mionline.org](http://www.mionline.org)