



"The Risen Shepherd walks beside all those forced to leave their homelands"
Pope Francis

Catholic Charities is hosting A One-Hour Orientation Regarding the Humanitarian Crisis

May 14, 2019

Presentation by Alliance of Christian Leaders of the East Valley (as referred to Love United Church) and their experience sheltering families, featuring information from The Society of St. Vincent de Paul regarding their Day Relief Center

Note: The information in black are notes gathered after the orientation provided by the presenters

Attachments include: Humanitarian Aid Letter from Catholic Charities and Day Relief Center Information from The Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Opening Prayer by: Sister Mary Angela

Why are so many families leaving their country and from where?

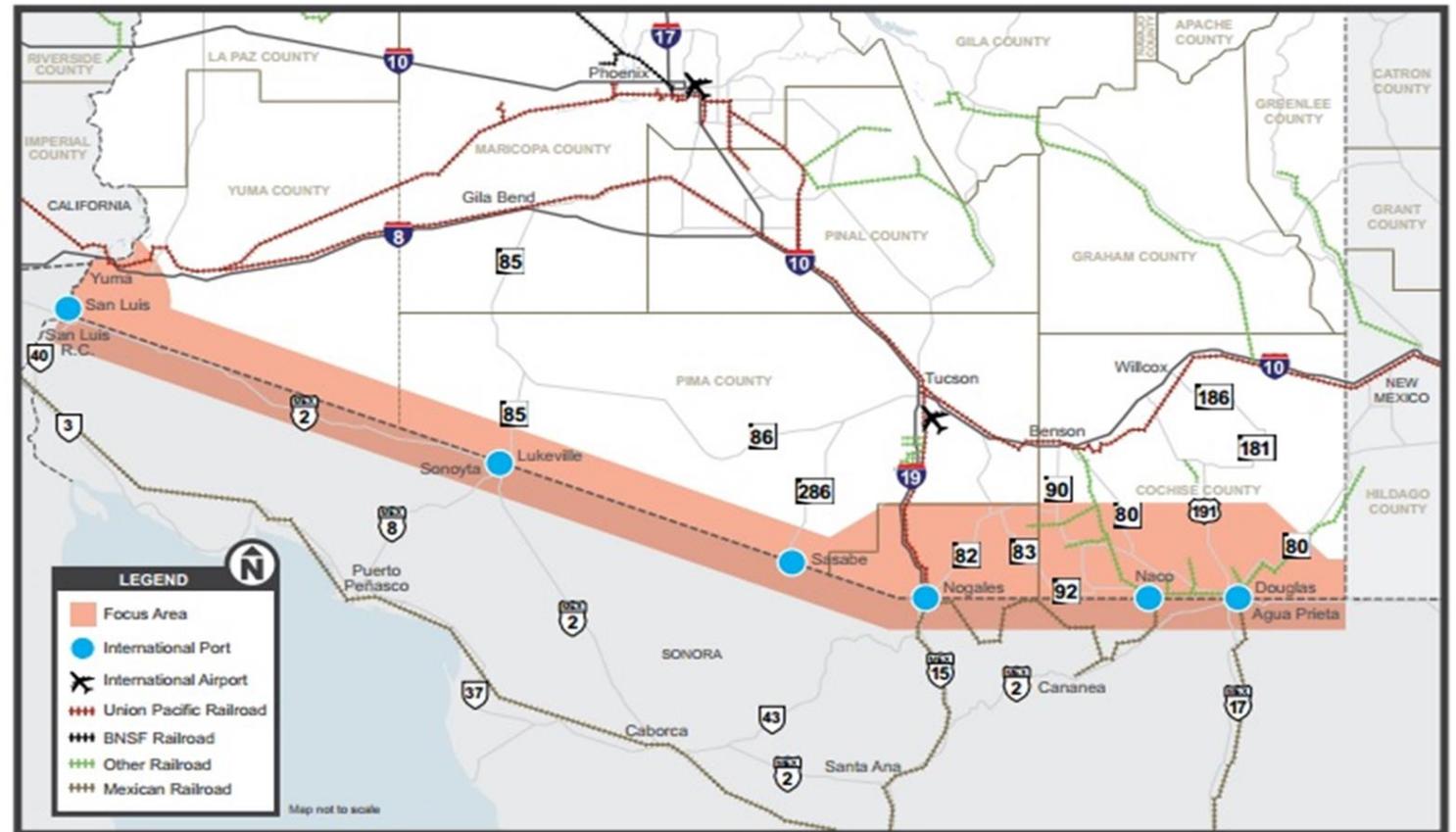
Presentation and information provided by Pastor Elizabeth Cruz from Alliance of Christian Leaders of the East Valley:

- Gang violence
 - Stealing from businesses
 - Threats
- Extreme poverty
- Lack of water in areas where they live off crops and the lack of support from their government
- Following the American Dream
- Some families speak 2-4 dialects and include Spanish
- Churches in their network have already welcomed 70,000-80,000 families since October 2018



Arizona-Sonora Border Master Plan PROJECT AREA MAP

- Many are coming in through San Luis near Yuma, AZ
- AZ has only been a path to many Asylum Seeking Families
- More than 98% of these families have families/relatives in other states like: Florida, Tennessee, and others in the eastern part of the states
- Asylum Seeking Families can be at the border for weeks. But now ICE is moving much faster in not keeping families at the border



What happens when an Asylum Family is picked up by ICE at the border?

- There is a paper work process that occurs, but not limited to:
- Speaks with families for their reason of migration
- ensure parents and children are related
- contact family members from the other states to connect them

After ICE calls the list of churches who can host families and drops them off, what do you and volunteers do?

What happens when there are no churches and space available for these families?

- Alliance of Christian Leaders of the East Valley, welcomes the Asylum Seeking Families. In addition to 8-10 churches around the Central and East valley. Locations are confidential and people are encouraged to call first.
- Families are welcome and are taken in to eat, shower, receive clean clothes, children receive stuffed animals
- Volunteers call their family members to ensure their airplane ticket or bus station ticket is bought
- Many families stay the night
- Some families take Asylum Seeking Families home for the night and then take them to bus station or airport the next day
- Apples, oranges and chicken soup has been the dinner many Asylum Seeking Families are connected to and are offered.
- If churches are full, ICE may take them straight to the bus station

What can we do to help Alliance of Christian Leaders of the East Valley, and their churches hosting families?

- ▶ Volunteers who wish to host families in their home for 1 and/or 2 nights and transport them to the bus station/airport the next day
- ▶ Volunteers who can provide transportation
- ▶ Volunteers at the churches
- ▶ Open another church/facility to provide services
- ▶ Financial support
 - ▶ Churches are reaching into their own church budget to cover costs
 - ▶ Go Fund Me: Asylum Seekers families
 - ▶ <https://www.gofundme.com/f/asylum-seekers-families>
 - ▶ Donate items: backpacks, hygiene items for men, women and children, stuffed animals...
There is much of these donation already. Please call Pastor Elizabeth first to make sure if more is needed.
- ▶ **Pastor Elizabeth Cruz, represents all the Pastors hosting families in their churches, known as Alliance of Christian Leaders of the East Valley**
- ▶ Contact her at elizcruz2003@yahoo.com or 480.430.2897

Pictures from Alliance of Christian Leaders of the East Valley hosting families









The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Day Relief Center

By Shawn Donnelly and Taylor Lutich

- ▶ Day Relief Center operates Tuesday through Sunday from 8:30am to 8:00pm
- ▶ After being contacted, ICE drops families off
- ▶ Volunteers greet the families
- ▶ There is an area where children play
- ▶ Families are provided with breakfast, lunch and dinner
- ▶ Clean clothes, hygiene products are shared, showers are available
- ▶ Community Partners are available to help in contacting the families of where the Asylum Seeking families will be arriving
- ▶ Towards the end of the day, Brophy College Preparatory volunteers with buses pick up some families to take them to churches where they will be spending the night

What can we do to help The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Day Relief Center?

▶ Volunteers

- ▶ Volunteers needed: Shawn Donnelly 602-850-6942; sdonnelly@svdpaz.org
- ▶ Supplies needed: Emily Radawec 602-850-6748; eradawec@svdpaz.org
- ▶ Funds needed: www.stvincentdepaul.net/give/donate or (602) 266-GIVE (4483)
- ▶ Overnight accommodations needed:
 - ▶ Church group hosting: Natalia.Lopez@Rescue.org or (602) 433-2440 ext. 274
 - ▶ Individual family hosting: phxrestorationproject@gmail.com or 602-456-9184
- ▶ Please see attachment for specific items and volunteer opportunities

CALL OF ACTION

- ❑ **Call one of these 2 partners this week to volunteer for 1 or 2 hours**
 - ❑ The only way to better understand is if we are there and see with our own eyes
 - ❑ Go as a ministry or with a group of friends
- ❑ **PARISHES** these are some ideas:
 - ❑ Gather your Justice and Peace Ministry/Evangelization Ministry/ etc. to volunteer at 1 of these locations. Return back to share with the parishioners what is going on and gather more volunteers.
 - ❑ You have space for **a day** relief center? Contact the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Relief Day Center staff member Jessica Berg, jberg@svidpaz.org or 602 526 4565 to help you learn what is needed and who to communicate with. Pastor Elizabeth Cruz can be another contact.
 - ❑ Gather a list of volunteers who wish to host families at their homes and share that list with Jessica Berg to reach out to them in those times of a family needing to stay a night and transport them the next day
 - ❑ Have the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Relief Day Center link and the Go fund me account from the Alliance of Christian Leaders of the East Valley on your Website to encourage parishioners to donate
 - ❑ Have a second collection and ensure the ministry takes these funds and return back with information of how it was used (would recommend to have someone from the 2 partners come and speak with parishioners first to bring awareness to the community)
 - ❑ Host a prayer night for the Asylum Seeking Families and donate any support given.
 - ❑ Catholic Charities has a bulletin in regards to this crisis that has been shared and can be posted. Dulce Hernandez Valdez sends monthly bulletins to parishes. Please reach out to her at dhernandez@cc-az.org or 602.650.4832 to receive it.

“Together we can do great things!”- St. Teresa of Calcutta

Dulce Hernandez Valdez:

“I cannot remember who shared this story with me. Please excuse me. But a father with his children who was a fallen away Catholic was an Asylum Seeking Family and was received by Catholic Charities in another state. He shared that he is forever grateful for how gentle he was received by the volunteers and will return to the Church. Brothers and Sisters, our help is needed. He has given us a sign to come together and help. Let’s do exactly that and stay focus on the action of love that we can do together. And lets be mindful that these families can be Jesus Christ himself in disguise.”

