

Lending a helping hand to asylum-seekers passing through Albuquerque

Our close proximity to the border means that Albuquerque is an important crossroads for refugees from Central America who are legally seeking asylum. ICE screens the refugees, processes their request for asylum, and releases them on their own recognizance. To keep them from being released onto the street, churches and non-profit organizations in El Paso have organized a hospitality network. When they exceed their capacity, they reach out to the faith community in Albuquerque for help. So far, about 1,400 refugees have come through Albuquerque and continued on their journey to all parts of the United States to join family and friends who have agreed to sponsor them. They travel by bus and airplane with help of their sponsors

In our experience, those traveling tend to be a parent with a child, ranging in age from infants to teens. They are tired and hungry, but in good spirits and grateful for the warm hospitality they receive in Albuquerque. With the weather warming up, we can expect more asylum seekers and a larger need for more houses of worship to consider how they can help.

HOW TO HELP

- **Hospitality** sites are needed to provide shelter for 2-4 nights, while the refugees wait for their sponsors to purchase bus or plane tickets for them to travel to where their sponsors live in the U.S. This includes:
 - An intake process
 - Access to showers and cots/beds
 - Spanish speaking volunteer to help connect the families with their sponsors and help arrange travel.
- Each hospitality site will need a **site coordinator** who will receive training on how to manage a team of 15-20 volunteers at a hospitality site. Ideally, site coordinators can dedicate up to 20-hours per week, or more. Spanish-fluency is a must for this role, as is volunteer management experience and shift work that includes daytime, evenings and weekends.
- Shuttle **transportation** from the hospitality sites to the Greyhound bus station and to Sunport airport. Church vans are ideal for this purpose especially during peak travel times of 7 am and 11 am.
- Donations are always appreciated, especially monetary to help cover the **cost of hotels**. Groups of volunteers who don't have a suitable space to shelter refugees have used budget hotels for convenience because they provide beds, linens, showers, and free hotel breakfast. The cost of hotels averages at \$2,000 per group of 50 refugees for the 2-4 night average stay.

VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are always welcome. Please [visit this link](#) to sign up as a volunteer.

MONEY DONATIONS

All monetary donations can be made at <https://www.americaprays.org/nmrefugees/> under the donate button, choose refugee support from the drop down menu.

SUPPLIES DONATION

We have two community drop-off locations, one in Albuquerque and one in Rio Rancho. Please only drop-off during donation hours and do not leave items outside the building.



<p>CLOTHING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Men’s clothing, especially pants! Size XS/S/M only. 33” waist and smaller ● Women’s clothing. Size XS/S/M only ● Kids' clothing (5T and larger) ● Shoes (all sizes) ● Underwear. New (unused) only. Adult sizes XS/S/M. Kids all sizes. ● Socks. Gently used or new. All sizes. ● Winter/Early Spring gear to include Hats, mittens, scarves. ● Belts! ● Bras ● All kinds of hats - sun, winter, beanie, etc. 	<p>HEALTH ITEMS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Individual servings of apple juice and applesauce (used for children with dehydration and diarrhea) ● 2-oz serving cups with lids (used to distribute “to-go” doses of liquid medication for children) ● Rich hydrating cream such as Eucerin or Nivea (many asylum seekers are sunburned and itchy) ● Children’s Tylenol liquid ● Children’s Benadryl liquid ● Children’s cough/cold liquid ● Adult Benadryl tablets ● Bag Balm ● Chapstick ● Hand sanitizer - full size bottles ● Kleenex mini pocket packs
<p>OTHER ITEMS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reading glasses ● Backpacks ● Tote Bags ● Spanish-language children’s books + DVDs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Micro-B (micro USB) phone chargers (some clients have their own phones but authorities confiscate all cables)

On behalf of Mayor Keller we thank you for helping us share this opportunity with the larger faith community to get involved in any way they can as we help families who are fleeing hunger and violence to find peace and love. Please share this message with your community and invite them to contact us for more information.

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Additional Donation Sites

The best description of the items that are most needed can be found on www.ccasnm.org/companions, which also has a link to an Amazon wish list for those who can make a donation online. <https://smile.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/Z41DT14S8VAB>

