Resources for Supporting Immigrants

Recent months have seen an uptick in anxiety and activity related to the safety and dignity of immigrants in Denver. Denver Community Church and Project Renew want to be a healing presence in this space and not forget to show hospitality to the stranger (Hebrews 13). Below, you will find some of the ways that we are providing care and advocating for our migrant neighbors. We also provide links to additional resources and helpful organizations around the city.

What are Project Renew and DCC doing to help?

We are continuing to **communicate with our monthly partners** and other allied organizations who are deeply invested in providing care for immigrants. We are in conversation with them about what they need, and we are learning from them as they lend their experience and expertise.

We are helping the the <u>Colorado Immigrant Justice Fund (CIJF)</u> create a matching fund campaign, to which **we are giving \$10k**. Their goal is to raise \$50k so that they can:

- Hire an attorney to be present weekly at the ICE detention center in Aurora
- Fund at least one additional low bono (i.e. discounted rate) asylum case per month
- Fund the administrative needs to **conduct weekly asylum clinics** to help asylum seekers fill out necessary forms to formalize their petitions.

Project Renew is **tripling** the monthly financial support that we provide to our partner, the **Justice and Mercy Legal Aid Center (JAMLAC)**.

We are **providing \$1,500 worth of food and groceries** for five asylum-seeking families that are connected to families within our faith community.

How can I get involved?

Our friends at the Colorado Immigrant Justice Fund have put together a very comprehensive guide to organizations that are helping. You can access that guide HERE.

One consistent message that our immigrant friends keep expressing is, "Keep showing up, and keep recruiting others to the cause."

If you would like to support *detained* immigrants, you can join the Casa de Paz <u>visitation</u> or <u>letter writing</u> teams. Volunteers are also needed for the <u>Welcome team</u> to assist recently released immigrants who are traveling to be reunited with friends or family around the country. There are folks from DCC who visit the detention center weekly.

Our friends at JAMLAC are hosting an **informative webinar** called *Exploring Immigration in Our Community - Bridging Understanding* on March 6th at 6pm. You can register to attend <u>HERE</u>.

What can vulnerable immigrant families do?

We encourage immigrant families to know their rights and have a plan. There are organizations in Denver that advocate and serve vulnerable migrants, including the Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN) and the Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition (CIRC). Both organizations offer resources as well as opportunities to volunteer, especially for attorneys, mental health and medical professionals, and interpreters/translators.

We invite you to join our upcoming immersive border pilgrimage!

As a learning group, we'll explore the relational and systemic implications of borders in our lives by learning, serving, and working alongside partners in Denver, San Diego and Tijuana. Three months of collaborative learning and service will culminate with an August trip to the US/Mexico border. We are hosted and guided in this experience by our friends at <u>Journey Home</u>, an organization based in San Diego that has been creating space for personal and societal healing since 2011. You can learn more and register <u>HERE</u>.