



## Advocacy, Volunteer & Donation Opportunities to assist New Immigrants In NYC February 2024

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### **Support the New York State Access to Representation Act**

Asylum seekers who receive legal representation are five times more likely to win their case. New York State can make sure that no immigrant fails to access the defenses and protections available to them solely for lack of an attorney by passing the first-in-the-nation Access to Representation Act. The legislation ensures a right to counsel for all immigrants facing deportation in New York (S.81B/A.01961A) and guarantees that no one defends themselves alone.

Visit <https://www.nycic.org/our-work/campaigns/access-to-representation> for an easy tool you can use to tell Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature to pass Access to Representation.

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### **Support the Asylum Seeker Work Authorization Act**

Right now, asylum seekers are forced to comply with unnecessarily long waiting periods before they are able to legally work in the United States. Without the ability to work, people seeking asylum are deprived of the right to earn an income and support themselves and their families. If passed, this legislation would shorten the waiting periods and make it easier for asylum seekers to obtain a work permit and contribute to their communities.

### **Advocate for Fair Humanitarian Programs**

Right now, Congress is negotiating supplemental funding and budget bills. These must address the humanitarian needs of Ukrainians, Israelis, Palestinians, and many other displaced populations around the world. However, members of Congress are now looking to secure funding for their priorities by using the rights of asylum seekers at the U.S.-Mexico border as a bargaining chip. We must speak out to ensure that populations in need of support are not pitted against each other; they must fund refugee and humanitarian programs, while also not creating new restrictive policies for asylum seekers looking for a safe place to call home.

**Write to or call your member of Congress and ask them to support the Asylum Seeker Work Authorization Act of 2023 (H.R. 1325) and not to compromise their support for displaced people through the budget process.**

Visit <https://hias.org/take-action/> to learn more and access easy, online tools to contact your Representatives.

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**Stay tuned for information on HIAS Advocacy Week Spring 2024 (April 1-5)**

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**Afrik-ana** supports Harlem and the Bronx's newest and oldest neighbors, both long-standing residents and recent migrant arrivals. Providing in-kind support to all community members, including a food pantry, clothing, and school kits and linking New York's newest immigrants to city agencies and non-profit services. Monday through Friday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**Website:** <https://www.afri-kana.org/>

**Address:** 685 Lenox Avenue

**Email for info:** bahafrikana@gmail.com

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**The Ark Legal Clinic at CBST** trains volunteers and attorneys to assist with asylum and work permit applications, translation, accompaniment to USCIS interviews, direct support for our immigrant neighbors, and more. Clinics are Wednesday evenings.

**Website:** <https://cbst.org/social-justice/immigration/>

**Volunteer Info email:** [sanctuary@cbst.org](mailto:sanctuary@cbst.org)

**Address:** 130 West 30<sup>th</sup> Street

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**Artists Athletes Activists**, in partnership with Metro Baptist Church and The Legal Aid Society, provides legal/shelter/HRA benefits and health insurance support (in addition to food and activities) every Wednesday and Thursday from 10:00 AM- 4:00 PM.

**Website:** <https://artists-athletes-activists.org/>

**Volunteer Info:** <https://my.lotsahelpinghands.com/request/artists-athletes-activists/select-email>.

**Address:** 410 W 40th St

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**B'nai Jeshurun.** Weekly community gathering space on Thursdays in February for asylum seeking families from one of our partner shelters on the Upper West Side. Dinner, children's activities, and Know Your Rights presentations will be offered for our guests. Spanish speaking volunteers (of all levels) are needed from 5:00PM-6:30PM on February 8th, 15th, 22nd and 28th.

**Website:** <https://www.bj.org>

**Volunteer Info:** Please email Kiana Davis at [kdavis@bj.org](mailto:kdavis@bj.org)

**Address:** 270 West 89th Street

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## Advocacy, Volunteer & Donation Opportunities to assist New Immigrants In NYC February 2024

**Congregation Rodeph Sholom / Team TLC NYC.** Pro Se Asylum Clinic. Monday evenings 6:00 -8:30 PM. Volunteers needed as translators, greeters, childcare, & advocates. For people who want to file for asylum or temporary protected status (TPS) register in advance by emailing [legalteamtlcnyc@gmail.com](mailto:legalteamtlcnyc@gmail.com) or WhatsApp 914.270.1023.

**Volunteer Sign up:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/PROSECLINICS#/>

**Address:** 7 West 83<sup>rd</sup> Street

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**East Village Neighbors Who Care** are providing food, clothing, and information and offer a warming center for people waiting on line at the St Brigid's reticketing center. Please see the information link to learn about needed clothing & personal item donations.

**Information Volunteer sign up:** <https://linktr.ee/EVNC>

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**Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan** will be conducting a Spring + Summer Clothing Drive for Children from new immigrant families in District 3 public schools from March 11 - 22. Help ensure that students have the clothing they need for the spring and summer seasons:

- Donate items: <https://mmjccm.org/adults/social-responsibility-volunteering/donation-drives>
- Host a collection at your synagogue, church, building, school, or community organization. For more information, email [jcharriez@mmjccm.org](mailto:jcharriez@mmjccm.org)
- Volunteer to sort clothing. <https://mmjccm.org/volunteer-opportunities>

We are also in need of Spanish-conversant volunteers to tutor children in NYC schools through our Koopersmith Family Literacy + Math Program. Learn more at:

<https://mmjccm.org/adults/social-responsibility-volunteering/volunteer/koopersmith-family-literacy-math-program> and express interest by emailing [litmath@mmjccm.org](mailto:litmath@mmjccm.org).

**Address:** 334 Amsterdam Ave at 76th Street

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**Masbia.** Soup Kitchen Network's emergency food programs serve over 2 million meals a year in two main categories. We serve roughly 100,000 hot, sit-down dinners to clients at restaurant like soup kitchens, and the rest in emergency care packages equivalent to 9 meals worth of groceries for every member of the family.

**Website:** <https://www.masbia.org/>

**Volunteer sign up:** [https://www.masbia.org/volunteer\\_signup/](https://www.masbia.org/volunteer_signup/)

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## Advocacy, Volunteer & Donation Opportunities to assist New Immigrants In NYC February 2024

**The Migrant Center of the Church of St. Francis of Assisi** needs intake coordinators, translators, and legal assistance, where they help asylum seekers apply for asylum. Monday – Thursday 11:00 – 3:00.

**Website:** <https://stfrancisnyc.org/migrantcenter/>

**Volunteer Info:** Julian Jagudilla, O.F.M. at 212-736-8500 ext. 377 or migrantcenter@stfrancisnyc.org

**Address:** 135 W. 31st Street

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**Radical Hope Mutual Aid Center @ Judson Memorial Church** runs a respite center every Monday from 10 AM - 5 PM, where asylum seekers can access food and key social services.

**Volunteer Sign up:** Contact Ted Dawson at [dawsontheodore@gmail.com](mailto:dawsontheodore@gmail.com)

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**Rauschenbusch Metro Ministries Winter Clothing Closet** serves those in our community that are most vulnerable and in need of adult winter clothing. Bilingual Spanish, French or Chinese speakers are highly needed! Volunteers are needed to set up, organize, and distribute clothing items. Every Monday through March.

**Website:** <https://rmmnyc.org/programs/winter-clothing-closet>

**Volunteer sign Up:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040F45A5AB28A0FD0-45423826-winter#/>

**Address:** 410 W 40th St

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**Romemu Winter Outerwear Collection and Distribution.** Sunday February 4th & 18th, 2:00 - 5:00 PM. Please bring gently worn coats, hats, gloves & sweaters to the Romemu Center during those times or contribute via Amazon Wish List: <https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/344UOYUYVYHWBM>.

**Collection info:** <https://romemu.org/winter-outerwear-collection-and-distribution/>

**Romemu Community Pantry - Schedule & Information:** <https://romemu.org/community-kitchen-2/>

**Address:** 176 W 105th St @ SE corner of Amsterdam Avenue

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**St. Luke's in the Fields Clothing Closet** provides clothing, personal care items, and brown bag sandwich meals to anyone in need. Volunteers are needed every Saturday, 3:00-4:00 PM (except Church holidays/special events) to help sort, set up, and distribute donations, assemble meals, and provide a welcoming atmosphere from

**Volunteer sign up:** <https://episcopalcharities.volunteerhub.com/vv2/lp/stluke/>

**Address:** 487 Hudson Street in Laughlin Hall

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## Advocacy, Volunteer & Donation Opportunities to assist New Immigrants In NYC February 2024

**St. Paul and St. Andrew United Methodist Church** offers a one-day-a-week respite center located on the Upper West Side. Miracle Mondays provides new immigrants with clothing, help with legal issues, applications for discounted MetroCards and other activities. Mondays 8:45 AM - 12:00 PM Additionally the site needs help with the sorting and distribution of clothing donations on Sundays from 12:00 - 2:00 PM

**Information:** <https://mailchi.mp/stpaulandstandrew/2t34bv240q-7229767>

**Volunteer Sign Up:** <https://my.lotsahelpinghands.com/request/spsasanctuary/select-email>

**Address:** 263 West 86<sup>th</sup> Street

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**Team TLC NYC & The Little Shop of Kindness**, open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday every week for guests to “shop” for free clothing and supplies. Reservations are required and can be made at:

<https://squareup.com/appointments/book/5pvwx3s6wqjfw/L25ERHG0ZTR1V/services> to obtain free clothing, shoes, toiletries, and other supplies.

Volunteers help sort donations, assist customers, and help run the shop every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, and can sort donations and set up the shop every Wednesday, from 9 am to 5 pm.

**Volunteer Sign up:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/LittleShopofKindness#/>

**Donations:** Dropped off at the shop Monday through Friday from 10 am to 2 pm.

**Address:** 1745 First Avenue, inside the Avenue Church building, 3rd floor (at 90th Street)

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**Team TLC NYC / Artists, Athletes, Activists Night Owl Team** greets asylum seekers arriving at Penn Station between 10:00 PM and 11:00 AM daily. Volunteers are trained, directed, and supervised by team leaders from Artists Athletes Activists to greet and assist asylum seekers who, arriving in a huge, strange city in the middle of the night with no money, no transportation, and no friends, would otherwise be lost. Here is a chance to genuinely rescue people in peril.

**Volunteer Sign Up:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0949AAA82BA4FF2-47151928-night#/>

**Location:** Penn Station

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