



The Giving Common

An Initiative of the Boston Foundation

www.thegivingcommon.org

Student Immigrant Movement (SIM, Massachusetts)



Current

General Information

9A Hamilton Place
Boston, MA 02108
(781) 244-9567 0

Website

www.simforus.org

Organization Contact

Katherine Asuncion kasuncion@simforus.com

Year of Incorporation

2005

Statements & Search Criteria

Mission Statement

The Student Immigrant Movement is a MA-based statewide immigrant youth-led organization. We fight for the liberation of the undocumented community through the development of a network of immigrant youth organizers in high-density immigrant communities. We organize youth, ages 13-30, and provide political education, leadership training, protection, guidance, mentorship, and safe healing spaces.

Background Statement

In October 2005, 400 immigrant students and allies gathered on the steps of the Grand Staircase at the State House to fight for an equal right to higher education. The tremendous impact of that event inspired us to create an organization led by and for immigrant students. Our in-state tuition bill ended up failing under a veto threat by then-Governor Romney, but to us that was only the beginning. In the spring of 2006, the newly formed Student Immigrant Movement (SIM) decided to organize to fight the deportation of one of our members, Mario, a Chelsea honor student. In a matter of months, SIM mobilized hundreds of supporters, earned more than fifty media spots and successfully stopped Mario's deportation. We learned then that we could be about much more than just an issue - we could be the hope we had been searching for, if only we had the courage to build it up.

Since then, we have continued to grow larger and bolder. 2009 saw us build, along with friends throughout the country, the United We Dream network. 2010 saw the historic DREAM Act fight and the local sit-in vigils that defeated anti-immigrant legislation by galvanizing the community. 2011 brought the Education Not Deportation campaigns. In 2012 we targeted President Obama and secured the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, which meant protection from deportation for up to 2 million youth in what was called the largest win in immigration in 26 years. 2013 saw us coordinate the largest grassroots free DACA application effort in the state. 2014 and 2015 saw the re-launch of the DREAM Schools campaign, and the fight for, and loss of, a new in-state tuition bill. In 2016 we found ourselves recovering after periods of confusion, deeply expanding our membership engagement structure and our political education efforts in order to live up to our vision of an organization that is more than just campaigns - it is a family and a community that is growing and fighting together to reclaim our dignity. Now, undocumented youth and their families face tremendous challenges and risks in this Trump era. We will use our experience, our organizational partners, our boldness and the teachings of past movement leaders to fight back against deportations, anti-immigrant policies and narratives of hatred and division. In this unique time, we will prove to ourselves and the country that we are still undocumented and unafraid.

Impact Statement

SIM has claimed many victories in the past year, although our biggest victories were the ones that gave our members a sense of power, freedom and dignity. Tomoni Mwamunga is a leader in the SIM Lynn Chapter. Fourteen years ago, he came to the United States from Kenya with a student visa and was actually enrolled in school when he realized he couldn't afford it anymore. He took a break from college in order to work and save up money, but in that hiatus, USCIS revoked his student visa and placed him on deportation proceedings. Our Deportation Defense team saved Tomoni from deportation last summer! In 2015, we held a massive hearing for our legislative bill, In-state tuition and State financial aid for undocumented students in MA, where almost 100 people testified. Although our bill didn't pass, the universities who were supporting our bill, have asked us to train their faculty to make enrollment and campus life friendlier for undocumented students. So far, we're developing a Umass Boston chapter, a former SIM staff is employed as an undocumented student support liaison at Umass Boston, presenting to over 80 faculty members at Tufts University on an undocumented-friendly curriculum for faculty, welcoming 12 new undocumented students to Tufts University, building relationships with Quincy College, and Roxbury Community College and creating a task force at Bunker Hill Community College. Other victories we've had in the past year revolve around creating safe spaces within the organization. We've developed an undocumented and black group called Undocu-Black, a SIM artists collective, a trans and queer liberation collective and currently working on a women's collective. Our goals for this year are to expand these safe spaces, grow our leadership base by 50%, and train 4 new SIM leaders to be staff members.

Needs Statement

In Trump's America, undocumented families live in the constant threat of deportation, and hate crime. Since November 2016, SIM has launched the DEFEND and DEFY Campaign as a rapid response campaign to DEFEND our communities from direct attacks and DEFY the policies that further divide and criminalize innocent people. Our campaign aims to protect the most affected by anti-immigrant, inhumane policies by arranging families into groups that we call Migrant Self Defense Committees (SDCs). These SDCs share their experiences with one another, report any ICE activity, attend meetings, trainings, and have access to community resources and social services. From the meetings and trainings, we hope to equip our community with political education and analysis, know your rights information and other resources, organizing and action tools, and a safe space to create and heal. In addition to the Migrant Self Defense Committees, we have been developing and expanding an ally roster to support our SDCs. Below is a breakdown of our top 5 needs:

- 1 Keep 4 interns for 3 extra months (June-Aug) - \$19,200
- 2 Training expenses for 100 youth including transportation - \$10,000
- 3 Sustaining our identity/safe space programs
4. Hosting quarterly mass meetings - \$500

5. Professional Development for staff - \$3,000

Board Chair Statement

My name is Miriam Ortiz and I have served as the Chair of the Board of Directors since 2013. As one of the founders of the organization, my personal and professional path is closely linked to the development of the Student Immigrant Movement. A former undocumented student myself, my story is similar to the stories of the youth we serve today.

My family moved to the US in the year 2000, shortly after arriving in Boston, I began to come face-to-face with the limitations of not having documents. As hard as it was to cope with issues of not being able to legally work and the uncertainty of a path to college, the most challenging part was living in a culture of secrecy and fear. Thankfully, there were opportunities and people who encouraged me to channel that fear into activism.

I was introduced to grassroots organizing and learned how to tell my story and engage other youth in the same situation to fight for legislation locally and nationally like the In-State Tuition Bill and the Dream Act. Through informational workshops, visits with legislators, campaign strategy, and rallies, my peers and I received a crash course on civic engagement in the democratic process. This group came to be the Student Immigrant Movement. I support SIM because I see it as bedrock of the undocumented student community across Massachusetts and a beacon of hope for immigrant families.

Although my connection to SIM is personal, I understand that the challenges I faced as a young person are not exactly the same as what the current leadership is facing. As a board member, it is my responsibility to contribute to the movement by mentoring and coaching young leaders, but also recognize that certain systems and practices may not necessarily fit into this grassroots space that is progressive and fluid. I'm personally committed to help our board remain true to an undocumented-led organization that highlights the voices of those most marginalized and uses it as the guiding force of our work.

From a governance perspective, one of our successes has been to ensure that this leadership is represented in the board level. As we have gone through cycles of board recruitment it has remained a priority to invite people who have lived the undocumented experience. During this critical time for the immigrants right movement SIM remains committed to authentic leadership. As far as challenges, one of the most recent ones has been whether SIM should remain as a fiscally-sponsored entity. We have to carefully consider issues like what independent administration would look like and how much it would cost. As a small organization, another challenge is financial solvency and stability. During our budget planning process, we have prioritized long-term goals such as creating a cash reserve that will enable us to think about expansion and independence in the future. This past fiscal year the board has also been highly involved in fundraising strategy efforts and supported development staff in creating targeted campaigns and increasing our monthly donor base. As a board member I feel proud of the work staff is doing and believe SIM's work will continue to be as impactful as it has been for so many years.

Service Categories

Alliances & Advocacy

Alliances & Advocacy

Minority Rights

Geographic Areas Served

Boston, Dorchester, Chelsea, Roxbury, Everett, Lynn, Revere, Salem, New Bedford, Worcester, Marlborough

Please review online profile for full list of selected areas served.

Programs

Dare to DREAM

Description

Stage 1: Work with high schools, colleges and universities to recruit undocumented students, educate faculty on immigration and immigrant opportunities, and maintain partnerships with schools.

Stage 2: Leverage support for Stage 1 to pass an Education Equity Bill.

Stage 2 took place in 2015.

Budget

Category

Civil Rights, Social Action & Advocacy, General/Other

Population Served

Adolescents Only (13-19 years), Immigrant, Newcomers, Refugees,

Program Short Term Success

The short term goals for this program are:

- Build membership of SIM
- Pass In-state tuition and state aid bill
- Develop and train students on lobbying and strategy
- Forge a clear path to higher education

Program Long term Success

The long term results are:

- increase high schools and college graduation rate
- development of professionals entering the work force
- an opportunity for more immigrant rights bill to pass

Program Success Monitored By

We will measure our success by answering the organizational questions below. Leadership will check in quarterly to evaluate the campaign and change things as we see fit.

Dare to DREAM Stage 1:

- Have we been able to maintain support from existing DREAM Schools?
- Have we expanded campaigns to reach new DREAM Schools? Do we see evidence of improved policies to support undocumented immigrant students at these schools?

Dare to DREAM Stage 2:

- How many co-sponsors does the legislation have? In what districts/areas?
- How many legislators and Senators have changed their position from “maybe” to “strong” supporters?
- How many favorable media stories has our work generated?
- Has our process for obtaining sponsors for the in-state legislation been effective?
- Do we have the legislative support to win? Have we increased our chance of winning Education Equity by collaborating with our community organizations? If not, what can do we better? Who should we be talking to?

Examples of Program Success

In the past year, SIM members have created a task force at Emerson College that supports and guides undocumented students. High schools in the chapter areas are being taught how to support undocumented students that plan to attend to college. On the college level, Salem State University opened a \$25,000 scholarship and Holy Cross College opened a \$6 million scholarship.

Identity and Safe Space Projects

Description

As a new vision for membership engagement, SIM has undergone changes to better accommodate organization through interests and needs, as an addition to our more traditional approach of organization through locality. This has resulted in rapid controlled growth in programmatic reach.

- SIM Artistry is a team of young immigrant artists who are producing art for SIM, while building community through creative expression of the undocumented experience.
- Trans and Queer Immigrant Liberation creates a space for Queer youth to gather in safety, build community, and push SIM's politics forward.
- UndocuBlack focuses on the unique, and often doubly unjust challenges that black undocumented immigrants face in the US and beyond.
- Deportation Defense collects the strategic expertise and networks needed to fight against deportations.
- Women's Collective aims to create an intentional space for the women of SIM to build power together and develop their own political program to push SIM forward.

Budget

4000

Category

Youth Development, General/Other Youth Development, General/Other

Population Served

Adolescents Only (13-19 years), Immigrant, Newcomers, Refugees, Lesbian, Gays, Bisexuals, Transgendered

Program Short Term Success

- Create spaces for youth to feel safe and work with each other to bring workshops and trainings to SIM members at large
-

Program Long term Success

- Do our part to dismantle racism, sexism and homophobia in every space we're in

Program Success Monitored By

Examples of Program Success

Deportation Defense and Undocublack most recently secured a victory in the closure of SIM UndocuBlack leader Tomoni Mwamunga's deportation.

Management

CEO/Executive Director

Executive Director	Mr. Conrado Santos
Term Start	Jan 2016
Email	conradofsantos@simforus.com

Experience

First recruited as a 17 year old, Conrado now has 10 years organizing experience, most of it centered in work with SIM. Extensively trained in a variety of organizing and team-building models.

Former CEOs

Name	Term
Mrs. Celina Barrios-Millner	Jan 2011 - Dec 2012
Renata Teodoro	Jan 2013 - Dec 2015

Staff Information

Full Time Staff	3
Part Time Staff	4
Volunteers	100
Contractors	0

Staff Demographics - Ethnicity

African American/Black	2
Asian American/Pacific Islander	0
Caucasian	0
Hispanic/Latino	5
Native American/American Indian	0
Other	0 1

Staff Demographics - Gender

Male	2
Female	6
Unspecified	0

Formal Evaluations

CEO Formal Evaluation	N/A
CEO/Executive Formal Evaluation Frequency	N/A

Senior Management Formal Evaluation	N/A
Senior Management Formal Evaluation Frequency	N/A
NonManagement Formal Evaluation	Yes
Non Management Formal Evaluation Frequency	Quarterly

Plans & Policies

Organization has a Fundraising Plan?	Under Development
Organization has a Strategic Plan?	Under Development
Years Strategic Plan Considers	1
Does your organization have a Business Continuity of Operations Plan?	No
Management Succession Plan?	Under Development
Organization Policy and Procedures	No
Nondiscrimination Policy	Yes
Whistleblower Policy	No
Document Destruction Policy	No
Directors and Officers Insurance Policy	Yes
Is your organization licensed by the Government?	No

Board & Governance

Board Chair

Board Chair	Mrs. Miriam Ortiz-Clooney
Company Affiliation	italian home for children
Term	Aug 2013 to Aug 2018
Email	miriortiz@gmail.com

Board Members

Name	Affiliation	Status
Ahmadou Balde	Community Volunteer	Voting
Matt Cameron	Community lawyer	Voting
Kelly Franco	One of the founders	Voting
David Jenkins	Mentor	Voting
Adriana Lafaille	Lawyer - ACLUM	Voting
Gillian Mason	Menor in fundraising	Voting
Tom Pineros Shields	Treasurer	Voting
Ragini Shah	Law Professor - Suffolk University	Voting
Isabel Vargas	Secretary	Voting

Board Demographics - Ethnicity

African American/Black	1
Asian American/Pacific Islander	0
Caucasian	4
Hispanic/Latino	3
Native American/American Indian	0
Other	0 1 (Indian)

Board Demographics - Gender

Male	4
Female	6
Unspecified	0

Board Information

Board Term Lengths	2
Board Term Limits	2
Number of Full Board Meetings Annually	12

Written Board Selection Criteria?	Under Development
Written Conflict of Interest Policy?	No
Percentage Making Monetary Contributions	70%
Percentage Making In-Kind Contributions	100%
Constituency Includes Client Representation	No

Standing Committees

Board Development / Board Orientation

Development / Fund Development / Fund Raising / Grant Writing / Major Gifts

Impact

Goals

Strategies

Capabilities

Progress

Financials

Fiscal Year

Fiscal Year Start	Oct 01, 2016
Fiscal Year End	Sept 30, 2017
Projected Revenue	\$176,000.00
Projected Expenses	\$180,301.00
Endowment?	No
Spending Policy	N/A
Credit Line?	No
Reserve Fund?	Yes
Months Reserve Fund Covers	3

Detailed Financials

Revenue and Expenses

Fiscal Year	2016	2015	2014
Total Revenue	\$199,530	\$129,388	\$170,748
Total Expenses	\$203,017	\$134,323	\$124,557

Revenue Sources

Fiscal Year	2016	2015	2014
Foundation and Corporation Contributions	\$164,750	\$110,100	\$144,600
Government Contributions	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal	--	--	--
State	--	--	--
Local	--	--	--
Unspecified	--	--	--
Individual Contributions	\$25,012	\$13,248	\$6,070
Indirect Public Support	--	--	--
Earned Revenue	\$270	\$305	--
Investment Income, Net of Losses	--	--	--
Membership Dues	--	--	--
Special Events	\$7,498	\$4,735	\$2,435
Revenue In-Kind	--	--	--
Other	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$17,643

Expense Allocation

Fiscal Year	2016	2015	2014
Program Expense	\$48,620	\$26,612	\$7,125
Administration Expense	\$154,397	\$107,712	\$111,312
Fundraising Expense	--	--	\$6,120
Payments to Affiliates	--	--	--
Total Revenue/Total Expenses	0.98	0.96	1.37
Program Expense/Total Expenses	24%	20%	6%
Fundraising Expense/Contributed Revenue	0%	0%	4%

Assets and Liabilities

Fiscal Year	2016	2015	2014
Total Assets	\$0	\$0	\$0
Current Assets	\$0	\$0	\$0
Long-Term Liabilities	\$0	\$0	\$0
Current Liabilities	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Net Assets	\$0	\$0	\$0

Short Term Solvency

Fiscal Year	2016	2015	2014
Current Ratio: Current Assets/Current Liabilities	--	--	--

Long Term Solvency

Fiscal Year	2016	2015	2014
Long-Term Liabilities/Total Assets	--	--	--

Top Funding Sources

Fiscal Year	2016	2015	2014
Top Funding Source & Dollar Amount	--	--	--
Second Highest Funding Source & Dollar Amount	--	--	--
Third Highest Funding Source & Dollar Amount	--	--	--

Capital Campaign

Currently in a Capital Campaign?

No

Comments

CEO Comments

From 2008 to 2013, we were fiscally sponsored by Neighbor to Neighbor. Being a small organization, we relied all of our financial information in the hands of our fiscal sponsor. However, we found out in 2013 that our fiscal sponsor's accountant was not keeping the books. We had lost years of financial records.

When we transferred to Jobs with Justice (or CLEAR) on April 2014, we waited for Neighbor to Neighbor to piece together an estimated financial report in order to retrieve SIM's funds.

We are progressing and stabilizing our financial reports.

Foundation Staff Comments

Financial summary data in the charts and graph above is per the organization, Student Immigrant Movement (SIM, Massachusetts). SIM is currently fiscally sponsored by the Center for Labor Education and Research Inc. (CLEAR), as per the above posted IRS Letter of Determination and Fiscal Sponsor Letter. As such, CLEAR's IRS Form 990 and audit are posted above. SIM was previously fiscally sponsored by Neighbor to Neighbor from 2008 to 2013.