

### Asylum Seekers Coming to Buffalo

There has been a lot of activity at the International Institute of Buffalo these past few weeks!

The biggest news in local headlines is asylum seekers from the US/Mexico border potentially coming to Erie County. [County Executive Mark Poloncarz recently discussed that those sent to New York City might find themselves here.](#)

As we've been doing for over 100 years, the International Institute of Buffalo will welcome and help the foreign-born in our community to the extent that we can.

Please remember, and remind your friends, that these asylum seekers are people. They are running from something in search of safety, which is something we all want and deserve.

One other thing, sometimes people throw around terms such as asylee, asylum seeker, humanitarian parolee, refugee, and migrants without really knowing their meaning. [A few months ago, I did an interview with WGRZ TV and reviewed the distinctions between these terms.](#) This may be helpful to you. Please share this link with people who might be interested.

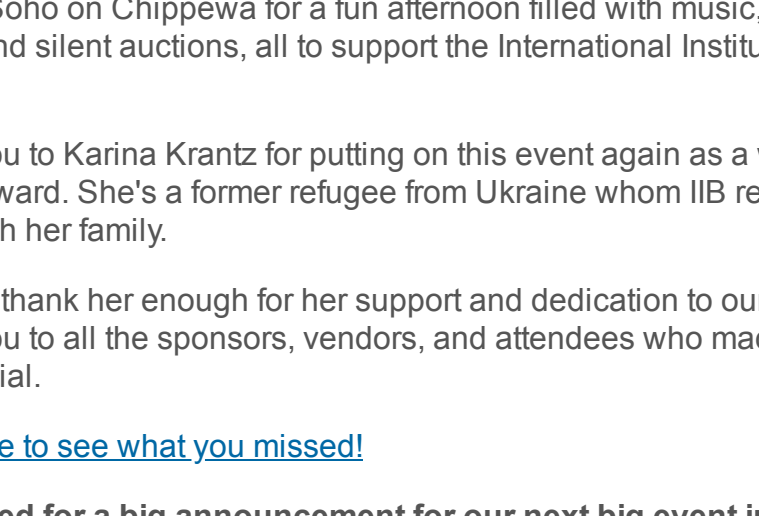
If and when asylum seekers from downstate do come here, we will help them using our unrestricted funds, which come from community contributions. If you want to support that effort, [please make a cash donation today.](#)

[Please click here if you'd prefer to donate goods like furniture or household items.](#) We now have new convenient times to drop off new or used items.

As always, thanks for your attention and for your support of IIB!

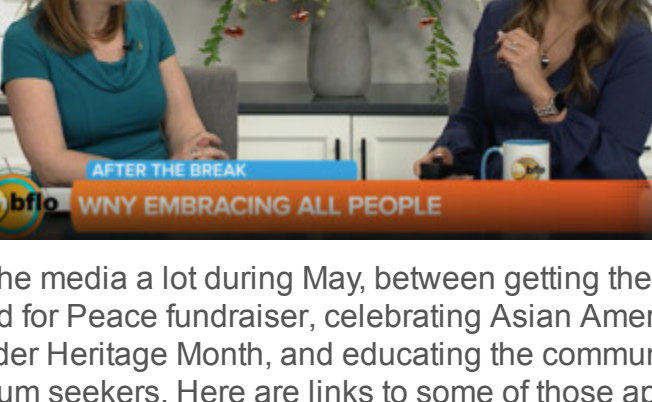
I Want to Make a Donation to Help Asylum Seekers

### Old Glory has a New Home at the International Institute of Buffalo!



[The Stars and Stripes will fly higher](#) than ever before at the International Institute of Buffalo. Just in time for the Memorial Day weekend, we installed a bigger, better flagpole (with a bigger flag) in front of our home on Delaware Avenue.

### We Stand for Peace Was a Great Success!



[We held our second "We Stand for Peace" fundraiser](#) on a sunny Sunday, May 21st, which was another great success! Over 100 people packed Soho on Chippewa for a fun afternoon filled with music, basket raffles, and silent auctions, all to support the International Institute of Buffalo.

Thank you to Karina Krantz for putting on this event again as a way to pay it forward. She's a former refugee from Ukraine whom IIB resettled along with her family.

We can't thank her enough for her support and dedication to our mission! Thank you to all the sponsors, vendors, and attendees who made the day special.

[Click here to see what you missed!](#)

**Stay tuned for a big announcement for our next big event in September. You won't want to miss it!**

I Still Want to Support the "We Stand for Peace" Fundraiser!

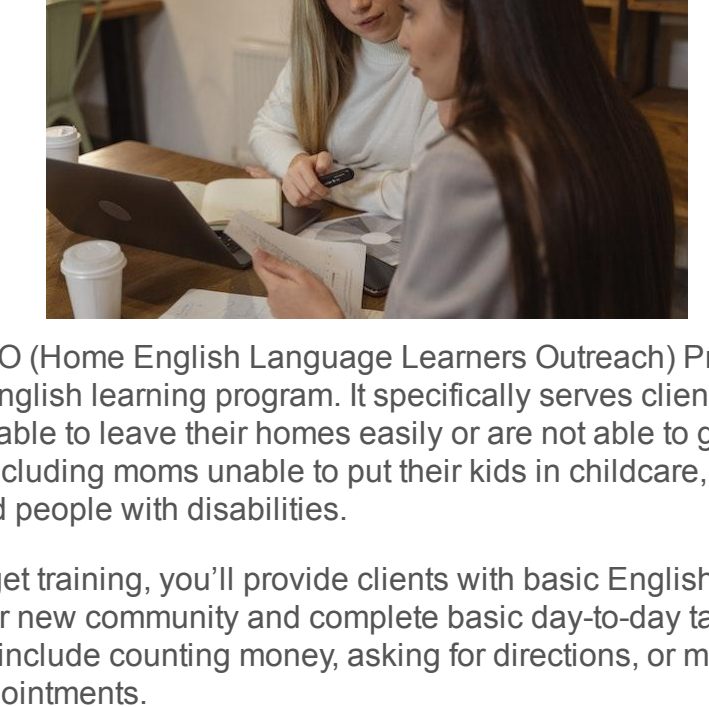
### The International Institute of Buffalo in the Media



We were in the media a lot during May, between getting the word out for our We Stand for Peace fundraiser, celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, and educating the community on the issue of asylum seekers. Here are links to some of those appearances:

- May 11 [WIB's Daytime Buffalo on We Stand for Peace Event](#)
- May 15 [WKBW's AM Buffalo Celebrating AAPI Heritage Month, the Beauty of Cultural Diversity, and We Stand for Peace Event](#)
- May 25 [WBEN Discussing Asylum Seekers](#)
- May 26 [WGRZ Town Hall Discussing Asylum Seekers](#)

### Asian American Pacific Islander Month



In May, we celebrated notable refugees and immigrants from Asia and the Pacific Islands on our blog and social media.

We featured:

[Astronaut Kalpana Chawla](#)

[Senator Tammy Duckworth](#)

[Musician Yo-Yo Ma](#)

[Architect I.M. Pei](#)

[UB President Satish Tripathi](#)

I Want to Make a Donation to Support the International Institute of Buffalo!

### Donating History to IIB



Recently, Althea Hendricks [donated Hungarian and German religious books](#) to the International Institute of Buffalo. Learn more about Ms. Hendricks and why she thinks her Hungarian grandmother would approve of the donation.

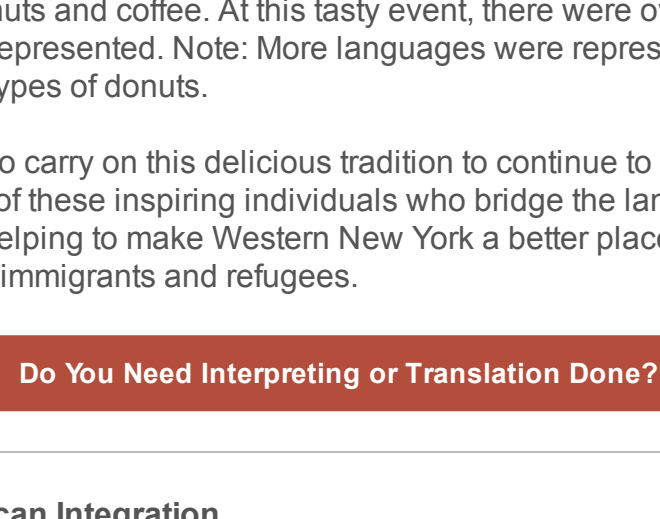
[Contact us to donate an artifact to the International Institute of Buffalo.](#)

### Volunteers Urgently Needed for our HELLO Program

*"...It turned out to be a fantastic experience, from the first telephone call, video call, and home visit. I got to connect with my client and her family in a way that no language barrier could ever impede.*

*We shared knowledge, friendship, wonder, joy, even sadness. We laughed, we smiled... we connected. We learned that we are more alike than different. What a great experience. I've made friends for life, and am better for it."*

–Carrie Kling, HELLO Volunteer



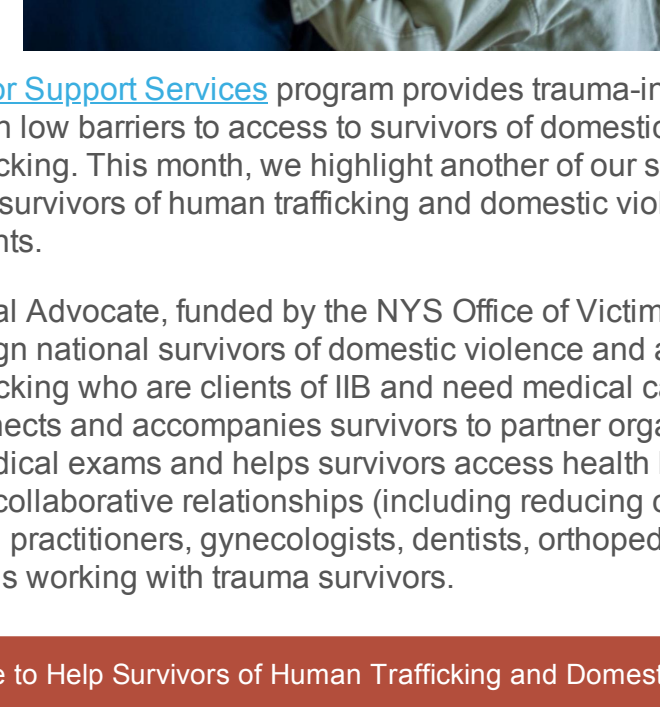
The HELLO (Home English Language Learners Outreach) Program is an at-home English learning program. It specifically serves clients who are not easily able to leave their homes easily or who are not able to go to ESL classes, including moms unable to put their kids in childcare, older adults, and people with disabilities.

After you get training, you'll provide clients with basic English to become part of their new community and complete basic day-to-day tasks. Some examples include counting money, asking for directions, or making doctor appointments.

The commitment for the program is eight weeks, three hours each week, which you and the client can do at mutually convenient times.

Our next HELLO Orientation is on Tuesday, June 20th, at 6:00 PM. The meeting will be in-person at our International Institute of Buffalo headquarters for the first time since the pandemic! For more information, email [volunteers@iibuffalo.org](mailto:volunteers@iibuffalo.org)

### New and Convenient Donation Drop-off Hours!



Drop off new and used household items at the carriage house behind our building at 864 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

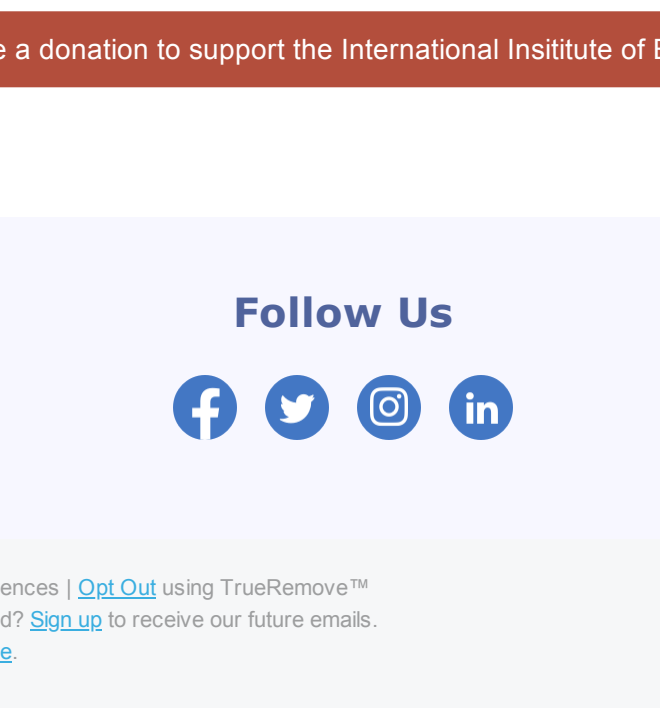
Donated items go a long way in helping newly arriving refugees settle into the community as quickly and seamlessly as possible.

[Click here to find a full list of urgently needed basic household items.](#)

For any questions or inquiries about specific donations, please email [donations@iibuffalo.org](mailto:donations@iibuffalo.org).

[Please click here if you don't want to donate an item but prefer to donate cash.](#)

### International Exchanges and Education



After our successful events in March and April, our [International Exchanges and Education Department](#) provided cultural competency to local healthcare providers and service providers, including:

- Senior Services of Orchard Park
- Pediatric residency interns at UB (Refugee/Immigrant Health Advocacy)
- D'Youville University's Pharmacy School

They're also gearing up for a busy summer for our International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), which connects emerging leaders from across the globe to their professional peers in the United States. U.S. embassies select visitors who come to the U.S. for three weeks, stopping in 2-4 American cities. This summer, we'll be welcoming groups from:

- Spanish-speaking nations in the Western Hemisphere studying Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development,
- The Middle East and North Africa studying Interfaith Dialogue and Religious Freedom,
- Armenia studying Combating Human Trafficking, and
- The United Kingdom studying Youth Empowerment and Civic Engagement

If you'd like to host a dinner for these or future international visitors, [let us know!](#)

I Want to Donate to Support IIB International Visitors Programs

### Interpreting & Translation



Every year National Interpreter Appreciation Day falls on the first Wednesday of May.

At IIB, we proudly treated our invaluable interpreters to locally celebrated Paula's Donuts and coffee. At this tasty event, there were over 20 languages represented. Note: More languages were represented than there were types of donuts.

Our goal is to carry on this delicious tradition to continue to recognize the importance of these inspiring individuals who bridge the language barrier every day, helping to make Western New York a better place for, and because of, immigrants and refugees.

Do You Need Interpreting or Translation Done?

### New American Integration



June is Immigrant Heritage Month-- formerly Refugee Awareness Month. Also, June 20th is World Refugee Day. During this time, we honor those who flee their home countries because of who they are or their beliefs. We also recognize their courage and sacrifice in the face of persecution.

Donate to help immigrants and refugees in WNY!

### Survivor Support



[IIB's Survivor Support Services](#) program provides trauma-informed services with low barriers to access to survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking. This month, we highlight another of our specialized services for survivors of human trafficking and domestic violence who are already clients.

IIB's Medical Advocate, funded by the NYS Office of Victims' Services, serves foreign national survivors of domestic violence and all survivors of human trafficking who are clients of IIB and need medical care. The person connects and accompanies survivors to partner organizations for forensic medical exams and helps survivors access health benefits. They also create collaborative relationships (including reducing clients' fees) with general practitioners, gynecologists, dentists, orthopedics, and other professionals working with trauma survivors.

Donate to Help Survivors of Human Trafficking and Domestic Abuse

### Careers



Do something meaningful and get paid for it! You can make Western New York a better place for, and because of, immigrants and refugees. Learn more about the open positions we have waiting for you or someone you know.

Check out our Career Services webpage!

**"The International Institute of Buffalo makes Western New York a better place for, and because of, immigrants and refugees."**

Make a donation to support the International Institute of Buffalo!

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