



## 2017 Year in Review

Our activities were many and varied in three pillars of service: Immersion, Investment and Inclusion. In all, our 91 staff provided services to 7,444 clients. 998 volunteers, including almost 100 Community Engagement volunteers, assisted by providing more than 18,700 hours of volunteer service.

It would be an understatement to say that it was a difficult year for refugee admissions to the US and as a result for IISTL's refugee resettlement program. On January 27, the White House issued the first of three refugee travel bans eliminating all but a trickle of non-Muslim refugees still eligible to arrive. Finally, in June, the Supreme Court sided with the White House, permitting a near total halt in refugee arrivals in the summer and fall as the government reviewed current vetting procedures and implemented additional requirements. As a result, refugee arrivals in St. Louis dropped to 659, only 57% of the previous year's total.

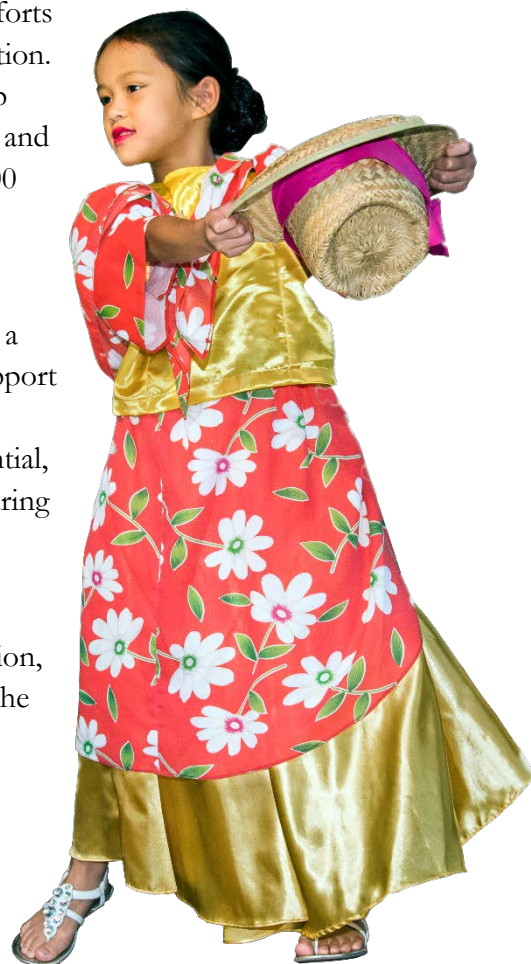
Anti-immigrant, anti-refugee rhetoric was widespread. We redoubled our efforts to help St. Louisans better understand and appreciate refugees and immigration. In all, we made almost 150 presentations and trainings, including Leadership STL and CORO classes as well as local health facilities, businesses, schools, and government offices. We provided 90 tours of our campus; posted almost 200 stories and information pieces on our Facebook page, reaching 12,000 followers.

The hostile environment produced another much more welcome reaction – a groundswell of support from St. Louisans who were eager to voice their support for refugees and other immigrant newcomers. They turned out in droves to volunteer and support IISTL clients and events. Their support proved essential, so our refugee program could still offer services and hope to newcomers during this period.

By year's end, the White House had proposed reductions in every group of foreign-born currently being admitted to the US, including family reunification, skilled worker visas, and refugees. It was clear that 2018 would be more of the same.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anna E. Crosslin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anna E. Crosslin  
President & CEO



May 2018

## 2017 Accomplishments

### Immersion

7,444 immigrants and refugees from 118 countries representing 184 ethnicities received integrative services including education, citizenship preparation, employment, and special services to vulnerable populations.

659 refugees were resettled from Afghanistan, Congo (DRC), Somalia, Iraq, Sudan, Syria and more.

1,009 immigrant students received English instructional services with an improvement rate of

80% after 60 instructional hours; 97 students received computer instruction. 357 adult immigrants attended US Citizenship preparation classes; of those who attended for at least 40 hours, 78% of those with Intermediate-level English and 46% of those with literacy- to beginning-level English demonstrated progress toward becoming naturalized. 192 students passed the naturalization test.

569 clients received job services, including 312 placed in jobs at 125 companies; 68% of jobs included medical insurance. Average wage for all placements was \$9.98.

### Investment

In 2017, the International Institute Community Development Corporation created/retained 77 total jobs in the economy.

- The 77 jobs produced \$2.6 million in **labor income**
- Total **economic output** created from the 77 jobs was \$7.5 million
- Total **economic impact 1999-2017** is almost \$190 million

12 Individual Development Accounts helped refugees save for homes, vehicles and to start businesses. In all, 39 IDAs were under management.

### Inclusion

International Institute's Festival of Nations drew 150,000 visitors to Tower Grove Park. The festival audience came from more than 139 zip codes including 11 states and 50 countries. 42% of visitors were first-timers. More than 59% of the audience was between 19 and 54. 42% self-identified as minorities including Hispanic, Asian, African or Mid-eastern heritage.

Language Services program staff booked 4,506 interpretation and translation jobs for 450 companies or individuals.

We had 80,600 hits at our website from 55,500 unique visitors. The International Institute or its staff appeared in almost 100 media stories or mentions during the year.

