CAMBA was founded out of a critical need for support within Brooklyn’s immigrant community. As our agency reaches its 40th year, we bring you this latest Courier as a celebration of the tightly knit community CAMBA has served since day one.

Settling into a new country is not an easy task, particularly for refugees and asylees. Over the decades, CAMBA has helped 25,000 victims of war and other hardships across the world.

As South East Asian refugees came to Flatbush in the late 1970s, one of the first services CAMBA offered was English classes in a small classroom on Church Avenue. Today, our Adult Literacy Center offers 84 classes at beginner and advanced levels to nearly 1,500 adult learners every year, and our attorneys help almost 1,600 families and individuals with immigration issues. These programs, paired with CAMBA’s family-centered, holistic approach, provide clients with a way to self-sufficiency.

There are over 153,000 immigrant adults in New York City who have at least a college degree, but are unemployed or employed in low-skilled jobs.

CAMBA opened its doors in 1977 amidst a period of dramatic changes in New York City. The city had filed for bankruptcy in 1975 and many residents of the city were leaving for the suburbs. Within the newly emptied apartments of Brooklyn’s Flatbush neighborhood, immigrants found homes here in the United States. Of course, these more recent residents of the borough required additional services to settle in—out of this need, CAMBA was born.

Since CAMBA’s resettlement program first launched in 1991, CAMBA has connected 25,000 refugees and political asylees to stable, full-time jobs with potential for growth. Thanks to our hardworking team and the motivation and tenacity of the refugees and asylees we serve, 87 percent of clients in our early employment programs find jobs within four months of arrival.

CAMBA provides a pathway to economic stability to immigrants from over 50 countries of origin — one-quarter of the world’s nationalities (see map at right).

You can see the diversity of clients we serve from all around the world.
Thank You! We salute the following donors for your generous support. Donors listed contributed at least $100 from Sept. 1, 2016 to Jan. 31, 2017. For a complete list, visit CAMBA.org.

INDIVIDUALS
Frank Abdale
Angela Abramian
Joseph Adamson
Douglas Allen
Christopher Allred
Kathleen Ames
Anonymous
Benjamin Armbrust
Cassie Bachovchin
Jessica Baker
Nick Basta
Richard Revez
and Vicki Been
Helene Bender
Stephen Bennett
Nancy Beranbaum
Robert and
Shelley Berne
Michael Berne
Zachary and
Rachael Bernstein
Emily Bisso
John O’Neill and
Allegre Blackburn
Pamela Booth
Matthew Botwin
Stephanie Bowman
Patricia Brazitis
Matthew Hawkins
and Caitlyn Brazill
Neil and Eileen
Brazitis
Henry Brazile
John and Sharon
Brownie
Laura Burgess
Chyna Canada
Nikki Carroll
Robert Casper
Devin Chapman
Elyse Cheney
Farai Chideya
Edward Chin
Roohi Choudhry
David Clarke
Jaclyn Cohen
Geoff and Ashley
Collette
Barbara Conanan
Stacia Cook
Alyssa and Kieran
Corcoran
John Cornish
Karen M. Cullen
Martin and
Virginia Daly
Thomas and
Jennifer Dambalby
Parker Davidson
Samantha Dawson
Deborah De Santis
Emily Deininger
Lora Lynn Dela
Rama
Angeles Delgado
Dorinda Derbynshre
Joel A. Siegel and
Maria Deutscher
John Dowling
Ted and Kathy Dros
Rachele Dubin
Joshua Dunn
Ines Ellis-Guardiola
Michael and
Abbe Erhard
Rami Ezratty
Neil and Lisa
Falcone
Audrey Feldman
Kelsey Field
Mark Finkelstein
Martin and
Aurea Fisher
Pamela Flaherty
Robert Buckholz
and Lizanne
Fontaine
Charlotte Ford
Emily Fox
Bill Frey
Tanya Friedman
Bruno and Tara
Fruzstci
Katherine Gallagher
William Cullen and
Brenda Gannam
Jordan Garegnani
Shirley Gayle
Lauren Glant
Lee and Sandra
Goldfarb
Susanna Goltsler
Janelle Gooley
Casey Gorrell
Jonathan Graboyes
Robert and Paula
Greenstone
Jill Gregory
Joseph and
Joan Grillo
Justin Groot
Kenneth Gunn
Alison Haberly
Gregory and
Rosemarie Hamlin
William Keefe and
Claire Harding-Keefe
Lauren Harrison
Caroline Harting
Thomas Hazel
Keith Helman
Anne-Marie Hendrickson
Foster Henry
Horace Henry
Sharelle Hicks
Mark Bisard and
Christie Hodgkins
Crag Holland
Stephen Kendall and
Gwendolyn Hopkins
Belle Horwitz
Jenny Hourihan
Meghan Jarow
Sarah Jaskowiak
Victor Jimenez
Karie Parker
Judith Kende
Joanna Knobler
Olaf Kreitz
David Lage
Robin Landes
Mary Ann Lanzetta
Stephanie Lee
Michael and
Marlene Leekang
Choichun Leung
Makeda Lewis
David and Christine
Lindsay-Ala
de
Rocco and Lorelie
Lambardo
Diane Louard-Michel
Anthony Macbain
Caolan Madden
Melissa Magallanes
Michael Mallon
Joseph Marie
Markowitz
Marty Markowitz
Elizabeth Martin
Bernardo and
Lauren Mas
Thomas Maxwell
Matthew McAlister
Ian McAlpin
Jenna McAuley
Kathlene McDonald
Joan McFeely
Artiane McGlashan
Peter McHugh
Carlos Mejillones
Steve Middeljin
Janet Miller
Carolyn Miner
Emily Minikow
Louise Moed
Charles and
Beverly Morris
Victor Tellez and
Kevin Muir
Justin Nardilla
Christopher Neckles
Katherine Nehring
Madeline Neighly
Rang T. Ngo
Ruth O’Brien
Debra O’Connor
Tim O’Hanlon
Charles and
Katherine O’Neill
Kaz and Joanne
Oplustil
Katie Parker
Davidson
Ana Patel
Beth Pelloso
Michael Perlow
Joseph Peters
Rawie Phillips
Justin Phillipson
Edna Phong
Eric Pieck-Hocking
Wesner Pierre
Kevin Potere
Patrice Powers
Stephen Powers
Beth Prather
George Ramirez
Dan Ramm
Jorin and Alexandra
Reddick
Jonathan Reich
Eileen Reilly
Alexander Reinert
Dwayne and Valerie
Richardson
Breukelen Riesgo
Mackenzie Riggs
Karen Rinaldi
Luz Rivera
Harvey and
Helaine Rosen
Vern Bergelin and
Mary Ellen Ross
Michael Ross
Patrick Rousseau
David Rowe
Mary Sabbatino
Michael Wetstone
and Emily Sachs
Shuvi Sarto

CONTINUE TO PAGE 5

Board of Directors

KATHERINE O’NEILL
Chairwoman
CHRISTOPHER ZARRA
Vice Chairman
REV. DANIEL RAMM
Secretary/Treasurer
JULIA BEARWOOD
ELENA BONIFACIO
MATTHEW W. BOTWIN
HENRY BRIANCE
NEIL FALCONE
PAUL GALLIGAN
JENNY HOURIHAN
TERENCE KELLEHER
ALLAN F. KRAMER II
BERNARDO MAS
MICHAEL ROSS
DAVID H. SCHULTZ

CAMBA is a non-profit agency
that provides services that connect
people with opportunities to
enhance their quality of life.

“LETTER FROM PRESIDENT…” CONTINUED
FROM FRONT PAGE
Language isn’t the only barrier to
employment for newer residents of this
country: many immigrants must update
their skills, get certified and go on job
interviews, all within a different culture.
Beginning in 2016, our Workforce
Development Department began partnering
with Cooper Union to recruit students to the
school’s Retraining Program for Immigrant
Engineers (read more about this on page 4).
We are a stronger organization because
we rely on staff that relate to the clients
we serve: almost a quarter of CAMBA’s staff
speaks another language and on page
3 you can meet just a few CAMBA team
members who were once clients in our
immigration programs.

During this yearlong celebration of our 40th
Anniversary, we will be looking back on our
past achievements and reporting on the lives
of people we’ve served. At the same time,
we will be looking ahead to the future and
preparing for the next four decades. Our 40th
Anniversary Campaign theme is 2020 Vision:
Building an Inclusive New York City, which
you can read more about on page 4, and you
 can also view a timeline that shows the scope
of our agency’s growth over the years.

Over the years, your support has made it
possible for us to expand the spectrum of
services we offer, reaching more lives and
providing stability to tens of thousands of
New Yorkers every year.

We hope that you’ll enjoy reading this
salute to the immigration programs and the
people that have influenced our agency over
its long history. ☺
CAMBA Staff From Around the World:
We salute our outstanding CAMBA employees who came to our agency from other countries.

CAMBA Staff From Around the World
Did you know that nearly a quarter of CAMBA’s staff speaks another language? CAMBA staff speak 39 languages, from Albanian to Tagalog.
Read below about just a few of our outstanding CAMBA employees who came to our agency from other countries.

Carlos Guevara
Role: Assistant Program Director at HIV and AIDS Programs
Years with CAMBA: More than 13 years
Country of origin: Colombia

The CAMBA Story: “I came to the U.S. from Bogota, Colombia seeking asylum. After I was approved, I received a welcome letter from the judge and I was connected to supportive services from CAMBA.
The 13 years I have been working here have been wonderful. I have had an opportunity to climb the ladder and put myself in an honorable position. At CAMBA, one day you can be a security guard and the next day you can be a supervisor; it depends on if you’re ready to take on that challenge.”

Ajmal Safi
Role: Care Manager/Supervisor with CAMBA’s Health Link Program
Years with CAMBA: Over 1 year
Country of origin: Afghanistan

The CAMBA Story: “I received the special immigrant visa (SIV) as result of my ten year’s of service with the United States Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan. CAMBA assisted me in resettling in the U.S., linking me to counseling, social and employment services.
I feel proud being part of Health Homes at CAMBA. When I provide my clients the services they need and I see the outcome of my hard work, it gives me happiness.”

Nereida Saka
Role: Case Manager at CAMBA Gardens I
Years with CAMBA: Over 3 years
Country of origin: Albania

The CAMBA Story: “I had 10 years of experience in social work in Albania, but it was difficult to make the transition to working in this field in the U.S. I came to CAMBA’s Immigrant Bridge program after one of my friends told me about it. I took two classes and got help with my resume and with interviewing and quickly was hired on at CAMBA Gardens I. I felt like I was dreaming, it happened so quickly!
I'm working with formerly homeless individuals and families ... I love working with them. I feel proud and happy when I see them making progress, even baby steps, because they're doing something with their life.”

Eucharia Oche
Role: Care Coordinator with Healthy Families Home Visiting
Years with CAMBA: Almost 1 year
Country of origin: Denmark

The CAMBA Story: “I asked a friend for help with my resume and she told me about CAMBA’s Workforce Development program. I went through the program and learned how to handle an interview and what employers are looking for. I was so excited the day Jannette Torres hired me for the Healthy Families Home Visiting program.
I’m glad CAMBA has the slogan, ‘where you can.’ I believe we should all hold up our dreams for good, for the world to embrace. Everybody can be great; every organization can be great. We have a wonderful team; we are one family. It’s a joy to come to work every day.”

“I came to the U.S. from Bogota, Colombia seeking asylum. After I was approved, I received a welcome letter from the judge and I was connected to supportive services from CAMBA.”

Carlos Guevara
Connecting Talented Immigrant Engineers to Jobs

New immigrants who once worked in engineering and information technology struggle to find jobs comparable to the positions they held in their country of origin. This often leads to their taking jobs they are significantly overqualified for. The Cooper Union’s Retraining Program for Immigrant Engineers (CU RPIE) has been a cure for this career mismatch for the past 20 years. Since 1987, the program has taught over 4,500 students and placed more than 60 percent of them in jobs. Last year, CAMBA partnered up with the 2016 Retraining Program to achieve the following successes:

CAMBA’s 2016 successes with retraining program students
• Served 225 immigrant professionals
• Placed 146 students into jobs, almost all full time positions, with an average starting salary of $47,840
• Showed strong job retention, with 75 percent of program graduates remaining employed for one year

2020 Vision

CAMBA’s 2020 Vision lays the groundwork for tangible solutions that will improve the lives of New Yorkers in need, regardless of their zip codes. This campaign includes a $4 million fundraising initiative to strengthen CAMBA’s ability to address some of today’s — and tomorrow’s — most pressing needs:

BUILD LADDERS TO SUCCESS by enhancing academic success and supporting college preparation;

CONSTRUCT STABLE FOUNDATIONS by building and preserving more affordable and supportive housing;

PROTECT AGAINST HOMELESSNESS by expanding critical services that help keep low-income New Yorkers in their homes and out of shelter.

You can find out more about our 2020 Vision and help us meet our goal! Just visit 40years.camba.org.

CAMBA’s 40 Year Timeline
1977: CAMBA founded in Flatbush to meet neighborhood needs.
1983: Begins offering English classes, along with immigrant and refugee services.
1988: Begins offering HIV/AIDS services, an early response to a growing crisis.
1991: CAMBA’s Shona Sculpture Gallery opens and its sales support artists in Zimbabwe.
1996: Takes over Park Slope Women’s Shelter, CAMBA’s first homeless shelter.
2004: HomeBase starts offering homelessness prevention programs
2005: CAMBA Housing Ventures founded.
2017: CAMBA celebrates its 40th year of operation and launches its 2020 Vision: Building an Inclusive NYC.
Helping Adult Learners Realize Their Dreams

About 35 percent of our clients agency-wide are immigrants, many of whom find our agency as they search for help in improving their English, and are later directed to CAMBA’s numerous other critical services. In 2016 alone, 1,500 clients received services at our Adult Literacy Center, and over 60 percent of these clients advanced at least one literacy level.

What began as a Church Avenue Merchants Block Association in 1977 has grown each decade to, in 2017, over 80 CAMBA locations where we offer essential services that change lives. Low-income New Yorkers living in all five boroughs receive housing and legal services, youth development, adult literacy and language classes, healthcare case management, nutritional aid and much more.

“With the help of CAMBA, I was able to study for and retake my medical exam here in the U.S.,” Dr. Milsam said.

Last year, CAMBA’s Adult Literacy Center made it possible for these learners to take classes in reading comprehension, English grammar and composition, math and computer science, which means giving more New Yorkers the footing they need to find jobs and economic security.

Dr. Wislin Milsam of Haiti (pictured above), was one of our Adult Literacy Center’s featured speakers this fall during their cyclical graduation ceremony. Dr. Milsam spoke movingly about going from knowing little English to being vastly more comfortable in reading and writing in his new language.

Jude Pierre, Program Manager at the Adult Literacy Center said oftentimes learners, like Dr. Milsam, will take a few classes once they arrive in the U.S. to get acclimated in a new country. The welcoming environment you’ll find inside CAMBA’s adult literacy classes is, Mr. Pierre said, indicative of CAMBA’s encouraging nature. ☺
Become a CAMBA Champion This Spring with NYCRUNS!

**WHEN:** Sat., April 22, 2017 at 8:00 a.m.

**WHERE:** Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY

This spring, you can celebrate CAMBA’s 40th Anniversary and promote healthy communities by starting your own team’s fundraiser with NYCRUNS Prospect Park 5K and 10K Benefiting CAMBA.

This exciting new race gives participants the option to both race and fundraise for CAMBA. And whomever raises $250 or more will be named a CAMBA Champion!

*To sign up and become a CAMBA Champion, go to CAMBA.org/support/nycruns.*

---

**Shona Benefit Sale Reception**

**WHEN:**
- Thurs., April 6, 6–9 p.m. ($75 cocktail reception)
- Fri., April 7 to Sunday, April 9, 1–6 p.m. (FREE admission)

**WHERE:** 19 Winthrop Street, Brooklyn, NY

Please join us for a benefit for the Shona Gallery: Opening Night Cocktail Reception. *To find out more, please visit CAMBA.org/support/ShonaSculptures.*