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Front and back cover photo by Andre Chung  
Back cover artwork by Angelica Frausto, @nerdybrownkid
Dear DWN Community,

As we reflect on 2021, I can't help but feel proud of how far we have come as an organization and as a movement. The demand to end immigration detention is stronger than ever and despite the turbulent post-Trump landscape on immigration, we have scored important victories that are worth celebrating. Thanks to the work of the Detention Watch Network community nationwide the detention system is finally shrinking. While additional threats and challenges loom, it’s important to take stock of what we’ve been able to accomplish this year, 24 years since DWN was founded in 1997, as we renew our commitment to achieving immigrant justice.

Early in the year, DWN launched the First Ten to Communities Not Cages campaign to demand the Biden administration shut down ten detention centers in his first year in office. In May, the Department of Homeland Security, for the first time, publicly announced the end of Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention at two facilities, the Bristol County Jail in Massachusetts and the Irwin Detention Center in Georgia, specifically citing the harms taking place inside the jails. In addition to these federal victories, six states have passed anti-detention bills after sustained campaigns by local groups. This groundswell of mobilization and action against detention has changed the national conversation on immigration detention and now, more than ever, the immigrant justice movement and beyond is committed to creating a world without immigration detention.

However, as we made strides on reducing immigration detention, we still faced big challenges. The Biden administration failed to undo many of Trump’s attempts at ending asylum as we know it by continuing the racist Title 42 border closure and failing to quickly end the Remain in Mexico program. In addition, the administration expanded punitive alternatives to detention programs, increasing the number of people under surveillance while in immigration proceedings. As the right-wing attacks on our basic rights continue, we must remain nimble and do everything possible to protect immigrants subject to detention and deportation and provide refuge for those seeking safety at our borders.

Much of what we’ve been able to accomplish is due to our thoughtful and dedicated team. DWN’s staff continued to grow in 2021, adding capacity to our advocacy, communications, and organizing teams. After over a year working remotely, we were able to come together in person with the board and staff in the fall. DWN is many things but perhaps its most enduring element is our ability and commitment to bringing people together. The year 2022 marks DWN’s 25th anniversary, and I look forward to being able to come together more regularly with the DWN membership again.

It has been many years of fighting, and we have many years to go before we see the end of immigration detention, but I believe we will get there. Despite numerous setbacks, the DWN community continues to make progress and persevere.

In community,
Silky Shah
Executive Director
The Communities Not Cages (CNC) campaign officially re-launched in early 2021 and was rebranded as the “First Ten to Communities Not Cages,” demanding the immediate closure of ten detention facilities. Given the shifts in the federal landscape, DWN and its members demanded the immediate closure of these ten detention facilities in the first year of the Biden Administration. As part of the launch, DWN:

• Coordinated a week of action with more than 100 organizational co-sponsors and four main components: Facebook Live, Twitterstorm, phone zaps, and banner drops at detention centers.

• Published a report highlighting the human rights abuses at these facilities (which are endemic to the entire system).

• Launched a petition delivering more than 10,500 signatures to DHS Secretary Mayorkas and President Biden demanding the closures of ten immigrant detention centers.

• Held a congressional briefing and delivered a letter with over 1,000 organizations, religious leaders, and faith groups to Secretary Mayorkas and President Biden demanding the release of people in detention, ending Title 42 and MPP policies, and the closures of ten immigrant detention centers.

• Worked closely with local organizers around these ten facilities to support local efforts.

• Offered capacity building opportunities for campaign members, including subgrants.

• Coordinated a powerful day of action with more than 20 actions across the country, with participation of more than 115 organizations digitally and in-person. DWN delivered a second Free Them All Organizational Sign-On Letter signed by more than 200 organizations to Acting ICE Director Tae D. Johnson at a DC action, made hundreds of calls, and sent 1,300 tweets.

• After the Biden administration announced the end of the ICE contract at the Irwin Detention Center and Bristol County Jail, DWN supported members as they mobilized to demand just closures and releases not transfers by creating resources, bolstering organizing and advocacy efforts, and making connections.
As part of the Communities Not Cages campaign, DWN and members also monitored and organized against child and adult detention expansion proposals. There was organizing against adult detention expansion proposals in Pennsylvania, Kansas, Tennessee, Indiana, Texas, and Georgia. Around March 2021, as the number of unaccompanied children arriving at the border saw a significant uptick (resulting from policies such as Title 42 and MPP), the Biden administration unveiled a new form of child detention: emergency intake sites (EIS). In the span of a month, at least 14 emergency intake sites rapidly and haphazardly opened across the county, including at military bases, stadiums, and event centers. DWN gave technical support to members and partners to stop the opening of one emergency intake site, convened a national coalition, created educational resources, and co-led national days of action resulting in the closures of most intake sites.

**Major Wins**

In May, the administration ordered ICE to stop using Irwin County Detention Center in GA. The same day, the Department of Justice announced termination of the Bristol County (MA) Detention Center’s 287(g) agreement. Irwin County Detention Center and Bristol County Detention Center were part of at least nine ICE detention contracts that were ended in 2021 through local, state, or national organizing and advocacy including contracts at Wakulla County Jail (FL), Hardin County Jail (IA), Franklin County Jail (MA), Howard County Detention Center (MD), York County Prison (PA), Butler County (OH) and Pulaski County Detention Center (IL). Only three of at least 14 child detention emergency intake sites opened in 2021 remain open. Expansion was stalled in at least 5 states. Detention Watch Network also supported five states (Illinois, Maryland, Washington, New Jersey, and Oregon) passing anti-detention state legislation.

**First Ten to Communities not Cages**

1. Adelanto Detention Center
2. Berks Family Detention Center
3. Dilley Family Detention Center
4. Etowah Detention Center
5. Farmville Detention Center
6. Hutto Detention Center
7. Irwin Detention Center
8. Karnes Family Detention Center
9. Mesa Verde Detention Center
10. Otero Detention Center
Defund Hate

DWN continued to co-lead the Defund Hate campaign, which has effectively blocked more than $15 billion in requested funding for ICE and CBP since the campaign launched in 2017. DWN is committed to divestment from agencies that tear apart loved ones and harm communities. Instead, we want to see tax dollars used to strengthen families and communities, including investment in education, housing, green infrastructure, and healthcare programs. Throughout 2021, the Defund Hate coalition engaged in efforts to reduce funding in the Fiscal Year 2022 budget and strengthened the coalition’s field and organizing capacity, including the following:

- The creation and release of the transformative budget resource to articulate a vision that breaks down the current abuse-ridden enforcement system to instead invest in services that respond to real community need.
- Hiring a campaign coordinator to increase the coalition’s capacity to work towards campaign goals and build movement power around campaign demands.
- Hosting regular trainings to build the advocacy and communications skills of our field.

Major Wins

During Defund Hate’s annual National Day of Advocacy, the campaign held nearly 50 in-district meetings across 20 states to urge Congress to cut funding for ICE and CBP in FY22. As budget negotiations extended through multiple continuing resolutions and the Biden administration made requests for increased enforcement spending, Defund Hate led a letter from 150 NGOs and drove close to 400 emails to Congress urging them to hold the line against these requests. Ultimately, there was no anomaly funding for ICE or CBP added to any short-term spending bill.
To keep pressure on the Biden administration and Congress, DWN held an artistic protest outside the White House on July 22, displaying portraits by artist Angelica Frausto of migrants whose stories represent the harsh realities of the U.S. immigration detention system. The protest demand was to #FreeThemAll. Teen Vogue ran an article highlighting the protest's demands and featuring the individuals in the portraits.

DWN believes that artist collaboration is essential to create depth and richness in our storytelling. DWN's Artist in Residency program supports artists who are directly impacted by immigration detention to amplify and celebrate their work. DWN's 2021-2022 Artist in Residency is Miguel Lopez. Miguel is a talented artist and long-standing community organizer.

Miguel's Artist in Residency Project spotlights ten individuals either currently or formerly detained in immigration detention facilities that represent most of the #FirstTen detention centers as a part of the Communities Not Cages campaign. Each individual portrait of the ten directly impacted individuals celebrates what brings that person joy. After experiencing trauma in detention, Miguel wanted his work to speak to the wholeness of the person and where they find fulfillment.

In spring 2021, DWN and Comm/Unity developed an interactive “Towards Freedom” messaging workshop and trained over 30 members. DWN also shared the valuable messaging guide resulting from this research project with members, allies, and supporters. DWN brought on additional social media capacity in the fall and is now producing more videos and content for social media. The Network continues to elevate its media profile.
Membership Growth and Retention

Our community power comes from our diverse, resilient, and committed membership. In total, DWN recruited 37 new members--14 organizations and 23 individuals. Overall, DWN had 130 organizations and 103 individuals for a total of 233 members in 2021.

Abolition Apostles
ACLU Immigrants’ Rights Project
Adelante Workers’ Center
Advocate Visitors with Immigrants in Detention (AVID)
Advocates for Immigrant Rights
Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice
Alianza Americas
American Friends Service Committee
American Gateways
American Immigration Council
American Immigration Lawyers Association
Americans for Immigrant Justice
Amnesty International USA
Arriba Las Vegas Worker Center
Asian Prisoner Support Committee
Asylum Seeker Sponsorship Project
Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore
Brooklyn Community Bail Fund
California Immigrant Youth Justice Alliance
Center for Constitutional Rights
Center for Victims of Torture
Centro de Trabajadores Unidos
Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America
Civil Rights Education and Enforcement Center
Colorado People’s Alliance
Community Justice Exchange (National Bail Fund Network)
Comunidades Unidas en Una Voz
Cornell Law School, Immigration Appellate Law Clinic
Desis Rising Up and Moving (DRUM)
Detained Migrant Solidarity Committee
Dolores Street Community Service
El Refugio Ministry
Families Belong Together
Families for Freedom
Fang Collective
First Friends of New Jersey and New York
Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project
Free Migration Project
Freedom For Immigrants
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Garifuna Community Services
Georgia Detention Watch
Grassroots Leadership
Hartford Deportation Defense
Human Rights First
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Immigrant Defense Advocates
Immigrant Defense Project
Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project
Immigrant Legal Defense
Immigrant Legal Resource Center
Immigration Action Alliance
Immigration Services & Legal Advocacy
Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice
Innovation Law Lab
Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants
Interfaith Immigration Coalition
Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity
Jefferson County Immigrant Rights Advocates
Jewish Activists for Immigration Justice of Western MA
Juntos
Just Futures Law
La ColectiVA
La Colectiva Legal del Pueblo
La Resistencia
La Unidad 11
Latinx Therapists Action Network
Law Offices of Brelje and Associates, P.C.
Long Beach Immigrant Rights Coalition
Make the Road Connecticut
Make the Road Nevada
Make the Road New Jersey
Make the Road New York
Make the Road Pennsylvania
Mano Amiga
Mariposa Legal
Mid-South Immigration Advocates, Inc.
Minnesota Interfaith Coalition on Immigration
Mustino Times
National Immigrant Justice Center
National Immigration Law Center
National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild
National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
National Religious Campaign Against Torture
New Mexico Immigrant Law Center
New Sanctuary Coalition of NY
No Detention Centers Michigan
No More Deaths
NorCal Resist
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project
Northwest Indiana Resist
Opportunity Agenda
Organized Communities Against Deportations
Oxfam America
Private Corrections Working Group
Providence Youth Student Movement
Public Counsel
Puente Human Rights Movement
Queer Detainee Empowerment Project
Quixote Center
RAICES
Rainbow Beginnings
Membership Growth and Retention (cont’d)

Release MN8
Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights
Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network
Rural Organizing Project
Sanctuary DMV
Santa Fe Dreamers Project
Scott D. Pollock & Associates, P.C.
Services, Immigrant Rights and Education Network (SIREN)
Sheriffs for Trusting Communities
Showing Up for Racial Justice Education Fund
Shut Down Berks Coalition
Shut Down Etowah
Siembra NC
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
Somos South Georgia
South Asian Americans Leading Together
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
Southeast Immigrant Rights Network (SEIRN)
Southern Poverty Law Center
St. Louis Interfaith Committee on Latin America
Stanford Law, Immigrants’ Rights Clinic
Sueños Sin Fronteras de Tejas
Tsuru For Solidarity
UndocuBlack
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ)
United Stateless
University of Miami School of Law Immigration Project
Voces Unidas
Waco Immigrant Alliance
Washington Defender Association
Women’s Refugee Commission
#WyoSayNo
DWN continued its commitment to developing and uplifting the leadership of the most impacted by detention to be at the core of the fight against immigrant incarceration. The Network's cohort of 20 directly impacted members continued meeting regularly in 2021. DWN offered stipends to each cohort member, funding for select projects, and tailored trainings on topics such as public speaking, fundraising, and trauma-informed healing.

Arlender Nunez, Formerly Detained Leader

Wow, everything I have learned with this group and what remains to be learned is inexplicable.

Arlender Nunez, Formerly Detained Leader
Organizing Support Program

DWN is dedicated to capacity building and providing resources to grassroots organizational members to aid their innovative approaches to support people detained, stop expansion, and/or shut down detention centers. For 2021, DWN completed its fifth round of the Organizing Support Program (OSP), granting over $200,000 to 18 grassroots organizational members. We invite you to learn more from this cohort and plug in to support their local organizing efforts.

**Advocate Visitors with Immigrants in Detention - Organizing to Shutdown Otero**
Detention Center Targeted: Otero County Processing Center

**El Refugio Ministry** – **Amplify and Abolish campaign**
Detention Center Targeted: Stewart Detention Center

**The Fang Collective** – **Shut Down ICE**
Detention Centers Targeted: Bristol County House of Corrections, Donald Wyatt Detention Facility

**Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice** - **Resilient Voices**
Detention Center Targeted: Adelanto GEO

**Immigrant Action Alliance** – **Shut Down Glades**
Detention Center Targeted: Glades County Detention Center

**Juntos** – **Jaulas de Oro (Golden Cages)**
Detention Centers Targeted: Visionquest and Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health

**La ColectiVA** – **Migrant and Refugee Rights Initiative**
Detention Centers Targeted: ICA-Farmville, Caroline Detention Center
La Resistencia – Families and Formerly Detained Leadership Group
Detention Center Targeted: Northwest ICE Processing Center

New Sanctuary Coalition – Anti-Detention Project
Detention Centers Targeted: Orange County, Bergen County, Hudson County, Essex County, Elizabeth County Detention Center

No Detention Centers Michigan – No Detention Center in Ionia
Detention Centers Targeted: Ionia, MI proposal, North Lake Correctional CAR Facility

Organized Communities Against Deportations – Free Them All IL
Detention Centers Targeted: McHenry County Correctional, Jerome Combs Detention Center, Pulaski County Jail, Ogle County Jail

Shut Down Etowah – #ShutDownEtowah Campaign
Detention Center Targeted: Etowah County Detention Center

St Louis Interfaith Committee on Latin America – Ending ISAP

Queer Detainee Empowerment Project – QDEP Organizing Base

Rio Grande Valley Equal Voice Network – Free Them All
Detention Centers Targeted: El Valle Detention Center, East Hidalgo Detention Center, Port Isabel Service Processing Center

Rural Organizing Project – Rural Organizing to End Oregon’s Detention Pipeline
Detention Centers Targeted: Northern Oregon Regional Correctional Facility, Northwest ICE Processing Center

Siembra NC – Expanding Community Defense Resistance
Detention Centers Targeted: Alamance County Jail, Stewart Detention Center

United Stateless – Statelessness Coalition
# Finances

## 2021 Expense by Function

- **Program**: $1,707,435
- **Management and General**: $647,893
- **Fundraising**: $106,054

## Support and Revenue

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<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundation Grants</td>
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<td>Interest Income</td>
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<td>Membership Dues</td>
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<td>Program Revenue</td>
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## Expenses

### Program Services

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<td>Communications</td>
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<td>Advocacy</td>
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<td>Organizing</td>
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<td>Member Capacity Building</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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### Supporting Services

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Management and General</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,461,382</strong></td>
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Staff

Lissette Castillo
Senior Organizer

Gabriela Viera
Advocacy Manager

Stacy Suh
Program Director

Itzel Corona Aguilar
Organizer

Jenny Garcia
Communications Associate

Justine Garcia
Digital Manager

Setareh Ghandehari
Advocacy Director

Marcela Hernandez
Organizing Director

Hillary Li
Policy Counsel

Kelvin Lopez
Organizer

Gabriela Marquez-Benitez
Membership Director

Aimee Nichols
Managing Director

Carly Perez Fernandez
Communications Director

Silky Shah
Executive Director

Jolie Steinert
Administrative Associate

Luis Suarez
Advocacy Manager

Stacy Suh
Program Director

Gabriela Viera
Advocacy Manager

*staff list as of end of 2021
Board

Elizabeth Sweet  
President  
Takoma Park, MD

Danielle Alvarado  
Vice President  
Fair Work Center  
Seattle, WA

Tony Nam  
Treasurer  
Indivisible Project  
Silver Spring, MD

Ana Ortiz Varela  
Secretary  
Innovation Law Lab  
San Antonio, TX

Lauren Dasse  
Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project  
Tucson, AZ

Alaide Vilches Ibarra  
Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice  
Portland, OR

Victoria Lopez  
ACLU of Arizona  
Phoenix, AZ

Silky Shah  
Detention Watch Network  
Bellingham, WA

Emily Tucker  
Georgetown University Law Center, Federal Legislation Clinic  
Washington, DC

Amilcar Valencia  
El Refugio Ministry  
Atlanta, GA

*Board list as of end of 2021
Funders

Anonymous
David Rockefeller Fund
Dr. Bronners Family Foundation
Ford Foundation
Four Freedoms Fund
Heising-Simons Foundation
Open Society Foundations
Oak Foundation
We Are Home
DWN Members, who contributed $102,973 in dues
Individual Supporters, who contributed $43,365 in donations