Spotlighting
ICDI Board of Directors

ICDI has been incorporated since 2013 and has a Board of Directors made up of ten dedicated men and women from a variety of backgrounds. Prior to incorporation, the founders of ICDI, Sisters Pat and JoAnn had a partners' board of advisors, helping the organization navigate through the challenges of providing human services to our immigrant sisters and brothers, and becoming a 501 (c)3 organization.

One of these trusted board members from the partners' board, in the early years, is Sidney Hollander. Sidney and the sisters met in the early 1990's while they worked at Su Casa Catholic Worker, a non-profit, which began as a shelter for refugees of Central-American civil war. Su Casa was founded by Sisters Pat and JoAnn. At the time Sidney was involved in a grassroots community initiative for social justice. Sidney worked with JCUA, the Jewish Council for Urban Action, a social justice group, together with his synagogue, KAM Isaiah Synagogue. They worked on an initiative on the South Side of Chicago providing sanctuary for a Guatemalan family. Hearing of like minded people he sought out Sisters Pat and JoAnn, who were also providing housing and care for those from Central America needing refuge. Sidney started coming to Su Casa once a month with a group from KAM to help the staff and serve meals to the residents. From then on, a trusted friendship grew between Sidney and the Sisters.

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Fast forward - while collaborating with immigrant and refugee rights groups Sidney learned about the vigil started at Broadview by Sisters Pat and JoAnn. Before the vigils became interfaith, the rosary was the primary means of prayer, and Sidney received a special dispensation from his Rabi so he could attend. Sidney says he would have attended even without the dispensation. From then on he became a regular at the Friday morning vigils and his friendship with Sister Pat and JoAnn continued to grow. Not only does Sidney volunteer at Broadview weekly, but he was the first Board Chair after ICDI incorporated in 2013, while still serving on the Board of JCUA. Sidney continues to serve on ICDI's board today.

Sidney likes to tell a story about Sisters Pat and JoAnn. In 2008 a bill was needed to allow pastoral care for immigrant detainees in McHenry County Jail. The Sisters went to Springfield for a final push for the bill's passage. They met with Emil Jones, President of the Illinois Senate at the time, who made a non comital reference about the bill's passage. Sr. Pat then said, “You've got the power, make it happen.” Sidney remembers that as a pivotal moment. This was the beginning of ICDI as men and women of Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths worked together to get HB4613 passed. The bill passed unanimously in the Illinois House and Senate on Nov. 20, 2008 and became law in June 2009.
Kathleen Morkert, New Board Chair

Kathleen is not new to ICDI, but she is new to the position as Board Chair, after serving on the Board since 2013. The Board and ICDI is very fortunate and blessed to have her leadership skills and her commitment of time, talent and treasure to the ICDI mission.

Kathleen came to help ICDI through the work of her late husband, the Rev. Larry Morkert, who volunteered with the Jail Ministry and had retired from his pastorate at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church in Arlington Heights, a supportive church of ICDI. Kathleen has been very active in several of Our Saviour’s social justice ministries over the years.

Introducing UCIM
Unaccompanied Children’s Interfaith Ministry

The Unaccompanied Children’s Interfaith Ministry or UCIM, originated in 2013 as a joint project of the Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America, Interfaith Committee for Detained Immigrants or ICDI, and Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants. As of January 1, 2016 UCIM is under the leadership of ICDI.

The youth served come to the United States without documentation and without their parents or legal guardians, from countries that are some of the most dangerous in the world. They are held in centers under contract with the United States Office of Refugee Resettlement, while the government determines if there is a family member or friend within the United States who could provide a home for them. The vast majority of these children are seeking asylum or some other form of legal status to remain in the country permanently. They come from different countries, practice different religions, speak different languages and come from different social backgrounds. It became apparent that there was a need to help the children process their emotions, and allow for expression after many of them experienced hardships and trauma, prior and during their passage.

UCIM organizes volunteers to visit the centers and engage the children with music, games and arts-and-crafts activities based on interfaith themes, such as hope, thanksgiving, and strength for the journey. Approximately 2000 children have been served since the program’s inception. These children come from many world nations, including: Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Mexico, China, India, Brazil, Albania, Ethiopia, Romania, Bangladesh, Nigeria, and Somalia. The various faith groups are represented including: Christian (Catholic and Evangelical), Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, or no religious background.

ICDI hopes to expand the program to serve more children. Presently there are only three centers served out of nine total in the Chicago area.
Introducing Our Annual Fundraising Event

Announcing...
Standing in Solidarity, Awards
Dinner and Auction
September 22, 2016

Chicago History Museum
1601 N. Clark St.
Chicago, IL 60614

From 5:30 - 9:30 p.m.

ICDI is extremely excited to host this event at this iconic venue in the City of Chicago. The name of the event is significant, as it is the very foundation for the work ICDI does for our immigrant sisters and brothers. The fundraising event will feature a raffle, silent and live auctions, a fund-a- need plea, followed by an awards presentation.

During the first hour of our event, you and your guests will be able to tour the permanent exhibit at the Museum, ‘Crossroads’, which features the city, and how it grew to the world class, cultural city it is today, from its modest immigrant roots. It is fitting therefore, that we have our event at this venue, spotlighting the ministries of ICDI.

New to the 2016 event will be an award presented to an individual or a group who has exhibited a commitment to our immigrant sisters and brothers through the use of their time, talent and/or treasure in service to our immigrant sisters and brothers while standing in solidarity with them. The inaugural ICDI Founders’ Award will be presented on September 22, 2016. Look for more information which will be coming out about this event via mail, email and website, www.icidchicago.org.

The Founders’ Award

The Inaugural Founders’ Award will be presented posthumously to Larry Morkert, whose life was one of deep faith and a commitment to justice. Larry had a passion to change oppression and worked for many causes while influencing others to follow in his footsteps for justice. With another group, he began visiting immigrant detainees even before ICDI was officially permitted to begin the Jail Ministry. When ICDI was looking for volunteers for the jail ministry, Larry was one of the very first to come to the training. He was faithful to this program showing a deep love and respect for the immigrant sisters and brothers he served. “Larry loved his visits to the jail and was a warm and caring presence to our immigrant sisters and brothers,” says Sister JoAnn Persch, RSM. Exec. Dir. of ICDI. His love for ICDI brought his wife Kathleen to ICDI’S Board of Directors where she currently serves as the chair of the Board. This relationship enabled ICDI to form a partnership with Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church in Arlington Heights.
When you are out and about in the City of Chicago, stop by the Weinberg/Newton Gallery on 300 W. Superior to view a new exhibition, *Soul Asylum*. This exhibit gives voice to the immigration justice movement, featuring the works by Tania Bruguera, Jenny Polak, Diaz Lewis and the Albany Park Theater Project, through sound, painting, sculpture, performance and installation, which runs through March 26, 2016.

The project is curated in partnership with Human Rights Watch, and aims to advance the efforts of grassroots and national organizations to reform immigration policy in the United States, and move the conversation to the front lines of civil rights discourse.

ICDI attended the opening reception at the gallery on Friday evening, January 22, 2016. Artists Diaz Lewis, is a collaborative, who has done installations and performance works addressing immigration themes. After being contacted by the gallery and Human Rights Watch to make a new artwork for this exhibition, their first thought was “How can we buy back the beds designated for detainees?” What does this mean? It means that there is a quota, or a bed mandate established by US Congress, dating back to 2007, requiring ICE, (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) to fill 34,000 beds in 250 facilities across the country, per day with immigrant detainees. Private detention centers and county jails receive as much as $164 per bed, per day of US tax money, which adds up to $2 Billion dollars annually and $5.5 million each day, to house detainees. The buy back concept is purely symbolic.

From this concept, the of *34,000 Pillows* project was created, which is now showcased at the Weinberg/Newton Gallery. Several of our Marie Joseph House of Hospitality residents participated in creating pillow cases for this project in advance of the exhibit opening. Their pillows are now on display at the Gallery and are for sale, selling for approximately $160 per pillow, the cost of detention for one day.

All are invited to stop by the gallery and participate in making pillow cases. Workshops will be on Saturdays from 2-4 p.m. and on Mondays from 1-4 p.m. during the exhibition period, now through March 26, 2016.

The artists, Diaz Lewis, are also looking for articles of clothing, linens, bed sheets, that are well worn or lightly worn, which can be transformed into a pillow case. Contact the gallery for workshop times, in case times have changed, 312-529-5090.
Reporting Back on the Successes of Giving Tuesday

Thank you to everyone who supported ICDI on Giving Tuesday. We are proud and happy to report that we received over $8,000 on #Giving Tuesday, and have established a presence on Facebook.

Soul Asylum (continued)

Several pillows were sold that night.

Wish List

OR

- Non perishable food items, such as rice, cereals, canned tomatoes, tomato paste, canned fish - tuna & salmon, canned fruits and vegetables
- Men’s new underwear, sizes M and L.
- International phone cards
- Grocery store gift cards
- Cleaning supplies

Refer to our Wish List on Amazon. - it’s easy to find. Sign into your Amazon account and go to your wish list and drop down to see all registries. Type in Interfaith Committee for Detained Immigrants and to go to the ICDI wish list.

You can purchase any of these items either on Amazon or elsewhere and drop them off at our office, or if you have Amazon Prime, the items can be shipped to ICDI offices, at no expense to you.

Thank You!

10024 S. Central Park Ave. Chicago, 60655
We are grateful for all ways in which you can help.

Amazon offers the opportunity for charities to receive 5% of eligible purchases from its followers.

Go to www.smile.amazon.com, sign in as usual, choose Interfaith Committee for Detained Immigrants as your charity, and Amazon will do the rest. You are able to change your charity each time, if you support other organizations this way. Please think of ICDI when making your next Amazon purchase.

Thank You!
Corporate Matching Donations
Double the impact of your gift!

Did you know? That on average, one in 10 companies match employee donation?

By simply completing a matching gift form from your company, you may be able to double or even triple the impact of your gift to ICDI.

Most employers include spouses and retirees in their matching gift program.

Any gift amount is welcome and appreciated. The work of ICDI is vital for our immigrant community. ICDI is 100% privately funded and depends on donations from its loyal supporters.

To find out if your company participates in a matching gift program, please go on our website www.icdichicago.org. Click on the tab WAYS YOU CAN HELP and under corporate matching gifts, click on the highlighted words view this list found in the paragraph. If your company is listed, please consider requesting a company matching gift and doubling the impact of your gift.

Educating Students

Many groups come to the Broadview prayer vigil on Fridays and reach out to ICDI for experiential learning. Recently the SNC (St. Norbert College) Immigration and Refugee Issues group made a field trip from De Pere, Wisconsin to Chicago and participated in the Broadview Prayer Vigil. They also attended Court Watch that week and helped to sort clothing for PDAN (Post-Detention Accompaniment Network). Trips like this help students to develop and build a social consciousness and a spirit for volunteerism.

They were grateful to Br. Michael Gosch, CSV, PDAN program director, for what they learned that week.

Story from the Jail Ministry

Going to the Jail visitation program is strictly voluntary for the detainees, as is the religious services held there on Sundays.

Recently a detainee mentioned to one of our volunteers that he appreciated the weekly visits done by ICDI. He remarked that “there are not many that go to the Sunday services because there they talk at us. ICDI talks with us.”

Did you know? That the Jail Ministry is expanding once again?

ICDI has received permission to go into Dodge County Wisconsin to do visitation and pastoral care. The benefits of ICDI’s Jail program are recognized by ICE, and its successes are because of ICDI’s leadership and its caring and dedicated volunteers. The program should be up and running in the second quarter of 2016.
Mission Statement

The Interfaith Committee for Detained Immigrants is a non-profit, faith-based organization of staff and volunteers called to respond actively and publicly to the suffering of all individuals and communities affected by immigration detention, deportation, and post-detention through pastoral care, advocacy, public witness and other activities.

Visit our website to learn what’s new and the opportunity to Donate.

Thank You!

www.icdichicago.org