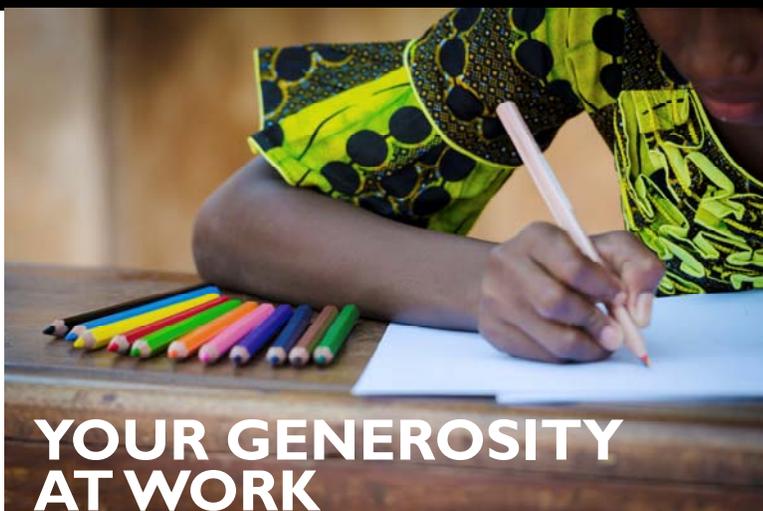


"I felt I was really struggling before and I was lost. I really needed someone to help me and found a great match for a therapist (Thank God!) finally and have been feeling better since. I am glad there is a place like this to help me."—CLSACC Client

Often within months of an international headline detailing a violent incident, CLSACC will be contacted by a person or family seeking asylum in the U.S. after fleeing the violence in their country. In the case of the April 2014 abduction of more than 200 school girls in Northern Nigeria by the group "Boko Haram," which has been translated to mean "western education is forbidden" in the Hausa language, Nigerians fleeing the violence contacted CLSACC's immigration unit for legal consultations.

One case in particular required immediate assistance. A family arrived in the U.S. in urgent need of medical care in addition to needing a legal remedy. The family of five had two daughters and a young son. Their oldest daughter had been at a boarding school near the school abduction reported in the news. After quickly collecting the eldest daughter from school, the father managed to leverage a visa (pending for a conference in England) into a business visa for the entire family to enter the U.S. as "visitors."

With CLSACC's assistance, the family has filed for asylum and was referred to a Boston hospital for immediate medical attention. CLSACC's social worker has housed the family through referral to an emergency family shelter. They are relying on housing through a charity while they wait the 150 day mandatory time period before they can apply for employment authorization from the U.S. immigration service. Their wait for a hearing in their asylum case could take up to two years before they could be granted more permanent refugee/asylee status in the U.S.



MEET OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MOJDEH ROHANI

Mojdeh Rohani became CLSACC's Executive Director on September 1, following the retirement from CLSACC of previous E.D. Barbara Mitchell. As the Executive Director of CLSACC, Ms. Rohani oversees a \$1.6 million budget and manages a staff of 17 full and part time employees and more than 100 volunteers.

Since joining CLSACC eight years ago as Associate Clinical Director, Mojdeh has expanded the agency's integrated service model with multiple philanthropic and community partners and developed new programs to address the complex needs of CLSACC's clients.

Mojdeh is deeply committed to social justice and human rights and has extensive management experience working across disciplines with mental health and legal professionals in serving diverse communities. Her expertise is in working with survivors of trauma, torture, gender-based violence and human trafficking. She is also a Lecturer at Boston University School of Social Work and Co-Director of the Boston University BRIDGE Program (Building Refugee and Immigrant Degrees for Graduate Education). She received her Master's in Social Work from Boston University and Bachelor's in Psychology from the Baha'i Institute for Higher Education. Mojdeh previously worked as Director of Social Services at the International Institute of Boston.



JOHN FROIO APPOINTED DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Former Assistant Legal Director John Froio is now serving in the newly created role of Deputy Director at CLSACC. John had served as CLSACC's Assistant Legal Director since 2004 and as a housing and disability attorney at CLSACC since 2001, during which time he received the John W. Carbone Pro Bono Legal Services Award. Previously, John was the Pro Bono

Legal Project Coordinator at Tri-City Community Action Program in Malden and an attorney in private practice. He also served as a Malden City Councilor from 1988 to 2000. John's legal experience, community ties, and technology expertise will provide strong management of the agency in conjunction with the Executive Director. He received his law degree from New England School of Law and his B.S. in Accounting from Merrimack College.

The Board and staff are very excited to welcome Mojdeh and John in their new roles. They bring a wealth of experience and expertise in addressing the complex issues faced by CLSACC's clients, their families, and their communities.

**CLSACC COMMUNITY CELEBRATES
BARBARA MITCHELL**

The CLSACC Board of Directors honored Barbara Mitchell at an October 19th event held at Goodwin Procter LLP attended by over 100 guests, including CLSACC current and former staff, volunteers, Board members, community partners, funders, friends, and members of the Boston legal and mental health communities. In recognition of her service to the agency, Barbara was presented with the Agency's Dr. Joseph H. Brenner Award during the event. Barbara Mitchell served as CLSACC's Executive Director between 2007 and 2015 and significantly expanded the agency's staff and programs under her leadership.



Pictured (L to R): Volunteer Attorney, Andrew Cornell [2009 Adams Pro Bono Publico Award Honoree]; CLSACC Board Member, Mark Smith; Immigration Supervisor, Valerie Fisk; Volunteer Attorney, Elizabeth Ennen; Immigration Attorney, Lisa Weinberg; and Executive Director, Mojdeh Rohani

**LEGAL VOLUNTEER HONORED BY
SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT**

Legal Volunteer Elizabeth Ennen was honored with the 2015 Adams Pro Bono Publico Award by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court's Standing Committee on Pro Bono Legal Services "for her tireless dedication as a compassionate advocate representing immigrants seeking political asylum." The award, named in honor of Attorneys John and John Quincy Adams, is a high honor given to people who "excel in providing volunteer services ... by participating in an activity or pro bono program which resulted in satisfying previously unmet needs or in extending services to underserved segments of the population."

Elizabeth receives the award in recognition of her five years of pro bono commitment to representing asylum seekers through CLSACC and the hundreds of hours she has volunteered enhancing the technology used by CLSACC's staff and volunteers in representing clients. The Pro Bono Publico Award is presented in conjunction with the American Bar Association's recognition of National Pro Bono Week, October 26-30, 2015.

**YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED
DURING OUR ANNUAL
FRIENDS APPEAL!**

**Individual donors now make up our
largest source of funding!**

You can make a difference between now and December 31, 2015. Please make a gift to CLSACC during our Annual Friends Appeal online at www.clsacc.org or by sending a check to CLSACC, One West Street, Cambridge, MA 02139.

