

Dear Friend,

As a nation, we proudly tell the story of America as a land of opportunity, built on the dreams and contributions of immigrants. But today, that story is at risk of unraveling. Policies that restrict legal pathways, delay work authorization, and weaken asylum processes don't just harm immigrants — they harm all of us.

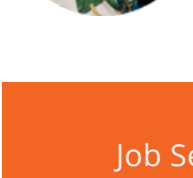
At Upwardly Global, we have exciting news to share: In 2024, we've achieved a remarkable milestone by successfully supporting over 10,000 immigrant, refugee, and asylee professionals in reclaiming and reinventing their career paths. This substantial growth — a 60% increase in our program reach — demonstrates the incredible potential that emerges when we create meaningful professional opportunities for skilled individuals, regardless of background.

Immigrants, refugees, and asylees are not only restarting their lives; they're revitalizing our economy, strengthening industries, and driving innovation. Yet, despite these contributions, current policies are systematically closing doors. This is more than harmful; it's a lost opportunity. Immigrants are not a burden — they're builders. Builders of industries, communities, and shared prosperity.

As we look toward the future, let's ask: How can we ensure our policies reflect the best of who we are? How can we honor the rich legacy of immigration that has always fueled America?

Let's not forget who built this country. Together, we can create a future rooted in inclusion, opportunity, and shared success.

Warmly,



Jina Krause-Vilmar

CEO and President

Job Seeker Spotlight: Santiago From Argentina



When Santiago and his wife, an American citizen, moved to upstate New York in search of new opportunities, his professional world turned upside down. Despite experience as an international analyst for the Argentine Ministry of Defense, he had trouble reentering his field — all while being a full-time caretaker for his two young children.

"I think one of the hardest decisions you can make is going to live abroad," Santiago says. "You put all your skills, background, values, education — all that you have — on the table."

His journey wasn't straightforward. Working 3 a.m. shifts as a UPS package handler and struggling to navigate a new job market, Santiago discovered Upwardly Global. With his job coach Molly's support, he began to see his international expertise through a new lens.

Eight months of persistence paid off. Today, Santiago works as an Associate Intelligence Manager at a company based in Washington, D.C., bridging Latin American development projects — a role that keeps him connected to his roots while embracing his new home.

"It's not about leaving everything behind," he says, "but recycling your skills and seeing them from a different angle."

[Read how Upwardly Global helped Santiago recycle and reframe his skills for the U.S. job market.](#)

2024 in Review: Impact



As we bid farewell to 2024, Upwardly Global is celebrating a year full of exponential progress toward a future where everyone — including immigrants, refugees, and asylees — can thrive. Our work of breaking down barriers for immigrant professionals proves that talent transcends borders, and by connecting them with

career opportunities that match their expertise, we've not only helped individuals reclaim their professional careers but also addressed critical needs across the country.

Our 2024 work reaffirms a powerful truth: When immigrant professionals can contribute at their full potential, our entire nation grows stronger. In 2024, Upwardly Global has:

- Served over 10,000 immigrant job seekers through our Career Coaching Program, partnerships, and online platforms..
- Top placement industries include information technology; engineering and architecture; business, logistics, and operations; healthcare; and finance and banking, with job seekers obtaining an average starting salary of more than \$67,000.
- Partnered with 58 new community colleges, workforce service organizations, and refugee-serving organizations across 20+ states and engaged with 133 companies to help remove inherent biases in hiring and recruitment systems.
- Facilitated over 1,400 volunteer connections with job seekers, generating nearly 4,000 volunteer hours for language coaching, informational interviews, mock interviews, mentorship, networking, and LinkedIn profile reviews.

[Visit our website to learn more about our 2024 impact.](#)

2024 in Review: Reports



[The Returnship Model: A Blueprint for Healthcare Institutions Hiring Immigrant and Refugee Talent](#) introduces the innovative concept of returnships — mid-career internships designed to help fill gaps in workforce needs — and provides a roadmap for replication across other U.S. healthcare institutions. The report also highlights Upwardly Global's returnship program with NewYork-Presbyterian, the first program of its kind for immigrants, refugees, and asylees.

[Building Community and Fueling Growth: The Role of Immigrants in Reviving the Great Lakes Region](#) was written in partnership with the American Immigration Council (AIC) and highlights immigrants' crucial role in revitalizing the Great Lakes region, from alleviating workforce shortages in key industries like healthcare, advanced manufacturing, and agriculture, to sparking broader regional revitalization through reversing population decline, driving small business growth in local communities, and reviving struggling housing markets.

Upwardly Global in the News

- Upwardly Global's President and CEO, Jina Krause-Vilmar, was named to [Worth Magazine's Worthy 100 list for 2024](#). This prestigious recognition highlights 100 extraordinary changemakers who are transforming industries and driving meaningful impact.
- Jina Krause-Vilmar joined Google.org's Head of AI for Social Good at the Techonomy 24 session "AI for Social Good: How Technology is Empowering Marginalized Communities." [View the session here.](#)
- Siegel Family Endowment awards over \$16.3 million in grants to organizations working at the critical intersection of technology, workforce development, and societal impact, including Upwardly Global. [Read more about this grant.](#)

In Immigration News

- The Department of Homeland Security recently announced a permanent increase to the automatic extension period of employment authorization and employment authorization documents (EAD) from up to 180 days to up to 540 days for eligible categories. [Visit USCIS to learn about the extension.](#)
- USCIS now requires certain applicants filing Form I-485 (Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status) to submit a report of medical examination and vaccination record. [Learn more on their website.](#)
- The National Immigration Project has published a comprehensive FAQ to help affected communities prepare for potential immigration policy changes ahead of the second Trump administration. The document, titled "[What Do We Expect At The Beginning of Trump 2.0 and How You Can Get Prepared](#)," is available in both English and Spanish.

Join Our Team

Join us and help impact the lives of professional immigrants and their families. Upwardly Global is currently offering the following opportunities:

- [Head of Partnerships Development](#)
- [Contract and Compliance Specialist](#)
- [Communications and Social Media Intern](#)

Donate Today

