

SPIRIT OF JUSTICE MINISTRY

HELPING MIGRANTS AT THE BORDER BETWEEN THE U.S. AND MEXICO

In August the Spirit of Justice Ministry held a meeting to brainstorm ideas for helping migrants at the border between the US and Mexico. We are posting a more complete summary of those ideas on our website; however, here are some of the ideas that we are currently working on.

The top priority from the meeting was education on the issue. We are currently in communication with Annunciation House, El Paso, Texas, to discover their mission and their needs. More information about their ministry and how we can help them will be coming in January. We are also pursuing kiva loans which can be done by individuals to help the migrants implement dreams they may have for businesses in their country and so stay with their families.

Responses from Brainstorming Night on Migrants at the Border August 12, 2019

About 20 people attended to discuss ways to minister to the Migrants at the Border. Below are the responses with numbers in parentheses showing support.

STB PARISH

(6) Posting links to other sites
(9) Education: programs (ability to access info)
(4) Support Casa Guadelupana
(4) Identify needs
Handmade blankets
Get young people involved
Guatemala
Seasonal Ministry minute
Semi with Supplies
St. Stephen's, Cabrini, Joan of Arc, St. Thomas More: sanctuary
Letter Writing: phone calls vs emails vs. Letter writing
fundraising
pilgrimage to the border
kiva: micro lending
Irene O'Neill CSJ local resource

SMALL GROUPS

Identify existing support groups
Get high school students involved

INDIVIDUALS

existing support groups (legal aid, legal Advocacy Orgs., SPLC)

Welcome Blanket Project

Casa Guadalupe

Going to ICE detention center

Identify and get on call lists

Intervention/assistance for refugees

Support San Lucas

Help people thrive in their native country

At the October 1 Spirit of Justice Ministry the following was decided upon.

a. Tom J - contacted Annunciation House in El Paso, TX. Their response letter listed their needs, emphasized need for financial support. One way we can promote it with the parish is to post blank cards on wall, parishioner return with written note to the immigrant on left side, we will translate into Spanish on right side, deliver notes with money.

b. Mark S - Kiva - will explore the possibility of loans to Central Americans so that they will not need to migrate.

c. Greg - contacted Scott B at Pax Christi, previously at Risen Savior, has not hear back.

e. Possible mission trip to the border - next June? Need to explore further " would need to identify a local partner

If you are interested in working on any of these projects, please contact Dan Rietz, Mark Swanson, or Maureen O'Connor

QUESTIONS

Networking with Catholic Churches at the border.

What other groups in the Twin Cities are working migration /border issue?

Parish-wide Petition?

Invitation to Candidates to speak?

What levels do we need to create to encourage involvement?

Need to vote beyond pro-life?