

2021 IN REVIEW:

A year of many challenges and achievements. The Struggles has not ended.

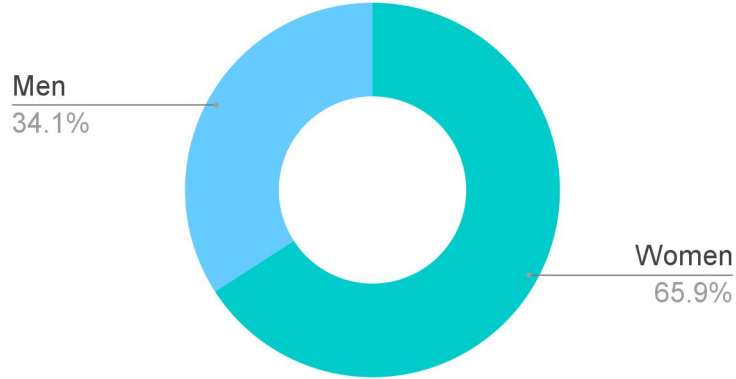
OUR MISSION:

The mission of Venezuelans and Immigrants Aid, Inc. is to assist the Venezuelan community of forced migrants and asylum seekers in New York City.

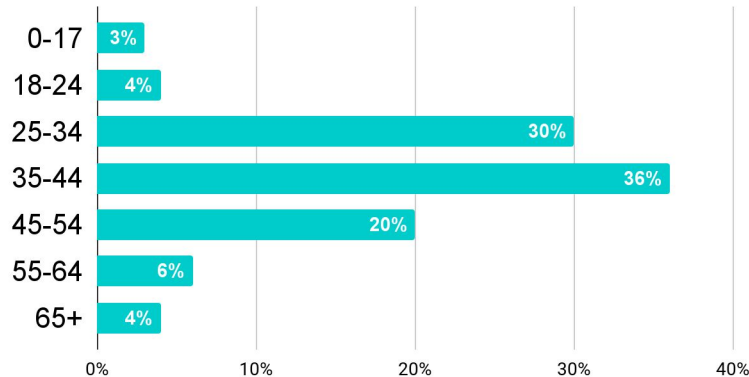
OUR VISION:

We help the venezuelan displaced people to adapt and integrate into this country and its culture as quickly and safely as possible. We connect them to one another and to institutions and individuals in the city that can support them in, for example, learning English, getting food and clothing, peer support, and establishing legal immigration status.

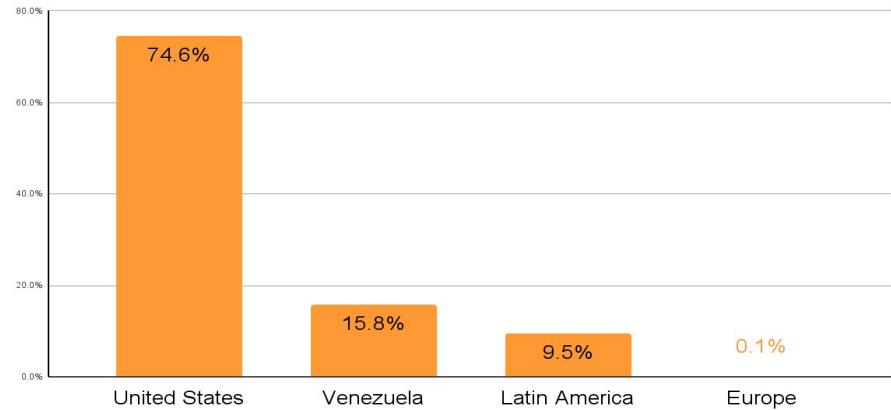
In 2021 65.9% of the people served were women



VIA's Community Age Range:



2021 VIA's Community Top Location:



In 2021, our numbers reflected that New York is still where most of the community we served lives. However, since all our activities went virtual, VIA reached Venezuelans in Florida, Texas, Georgia, Tennessee, and Utah. In addition, we assisted ppl in Latin American countries.

In almost six years since its founding, VIA has crossed several milestones in helping Venezuelan refugees in New York.

Only in 2021, we reached **6000+** people in the US.

And **35%** of those **Venezuelans were newly-arrived** who entered through the US southern border without visa and facing a deportation process, **a significant increase** compared with the previous years in which almost 100% of them did it through a US Port of Entry and with visa.

#refugeeswithoutstatus

The temporary protection status provided by nations such as Colombia and the United States is undoubtedly an advance, and we are grateful for it; however, the recognition of the refugee status would consider all Venezuelans who have had to forcibly leave the country in recent years rather than a small group, such as that made up of asylum seekers (not all have an asylum case to make) or by TPS applicants (which also contains very specific requirements to qualify). This recognition would be the essential step towards the regularization of their migratory status, and their proper integration into the economy and their host societies.

Over **64%** of the community we served in 2021, **applied for international protection statuses** such as Asylum or Temporary Protection Status (TPS), and most of them are **still waiting for USCIS responses**. Others are **waiting for the Court hearings** to defend their asylum claims.

LEAD BY EXAMPLES!

VIA's Challenges &
Achievements Overview:

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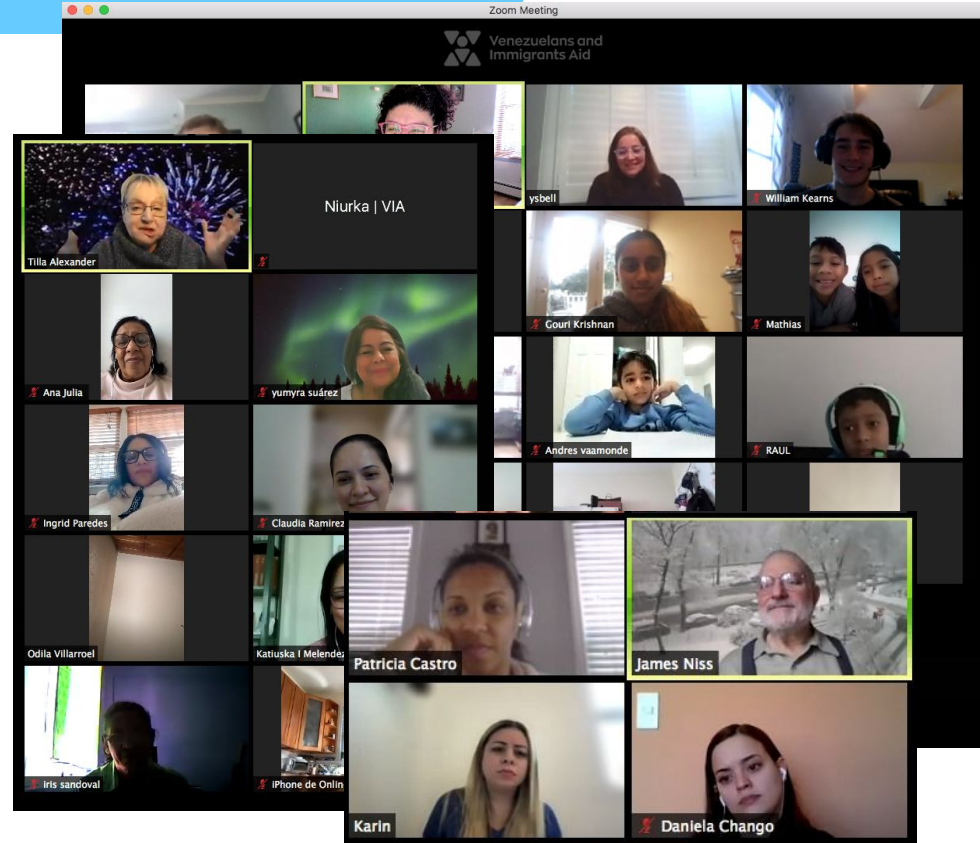
FOOD, GIFT CARDS, AND PREPAID METROCARDS

- **In the last trimester of 2021, the number of Venezuelan families and individuals facing Deportation or Immigration Court proceedings exceeded our expectations. They mainly crossed the US Southern border.** This is why our “Humanitarian Assistance” program is more necessary than ever since the vulnerability of this group is more significant.
This is an ongoing duty and with your help, we will continue providing emergency aid, like food, prepaid Metrocards, giftcards, clothes to those forced migrants in need.



220+ CHILDREN, WOMEN AND MEN BENEFITED

- We offered **84** English classes. **160+ hours** donated by our allies ESL teachers Tilla Alexander & James Niss.
- **30** One-on-one English tutorings for kids. **30 hours** donated by our allies of the organization Estamos Contigo and student volunteers from Fairfield County High School.



VIA'S ENGLISH PROGRAMS

264 FORCED MIGRANTS STRENGTHENED

- Without charge, we held **24** online Peer Support encounters.

And in 2021, for the first time, we were able to offer **44 one-on-one therapy sessions** with our group of specialized psychologists, Dr. Rachel Lee, Dr. Liliana Torella, and Dr. Adriana Gioni.

We will continue promoting spaces like this, as an effective way to improve people's knowledge and access to needed resources. Help people find new relationships and rebuild a sense of belonging.



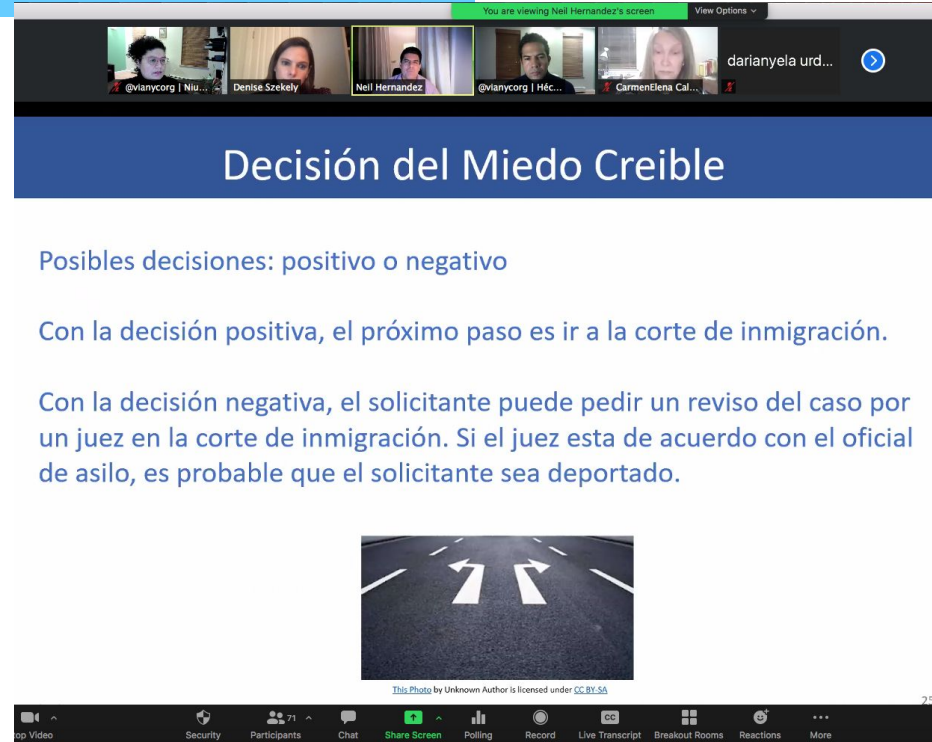
VIA'S PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM

1000+ PEOPLE SERVED

- At no cost, we had **25** webinars in partnership with local organizations and professional individuals that served more than 1000 people.

These online workshops included legal orientation sessions in alliance with The Nolivos Law Firm and other accredited lawyers in the US.

VIA'S LEGAL & EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM



The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. At the top, there's a status bar indicating 'You are viewing Neil Hernandez's screen' and a 'View Options' dropdown. Below that is a grid of six video thumbnails for participants: @wianycorg | Niu..., Denise Szekeley, Neil Hernandez, @wianycorg | Hé..., CarmenElena Cal..., and darianyela urd... The main content area displays a blue slide with the title 'Decisión del Miedo Creible'. Below the title, the text reads: 'Posibles decisiones: positivo o negativo', 'Con la decisión positiva, el próximo paso es ir a la corte de inmigración.', and 'Con la decisión negativa, el solicitante puede pedir un reviso del caso por un juez en la corte de inmigración. Si el juez esta de acuerdo con el oficial de asilo, es probable que el solicitante sea deportado.' Below the text is a photograph of a road with two white arrows pointing forward. At the bottom of the slide, there is a small caption: 'This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA'. The Zoom control bar at the very bottom includes icons for Video, Security, Participants (71), Chat, Share Screen, Polling, Record, Live Transcript, Breakout Rooms, Reactions, and More.

VIA on social media

The goal is to help our members stay connected to the community and us as a whole by accessing critical information when engaging with our social media platforms. Also, to attract those who might benefit from our content by informing them about the immigration process, the health and education systems in NY, peer support, building bridges, cultural matter, etc. We focus on our mission to educate and inform rather than promote.

- We reached **50k** people through the informative content shared in 2021.
- We shared over **300** posts and resources with critical information they can trust.
- Had more than **20** Live informative events.

In October 2021, VIA hosted its first operatic benefit concert by the renowned Venezuelan soprano, María Brea.

«For one night, Maria's voice was our voice. We wanted to reach higher and further to continue **raising awareness about the situation in Venezuela and the challenges faced by its displaced people in the world.**»
-Hector A., VIA's founder.

Watch the review *here*.



Winter Coat Drive VIA

has continuously given its community new winter coats, sweaters, and accessories for five years. In 2021, **265 people were beneficiaries** of this program. 65% of them came to the US in 2021. 78% are seeking defensive asylum before the Immigration Court.

Some of the significant challenges they shared with us as displaced people are finding affordable legal assistance, and covering the rent, without a stable job due to their legal limbo status.



In December 2021, we offered for the fifth year, the Traditional Venezuelan Christmas Dinner to our community we handed out 300 meal boxes.

This event, represents a moment to signal to our community that they are cared for, and that while they may be far away from their families and their homeland, we are here to support them.



MORE UPDATES

- We launched the campaign **"Refugees Without Status."** Became part of the WES Global Talent Bridge Group to support **"Improving Opportunities for New Americans Act."** And continue working in collaboration with the **TPS-DED Administrative Advocacy Group.**
- We helped **19** asylum seekers, and TPS applicants apply for health insurance and understand their coverage options.
- We had **8** summer field trips, "Paseos de Verano con VIA." with **16 families, 28 children** 2 - 13 years old who joined us in person.

COMMUNITY INTEGRATION & ADVOCACY

WANT TO BE A PART?

“ ... Contributing your part, a tiny grain of sand in a vast world of need, without underestimating the impact of your actions.” -Niurka Melendez, VIA's founder

We welcome more volunteers and supporters! Visit www.vianyc.org

DONATE TODAY!

Since its foundation, VIA has dedicated all its efforts to support Venezuelans in New York in search of international protection and raise awareness about the complex humanitarian emergency in Venezuela, which has forced 6+ millions to flee. After five years of working hand-in-hand with Venezuelans of varying immigration status, we must say that we haven't worked alone. VIA has been fortunate to have the unconditional support of a valuable and very committed group of volunteers, local organizations, and collaborators who identified with our cause and stepped forward to help us assist our community of forced migrants in New York and elsewhere.

If you wish or able to send a donation please send it to: **Venezuelans and Immigrants Aid, Inc.**
167 W 136th St. # 7. New York. NY. 10030.

Other ways to contribute with our work:



We appreciate any help you can provide. With your contribution, we will continue to strengthen this work and thus continue assisting more people.

Traducir »

VIA is completely supported by volunteers!