

Refugees and Asylum Seekers – Fact Sheet

Probably you have heard “ICE is dropping off refugees in Phoenix”

- The legal situation of the refugees *as we receive them here in Phoenix*
 - They have been interviewed by Customs and Border Patrol and approved to stay and apply for asylum
 - these are not “illegal aliens,” not felons
 - most these days are families, often with very small children
- The situation they are leaving
 - Extreme poverty and danger from violence
- We are dealing with one part of the whole situation;
 - We cannot control who comes to us (Homeland Security does that)
 - We cannot control who is allowed to stay (US Citizenship and Immigration Services, USCIS, does that)
 - To explain to non-believers: We are serving in a “humanitarian crisis”;
 - To explain to believers: we are meeting Christ in the poor
- What they need:
 - Clothes and food, sometimes medical attention
 - Help contacting their sponsors in other States
 - Help making travel arrangements
 - Help getting to the bus station
 - Some need to stay overnight because it takes a while to make arrangements
- Where can they get help?
 - St. Vincent de Paul – day shelter can take up to 100; ICE decides when and where to bring the asylum seekers
- How can we help?
 - Volunteers are needed at St. Vincent de Paul’s day shelter, especially Spanish speakers, although all volunteers are welcome
 - Call Shawn Donnelly : 602-329-0701; sdonnelly@sudpaz.org
 - Donated goods like clothes and backpacks, food for the long journey on greyhound.
 - Contact Marcos Gonzales, SJ, at 818-900-3965 mgonzales@brophyprep.org to arrange to bring donations to: 741 E. Highland St., Phoenix, AZ 85014
 - Prayer: The people arriving need our prayer, and the volunteers that support them need our prayer. Pray for safe travel to their families and an end to the turmoil they left behind.