



November 24, 2008

Dear Friend,

On behalf of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), we invite you to learn more about immigration and why the Jewish community has an important voice in the current immigration reform debate. Local communities all across our country are affected by Congress' failure to pass comprehensive immigration reform that would address our broken immigration system in a way that is fair, workable, and humane. If we are to be successful the next time Congress introduces comprehensive immigration reform, we need your help.

HIAS, the Jewish community's migration arm, has advocated on behalf of immigrants and refugees for 127 years, and has led the American Jewish community in advocating for a humane, legal, and secure path for today's immigrants. Along these lines, HIAS has developed an educational program, titled *Welcome the Stranger*. This 90-minute interactive program is designed to help Jewish communities understand the essential role immigration has played in our Jewish history and religious and ethical teachings. *Welcome the Stranger* utilizes our Jewish immigration history to awaken our community's empathy for the plight of today's newcomers and to renew our commitment to help new immigrants who seek the freedom and opportunity that we, and our ancestors, have found in America. Beyond revisiting our history, the program highlights stories of individuals caught up in the current immigration bureaucracy and examines how fear, hate, and xenophobia has stood in the way of sensible and compassionate immigration reform.

HIAS would be pleased to provide trainings and information sessions to groups and individuals interested in hosting a *Welcome the Stranger* program. There is a suggested \$30 donation for all *Welcome the Stranger* materials. If you are interested in discussing *Welcome the Stranger* in more detail, please contact Stephanie Grosser, Assistant Director of HIAS Washington, at Stephanie.Grosser@hias.org or 202-212-6024.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Gideon Aronoff
President & CEO
Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)