

IM4HI's IMPACT

Over the past decade since its inception, IM4HI has moved mountains, even while growing and strengthening its internal systems and structures. IM4HI's work shines a light on injustice embedded in incarceration and immigration detention with each campaign and action undertaken, each detention facility closed and ICE contracted terminated, each individual and family supported. Just as important as reaching these significant milestones, IM4HI's work builds faith, awareness, connection, leadership and momentum across prison walls and faith institutions along the way.

Influencing Policy

- **Legislative Wins**—In 2016, IM4HI's efforts helped result in the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors' vote to implement a Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission. Today, as a result of movement efforts, Los Angeles County permanently allocates 10% of its budget for mental health, youth funding, re-entry, and diversion. Its fight to ban for-profit prisons, passed in 2019 and overturned on appeal in 2022, nonetheless helped set a national trend toward ending private prison contracts.

- **Current Campaigns**—IM4HI is now working toward new legislative victories, like the California Vision Act (AB937), which will end double punishment for non-citizens, and efforts to close 10 prisons as part of CURB (Californians United for a Responsible Budget), and reform life-without-parole sentencing, which is disproportionately applied to young people of color. It is also organizing for the protection of rights for immigrants seeking asylum as Title 42 is ended.



Closing Prisons and ICE “Processing” Facilities

• Stopping New Jails in Los Angeles

Angeles—Organizing stopped the relocation of Los Angeles Women’s Jail, and the \$2 billion expansion of the Men’s Central Jail. It has also resulted in a commitment from Los Angeles County Supervisors to ultimately close the Men’s Central Jail.

• **Ending ICE Contracts**—IM4HI held a running vigil for over seven years, involving over 10,000 people, that culminated in the termination of ICE’s contract with the West County Detention Facility in Contra Costa County, inspiring similar closures elsewhere. Now that Yuba County has terminated its contract with ICE at facilities in Adelanto in 2022, IM4HI continues to organize to end ICE contracts at six remaining facilities in California.

“I thought it was pretty audacious for them to say, ‘We’re going to make sure Contra Costa no longer has a detention facility and really severe police and ICE cooperation.’ And they stuck to it in an amazing way, and they achieved that audacious goal....They did it with media, and all of a sudden there were stories about what was happening inside, and they built alliances and brought other groups...and they had that moral authority that...shamed the leadership of those institutions. They brought it all to bear and they won! They’re very, very powerful.”

—Cathy Cha, President and CEO, Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund¹

Releasing the Detained

• Saving Lives During the Pandemic

—IM4HI works with partners to make visible detained and imprisoned people’s vulnerability to COVID-19. The number of immigrants held in California detention facilities has since decreased by 57%. The number of people held in California’s 34 prisons has been reduced by 33%.

• Winning Freedom Campaigns and Deportation Defense

—IM4HI has helped gain the freedom and release of dozens of individuals: 57 from Adelanto (Yuba County) and 17 from Mesa Verde (Kern County), Yuba, and Imperial County Detention Centers.



1. Interviewed by consulting team January 10, 2023.

Direct Support and Programming

- **Support and Accompaniment for New Immigrants and Asylum Seekers**—Through IM4HI's Nueva Esperanza Accompaniment Program, 273

immigrants and their families from Eritrea, Afghanistan, Cuba, Honduras, Nicaragua, Cameroon, Russia, Venezuela, and Argentina are supported and accompanied and 100 accompaniment teams are trained and matched.

- **Floriciendo tus Sueños/Project Thrive**—These programs support people IM4HI has accompanied to start small businesses as pathways for income and sustainability. To date, 77 people have received training and technical assistance, and 25 immigrants or formerly incarcerated received microgrants averaging \$5,000.

Narrative Strategy

- **Amplifying the Voices of Directly Impacted Leaders**—IM4HI coached and supported 25 formerly incarcerated people to share their truth in public presentations and three videos highlighting the impact of immigrant detention. It lifts up the stories of the most impacted, through film, social media, and a youth zine (*We the Youth*).

// IM4HI was the first organization I became aware of who established an “Inside Fellow.” It is illustrative of IM4HI’s deep commitment to making space and a way for leadership from affected communities.”

—Holly Delany Cole, Program Director, *The LeadersTrust*

- **Amplifying the Faith Voice for Dignity and Justice**—IM4HI has generated 116 television, radio, and print news stories to elevate the message that everyone has dignity; everyone deserves fair and humane treatment; and everyone is sacred, across bars and borders.

// You can do immigration work, especially as a faith person, and it can be just about loving your neighbor, compassion, in a way that never explicitly addresses race. We have a racial justice analysis that is front and center when we are loving our neighbor. I think with criminal justice work, people already make the connections around race and incarceration systems. It also helped us link the two issues: ‘Look, this is the same historic pattern, but here they are killing you in this way, and in the other they are killing you in this way.’ It is a way to think about the work as not distinct, and to help the communities see this as a pattern, and to increase solidarity by naming the pattern and the common root causes.”

—Reverend Deborah Lee, Executive Director, IM4HI

Building Community

- **Expanding Faith Networks and Partnerships**—IM4HI fosters community with faith communities and families in Los Angeles; groups of immigrant women in the Inland Empire; Japanese American faith communities; newly arrived diverse immigrants in the Bay Area; Fe y Justicia trainings for Latinx faith leaders; a Faith Reparations Toolkit; Sanctuary Congregations; and more new partners in new areas.

