

## Our Mission:

To champion the dignity and human rights of refugees and immigrant survivors of persecution, torture, conflict, and human trafficking through exceptional immigration legal services at no or low cost, education, and advocacy.





## In 2017, American Gateways...



coordinated **1500** hours  
of pro bono work



closed over **1100** cases



helped **265** people apply  
for DACA



served people from over  
**57** countries







# Who we serve

American Gateways serves the low-income immigrant communities in Austin, San Antonio, Waco, and throughout Central Texas. In addition to the cities of Austin, San Antonio, and Waco, we serve **twenty counties** in the region, including **Bastrop, Bell, Bexar, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Coryell, Falls, Fayette, Frio, Hays, Karnes, Lampasas, Lee, Llano, McLennan, Milam, San Saba, Travis, and Williamson.**



# How our potential clients apply for services with AG

American Gateways conducts screenings for services on a walk-in basis. Screenings are done at the Austin office from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Monday through Thursday. Screenings are conducted at the San Antonio office from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Monday through Thursday. No appointment is necessary at either location.



# American Gateways

AMERICAN GATEWAYS CURRENTLY HAS A STAFF OF 27, INCLUDING 13 ATTORNEYS, 5 BIA ACCREDITED REPS, 1 OUTREACH COORDINATOR, 1 VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR, AND 4 ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF MEMBERS. WE SERVE 20 CENTRAL TEXAS COUNTIES AND ARE THE ONLY LEGAL SERVICES AGENCY TO PROVIDE LEGAL ORIENTATIONS, KNOW YOUR RIGHTS, REPRESENTATION, AND ADVOCACY TO THE 4 ICE DETENTION CENTERS IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH TEXAS. THIS IS HOW WE GOT HERE...



1987

AMERICAN GATEWAYS (THEN PAPA) BEGAN AS THE WORK AND VISION OF A SINGLE VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY, VIRGINIA RAYMOND. VIRGINIA WORKED UNDER THE TITELAGE OF BARBARA HINES, WHO ENCOURAGED VIRGINIA TO TAKE HER FIRST ASYLUM CASE REPRESENTING A WOMAN FROM EL SALVADOR. SOON AFTER, VIRGINIA TOOK ON A PART-TIME VOLUNTEER POSITION WITH PROYECTO LIBERTAD IN HARLINGEN, SERVING CLIENTS IN THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY.

1990

PAPA OFFICES ALSO TEMPORARILY HOSTED THE UT IMMIGRATION CLINIC, FOUNDED BY BARBARA HINES. PAPA INTERNS AT THAT TIME INCLUDED ELISSA STEGLICH OF THE UT IMMIGRATION CLINIC, AND GEORGE P. RUSH, TEXAS LAND COMMISSIONER.

1997

IN 1997, PAPA HIRED KAREN CRAWFORD AS A FULL-TIME LEGAL DIRECTOR. KAREN'S MANDATE WAS TO MANAGE THE AGENCY'S GROWTH INTO NEW AREAS OF IMMIGRATION LAW, INCLUDING VAWA AND FAMILY-BASED WORK.

2004

CHRIS JIMMERSON BECAME EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. CHRIS OVERSAW THE CONTINUED EXPANSION OF PAPA.

2008

PAPA CHANGED ITS NAME TO AMERICAN GATEWAYS. AG ALSO EXPANDED ITS DETENTION PROGRAM BY HIRING AN EQUAL JUSTICE FELLOW, KATE LINCOLN GOLDFINCH, TO INCLUDE SERVICES AT THE HUTTO DETENTION CENTER.

2015

AG PROVIDED DIRECT REPRESENTATION AND LEGAL SERVICES TO NEARLY 2,000 INDIVIDUALS FROM 52 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.

2017

AG'S WACO OFFICE OFFICIALLY OPENED FULL TIME, LED BY ANALI LOOPER GATLIN. AMERICAN GATEWAYS NOW HAS A STAFF OF 29, INCLUDING 15 ATTORNEYS, 5 BIA ACCREDITED REPS, 1 OUTREACH COORDINATOR, 1 VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR, AND 4 ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF MEMBERS. AG SERVES 20 CENTRAL TEXAS COUNTIES AND IS THE ONLY LEGAL SERVICES AGENCY TO PROVIDE LEGAL ORIENTATIONS, KNOW YOUR RIGHTS, REPRESENTATION, AND ADVOCACY TO THE 4 ICE DETENTION CENTERS IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH TEXAS.

BY 1989, PAPA HAD ITS NAME AND SECOND PART-TIME EMPLOYEE, NIDIA SALAMANCA. DURING THIS TIME, MUCH OF THE ORGANIZATION'S WORK CONTINUED TO FOCUS ON ASYLUM, REMOVAL DEFENSE, AND TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS FOR CENTRAL AMERICANS.

PAPA RAN TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS (TPS) CLINICS FOR HONDURANS, NICARAGUANS, AND EL SALVADORANS, WHICH EXIST TO THIS DAY. BY THE EARLY 2000S, PAPA BEGAN ITS LEGAL ORIENTATION PROGRAM, FIRST AT THE INS OFFICE IN SAN ANTONIO, AND LATER AT THE NEWLY-OPENED SOUTH TEXAS DETENTION CENTER IN PEARLSALL, TEXAS. PAPA SOON HIRED JACKIE WATSON TO TAKE OVER THE DETENTION PROGRAM.

BY 2002, PAPA HAD 4 ATTORNEYS, 1 BIA ACCREDITED REPRESENTATIVE, AND 3 LEGAL CASEWORKERS.

PAPA OPENED A SATELLITE OFFICE IN SAN ANTONIO WITH 2 NEW STAFF MEMBERS.

IN 2014, AMERICAN GATEWAYS EXPANDED THE LOP PROGRAM TO INCLUDE THE FAMILY DETENTION CENTERS IN KARNES CITY AND DILLEY, TEXAS. AG'S SAN ANTONIO OFFICE GREW FROM A TEAM OF 2 TO A TEAM OF 15. ANNUALLY AG'S DETENTION PROGRAM SERVES OVER 15,000 INDIVIDUALS.

IN 2016, AG BEGAN THE IMMIGRATION COURT HELPDISK PROGRAM AT THE SAN ANTONIO COURT. AG ALSO BEGAN PROVIDING SERVICES IN WACO WITH A GENEROUS GRANT FROM THE TEXAS BAR FOUNDATION. AG PROVIDED DIRECT REPRESENTATION AND LEGAL SERVICES TO 1,733 INDIVIDUALS FROM 70 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.



1989

90's - 2000's

2002

2006

2014

2016



# Office Locations

- AUSTIN, 314 E. Highland Mall Boulevard, Suite 501  
Austin TX 78752
- SAN ANTONIO, 2300 W. Commerce Street, Suite 313  
San Antonio, TX 78207
- WACO, **Phone:**(254) 230-0382



