

NEW SANCTUARY MOVEMENT OF PHILADELPHIA

IMMIGRANT JUSTICE FOR ALL



Photo Credit: NSM Staff

2023: The Fruits of our Labor

NSM emerged in 2007, when a group of clergy, community members and organizers from the immigrant and ally communities began yearning for a bold, faith-rooted vision for immigrant justice. Sixteen years after first visualizing the contours of our immigrant-led movement, we are humbled to see how the passion-led work of clergy, organizers, immigrants and allies has grown and cultivated NSM in order to flourish in ways we never imagined possible.

We have built a wide movement consisting of people from all races and countries of origin, people from different faith backgrounds, and different levels of ability and class. We have **created an anti-racist casework system** that annually supports hundreds of people meet basic livelihood needs and assists them in navigating the immigration system. Through years of creative revampment, we have **an immigrant-led Leadership Development Program** that blends the skills and experiences members bring from their home countries with NSM's unique faith-rooted and anti-racist organizing model. We have **created sustainable systems and practices that meet moments of crisis head on**, are adaptable to changing circumstances, and are responsive to the needs of immigrant communities while grounded in community wisdom and healing. We have a **grassroots organizing model that does the long haul work of building power in order to fight for pro-immigrant policies** at the local, state, and federal level. After years of working together to push for a Driver's Licenses for All bill in PA, we have solidified a powerful statewide coalition and are continuing to have conversations with legislators so that the Driver's License for All bill has the backing it needs to reach the Governor's desk and become law.

We hope our 2023 Annual Report nourishes your soul and reminds you that radical social change is possible when a group of dedicated people work together!



NSM's 2023 Programs:

Positively impacted 2500+ people through NSM Programming.

1800+

Asylum seekers welcomed to Philly.



26

Immigrant Leadership Development Program Graduates.



29

White People Practicing Racial Justice Group Participants.



26

Legislative Visits & Lobby Days to support Driver's Licenses for All.



20

Women of Color Wellness Group Members.



600+

People provided casework & court accompaniment.



Realizing a World Where BIPOC Immigrant Women Lead.

In 2023, NSM women continue to lead! They fought for their families and communities, fostered a community of immigrant leaders, shared their stories with the world to shed light on the immigrant experience, led trainings to provide resources to their communities, and all while juggling motherhood and careers. Two of those leaders are Angie and Daune.

Daune is an unstoppable force. Using her powerful voice and indomitable spirit, she fought for her family to be reunited, and now fights for the rights of all immigrants.

Originally from Guyana, Daune and her husband Elroy moved to the US to seek a better life for their daughter Bethany. They thought they had done everything right, but fell victim to fraudulent legal assistance. They soon ended up out of status, with expired visas.

Not wanting to interrupt Bethany's schooling, they began to build a life for themselves in the US. "We were paying our taxes, we had our business, we had vehicles, we were living the life we were told we needed to live," Daune states, "we contributed every single breathing moment of our life to this country."

Their family's life was shaken to its core in 2022 when Elroy was detained at the ICE Moshannon Valley Detention Center. As the love of her life sat in a cold cell, **Daune promised herself that she would find a way to free her husband.** She called lawyer after lawyer, but it seemed like every door she knocked on was closed. Those first few weeks she couldn't sleep, she would find herself sobbing uncontrollably, and she felt so alone.

Everything changed when Daune reached out to NSM. Upon hearing about the family's situation, our team immediately jumped into action. Jody-Ann, our Caribbean and African Community Organizer, assisted the family to acquire an attorney, and NSM activated our members to help the family pay for Elroy's bond. **Through the power of community, Elroy gained his freedom.**

Today, Daune, Elroy, and their daughter Bethany, are actively involved in the movement for immigrant justice. In December 2023, they worked with Jody-Ann to host NSM's first Caribbean Resource Event, Elroy and Daune graduated from NSM's Leadership Development Program, and the family continues to use their voice to shed light on the unjust immigration system.

Reflecting on the family's experiences, Daune states: "The immigration system in this country was put there as a means of degrading people, degrading families, putting families in bondage. **Through NSM I heard stories from people who aren't me, but they are me. We have a bond due to the detention of our families.** NSM gave us opportunities to be leaders. I am happy to be part of having interrupted dreams mended. I see a path forward with NSM."

Daune and Elroy's story is what NSM is all about: we are the instrument through which people move from isolation to community, and from community to collective action.



First picture of Daune after reuniting with Elroy!

Photo Credit: Daune

A Labor of Love: Serving God and Community

Angie's work in her community is a testament to the power of women leaders in realizing a world that promotes faith-based systems of mutual support and collective liberation.



Born in Indonesia, Angie has lived in Philadelphia for over 15 years, where she has become a certified accountant, started a family, and become a US citizen. Two years ago, she decided she wanted to be more involved in her community and more connected to her Catholic roots, and she joined the St. Thomas Aquinas parish in South Philadelphia.

Angie was appointed by the Indonesian Catholic community as their Legal Affairs Coordinator, a position that has allowed her to fully immerse herself in NSM's faith-based immigrant justice work. Since then, Angie has grown into a tenacious advocate for her community. A fast learner with tons of talent, **Angie uses her strong leadership skills to provide resources to her community.**

Angie worked with NSM to plan and help facilitate workshops for new Indonesian immigrants which have been attended by 100+ people. Participants learned crucial information about their rights and how to engage with ICE, as well as the driver's license campaign and federal issues. In 2023, she organized and led an important meeting with State Representative Harris about driver's licenses, which was attended by a group of multifaith, multiracial, and mixed status individuals. Angie has also organized financial literacy trainings, provides regular immigration community updates to her congregation, and advocates for the Indonesian community to have access to qualified legal assistance. **Due to her passion-driven work, the community has gained new knowledge and resources, and members have been deeply impacted by opportunities to recognize their collective power and voice in the political system.**

Angie juggles all this with a full-time job and family responsibilities. She does this work because she understands first-hand how hard it is to navigate the immigration system, she knows how valuable her work is to her community, and her faith is central to all she does. "I consider my service to my community as my servitude to God," she states, "so whatever I do for our community is also for God."

When Angie first started leading workshops and facilitating community meetings she admits that it was a nerve wracking experience for her. "I was nervous about what I wanted to say, how it was going to turn out," she remembers. "However, **realizing that these are important materials that my communities need to know to protect their rights here as immigrants, it helped me to focus on delivering the meat of materials and important knowledge to help my communities;** it pushed me to pass through that nervousness and lead the workshop. I'm glad that I was given this opportunity to serve."

Leaders like Angie help nourish our communities, keep us strong during moments of crisis, and allow us to flourish and recognize our collective power.

ACCOMPANIMENT PROGRAM:

Providing antiracist casework to immigrant communities.

NSM's antiracist casework model recognizes that immigrants of color face interlocking systems of oppression and require a casework model that is culturally sensitive, all-encompassing, and empowers immigrants to collectively fight for their families. In 2023, NSM's Accompaniment Program **helped 600+ people with casework** in domestic violence, childcare, mental health and wellness, rental and job search assistance, and accessing City ID's. We accompanied people as they went to asylum, divorce, family, criminal, traffic, and housing court hearings.



Photo Credit: Rodney Atienza

Accompaniment Team Meetings - In 2023, NSM began holding regular Accompaniment Program meetings for allied members to support our Accompaniment Coordinator Ana with casework, and to engage members in other areas of NSM's work. The Accompaniment Team held a training session on identifying resources across different districts and congregations, and provides regular updates and action steps for group members.

NSM-HIAS Legal Aid Clinics - In 2023, NSM collaborated with the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) to host 2 legal aid clinics. Trained HIAS staff assisted 30 NSM families with immigration paperwork, asylum applications, and work permits. Services were provided in English, Spanish and Creole to accommodate participant language needs. In addition to providing members with crucial immigration legal assistance, these legal aid clinics were also a training opportunity for NSM staff to learn from HIAS's structure and eventually coordinate NSM-led legal aid clinics in the coming years.



The Arrival of Buses from Texas: Coming Together to Welcome New Neighbors



Photo Credit: Rodney Atienza

“When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself,” (ESV Bible, Leviticus 19.33-34).

Welcoming Asylum Seekers to Philly - In 2023, NSM **welcomed 1800+ asylum seekers** coming on the buses from Texas. NSM is the lead organization at 30th St for the initial arrival. NSM coordinates a solid group of immigrant and ally members to greet the recent arrivals at dawn, provide them an orientation of resources, hand out coffee and snacks, screen for health emergencies, and offer them emotional and spiritual support. No matter how many people came, at what hour of the day they arrived, or how they got to Philly, our team welcomed everyone with dignity, love and solidarity. Welcoming is a simple act of generosity, but it has profound lessons for how our laws and policies should treat those at their hour of greatest vulnerability. This is a lesson Abbot, Biden, and all those in power should learn. As the situation with the buses changes and transforms due to political maneuverings, NSM will continue to adapt, navigate the changing circumstances, and support asylum seekers with dignity and love for the long haul.



Photo Credit: Rodney Atienza



Photo Credit: Rodney Atienza

Community Fund for Bond and Legal Support:

The only fund in PA run by immigrants to help immigrants get a family member out of detention or pay for legal fees.

Working collectively to keep immigrant families together! - In 2023, NSM helped **8 families with legal fees and bond payments.** We worked with those detained and their families on anti-detention campaigns, put public pressure on ICE, raised funds for their release, and also connected them with legal resources. NSM continues to work collectively with other national and local immigrant justice organizations to fight for the release of detained members of our Philly immigrant community. We are an active member of the National Bail Fund, which supports our efforts to help immigrant families cover the costs of bond. By strategically utilizing institutional partnerships and grassroots campaigns, we are working to ensure that our immigrant families remain together, free, and safe in the community of their choice.



Photo Credit: NSM Staff



Photo Credit: Manuel Vasquez

FAMILY SPOTLIGHT!



In 2023, NSM worked with the Leonard's to reunite their family. Daune reached out to NSM for support when Elroy, her husband, was detained at the ICE Moshannon Valley Detention Center. NSM staff accompanied Daune, connected her to a lawyer, and then worked with her to free Elroy. She raised \$3,000 on her own, but needed an additional \$6,000 to cover Elroy's bond. NSM activated our members and **thanks to an outpouring of community support, Elroy gained his freedom.** The Leonard family is now actively involved in the movement for immigrant justice. They are learning how to build power in their community and inspiring other immigrant families facing family separation and detention!

Photo Credit: Daune Leonard

Leadership Development and Education

Leadership Development - In 2023, 26 immigrant leaders graduated from NSM's revamped Immigrant Leadership Development Program. This is the first stage of our Leadership Development series. Using popular education, we **launched 2 cohorts with 6 workshops each** covering: NSM's work and vision, an introduction to community organizing, the history of detention, nonviolent protest, and an introduction to anti-racism. Upon graduating from this initial 6-month program, participants joined one of NSM's committees focused on the Driver's License campaign or congregational organizing. After the success of our first Leadership Development series, NSM began the groundwork to develop the second level of trainings for graduates to continue to develop their community organizing, political education, and leadership skills.



Active Bystander Intervention and De-Escalation Training - In November, NSM led an Active Bystander Intervention and De-Escalation training for frontline volunteers and staff welcoming asylum seekers to Philly. The training was facilitated by DC Peace Team, an organization committed to advancing and sustaining a culture of nonviolent peacemaking and resistance. Participants learned how to de-escalate hostile situations using nonviolent tactics, strategically build trust and connection with aggressors, how to deal with a group of aggressors, and how to distract and use their bodies during an especially intense exchange.



Civic Engagement - NSM collaborated with United Voices for Philadelphia to host an immigrant-centered forum with the candidates for Philly's elections for mayor, city council, judicial, sheriff, and other positions. The event allowed immigrant members to express their concerns to candidates, learn more about their policies, and show them that the Philly immigrant community is a force to be reckoned with!

Grassroots Organizing

Driver's Licenses for All - In 2023, the Driving PA Forward Coalition engaged members in 4 lobby days, 23 legislative meetings, and 3 actions to support the Driver's Licenses for All bill. In the summer, as the Democrats took leadership of the House, the coalition visited the offices of a range of Philly-based representatives to show them the power of our community and to express to them in person our commitment to the Driver's License for All bill. NSM staff led educational presentations at congregations, high schools, colleges, and community events throughout Philadelphia. In March 2023, the coalition launched a Season of Action and Prayer, which included a series of events, activities, and prayer requests to mobilize residents to reach out to their legislators to vote on the Driver's Licenses for All bill. On November 14, 2023, the coalition held a Food Chain Workers Panel in Harrisburg attended by 100+ people to pressure legislators to support Driver's Licenses for All.



Photo Credit: NSM Staff



Rev. Christopher Neilson praying at Rep. McGinty's office.
Photo Credit: Rodney Atienza



Photo Credit: Manuel Vasquez

ICE Out of Courts Coalition - In early 2023, NSM and other immigrant-serving organizations began to notice a worrying uptick of ICE arrests outside of Philly courthouses. This led to the re-establishment of the ICE Out of Courts Coalition, a collaborative which tracks the occurrence of arrests outside of courthouses and collectively works to end ICE arrests in Philly. Through a collaborative and grassroots data collection process, the coalition found that over two dozen arrests had occurred outside of Philly courthouses in 2023 alone, resulting in the detention of multiple immigrant community members across a range of ages, genders, countries of national origin, and charges. On December 4, 2023, the coalition held a Press Conference to demand that local institutions not cooperate with ICE, and to call on ICE to cease any further arrests of persons with pending criminal charges. The coalition is continuing to fight for our immigrant communities to have the right to due process and equal protection under the law.





Photo Credit: Rodney Atienza



Photo Credit: Rodney Atienza

Base Building - In 2023, NSM's basebuilders had 55 1-1's with new people and NSM members, held 10 clergy meetings, and attended 39 services at 11 NSM member congregations. Our **basebuilders organized and provided the key grassroots support for a wide range of community actions in 2023, including 4 Driving PA Forward coalition lobby days in Harrisburg, the ICE Out of Courts Press Conference, and various freedom campaigns** to reunite families impacted by detention and deportation. NSM staff also organized a workshop for the Indonesian community which included information on Deportation Defense, Driver's Licenses, ITIN, and Immigration reform with 100+ people in attendance. NSM's organizing efforts emphasize building community among Philly's diverse congregations, inviting people to new roles, deepening multiracial and interfaith solidarity, long-term leadership development, and impactful campaigns that fight for immigrant justice in Philly, Pennsylvania, and nationally.



Photo Credit: NSM Staff



Photo Credit: Rodney Atienza

Community Spotlight:

Caribbean and African Community Organizing and Casework

COVID-19 Education and Outreach - In 2023, NSM collaborated with Christianity for Living Ministry, a Black-led organization, to increase Covid vaccine awareness among Philly's Caribbean and African immigrant communities. We connected this work with the broader needs of the community, began meeting with Caribbean and African clergy to learn more about each community's experience with COVID, and led a community vaccination campaign. This collaboration has continued to build on NSM's work in the Caribbean and African communities as we build community power and organizational capacity in this community.



Photo Credit: NSM Staff

Casework - In 2023, NSM's Caribbean and African Community Organizer Jody provided casework to 30+ African and Caribbean community members, 90% of whom were undocumented. Members were from Jamaica, Haiti, Senegal, West Africa, Ghana, Nigeria, Guinea and Kenya. Casework included providing legal support, assistance with attaining City ID's, housing assistance, purchasing baby supplies, transportation assistance, accessing scholarships to pay for college tuition, bond support, and meeting other livelihood needs.



Photo Credit: NSM Staff

2023 Caribbean Resource Event!

In 2023, NSM and Christianity for Living Ministry organized a Caribbean Resource Event at the historic St. James Episcopal Church, Kingsessing. The event offered free immigration legal consultations, an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN) workshop, presentations on NSM programs and campaigns, and the Jamaican Consulate was present to walk community members through the process of obtaining and renewing their passports. This the first of many resource events we hope to organize in the community in the coming years.



Photo Credit: NSM Staff

The Power of Female Leadership

90% of NSM staff are women, 73% are BIPOC, and 64% are immigrants.



Photo Credit: Manuel Vasquez

In 2023, NSM committed more institutional resources to empower BIPOC women to lead.

- 5 women of color staff participated in a **bilingual facilitation training** hosted by Training for Change.
- 2 immigrant women of color staff attended **Midwest Academy's Organizer Training**.
- 1 immigrant woman of color staff attended **Midwest Academy's Supervisor training**.
- 1 woman of color staff attended **Securing Our Roots development training** and began **LaSalle University's fundraising certificate program**.
- NSM held regular **professional development training sessions** for staff and members to focus on anti-racist organizing, leadership development, wellness, and team building.



Anti-Racism & Inclusion

Our anti-racism work is an ongoing practice as an organization and community. We are committed to continual growth, leaning into discomfort, and challenging each other in our growth. In 2023, our anti-racism work included:

Bodywork for BIPOC Women Staff - In the Fall, NSM piloted offering myofascial release and massage therapy to staff doing frontline work in recognition of the impact activism and crisis response has on the bodies of BIPOC women fighting a racist immigration system even as they juggle motherhood and other responsibilities. Incorporating bodywork in our institutional self-care practices is a way to push back against white supremacy and capitalism, which exploit and commit violence against black and brown bodies, especially women+ of color. Centering healing and rest is revolutionary and critical to our wellbeing and healing as we seek to create a more just world one day at a time.

BIPOC Wellness Group -

In 2023, NSM continued to host a holistic wellness space for BIPOC women activists and organizers. We held a special Mother's Day celebration where mothers, grandmothers, and caregivers who are part of our movement were celebrated for all they do for our communities.

White People Practicing Racial Justice - In 2023, NSM held its third year-long White People Practicing Racial Justice program, which is focused on building community around identifying patterns of white supremacy in individuals, communities, and society, as well as practicing how to intervene so that white members can show up in multi-racial work differently. The 2023 WPPRJ cohort has 16 active participants from various NSM member congregations.

City of Philadelphia Digital Forms User Experience Research -

In early 2023, NSM was one of four community-based organizations selected to participate in a study consisting of community feedback sessions for the City of Philadelphia's Digital Forms. NSM partnered with the Mayor's Fund for Philadelphia and the City of Philadelphia's Office of Innovation & Technology (OIT) to facilitate 8 in-person, Spanish language feedback sessions. The study's findings will inform the City's digital forms in the coming years, making them more accessible to the immigrant community, readable across multiple languages, and easier to use.

NSM Building Community!



Leadership Program, Cohort 1



NSM Staff and Members from St Thomas Aquinas



NSM Members Sharing a Meal



Driver's License Committee at the State Capital in Harrisburg



2023 Staff Retreat



Leadership Program, Cohort 2

Our Staff, Board & Committees

Staff



Blanca Pacheco
Co-Director



Peter Pedemonti
Co-Director



Bertha Murcia
Community Organizer



Coumba Faye
Community Organizer



Ana Pelico
Accompaniment Organizer



Gloria Kabeth
Immigrant Congregation
Organizer



Jody-Ann Norman
Caribbean Community
Organizer



Priscilla Flores
Development
Coordinator



Maria Chavez
Immigrant Congregation
Organizer



Lauren Moyer
Anti-Racism Organizer



Anna Sophie Tinneny
Communications
Coordinator

Committees

DRIVER'S LICENSES COMMITTEE:

CARMEN, LETICIA, GAIL, GLORIA, LYN, MARNIE,
JOSH, CLARA & JANE

INDONESIAN COMMITTEE:

YOSEPHINE, ROEDY, ANA, IWAN, ANGIE & RONA

FAMILIAS UNIDAS:

JUANA, GRACE, ERICK, MARITZA, GLORIA, IRIS,
MARTHA, RITA, PEDRO & JUAN PABLO

BUS ACTION TEAM:

SR EILEEN, SR PAT, TARA, JUNE, FR JOE, REV
ADAN, LEE, SR LINDA, LUCIA, CORRINE, FR
FRANK, SR EILEEN, TANYA, ROSA, MELIZA,
MARLEN, AMARA, GONZALO, MARLEN, REV
CHRISTOPHER, SR SHARON

Board

CHANTELLE TODMAN MOORE
LAURA SMITH
RAMA ASSAF-SMITH
ANGELA CHAN
PHILIPPE WEISZ
PRUDENCE POWELL
LAUREN BALLESTER

How NSM is Funded: 2023

THANKS TO YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT, NSM IS ABLE TO ORGANIZE IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES, FIGHT CAMPAIGNS, BUILD LEADERS, WALK WITH PEOPLE FACING DEPORTATION, AND INCREASE OUR IMPACT. THANK YOU FOR PARTNERING WITH US IN THIS WORK.

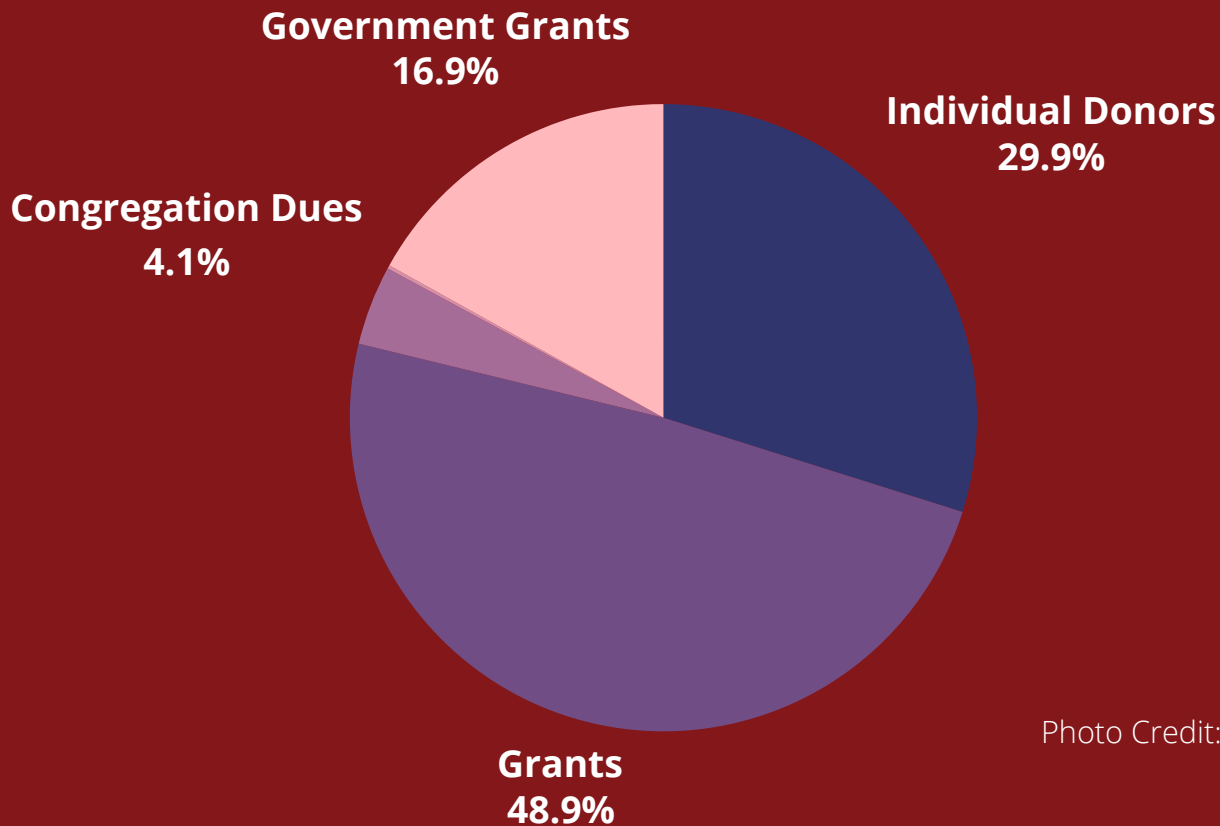
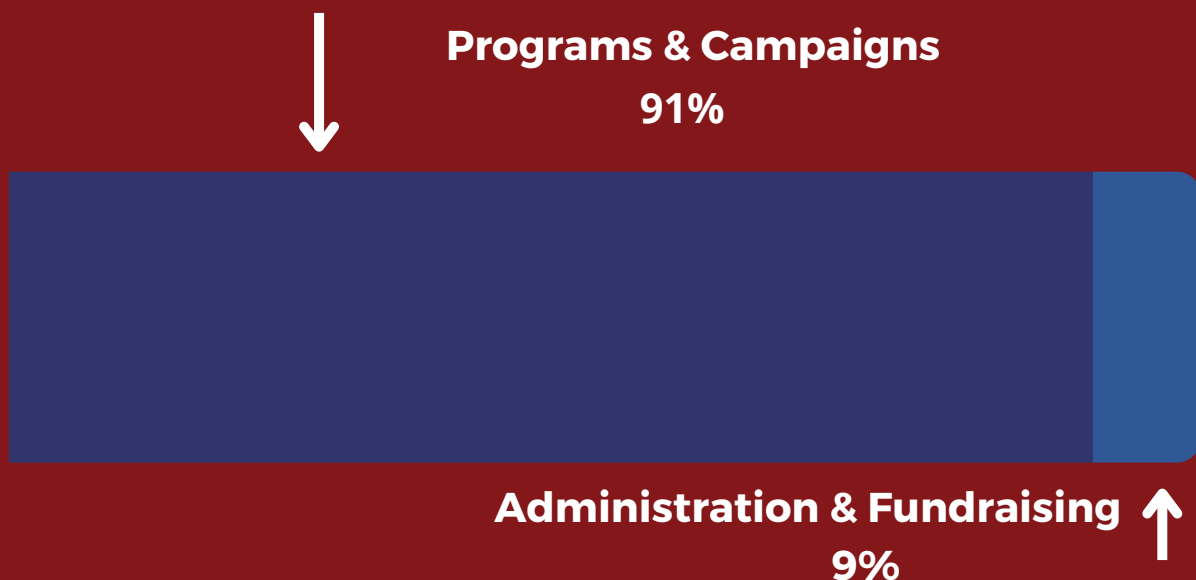


Photo Credit: Scott Lewis

Where Your Money Goes



NSM works together to bend the arc of the moral universe towards justice and transform our communities into a place where immigrants, families, friends, and neighbors are safe, respected, and welcomed; where economic, spiritual, and emotional wholeness are realized; and where borders and divisions disappear as we build a community welcoming to everyone.

