Asylum Seekers Need Refuge Too

Recently a man contacted ICDI via our online contact form on the website. He was in San Diego, had been released from detention and just needed a place to stay and food to eat. "Please, please, help me ICDI." How could we say no? Assistant Director Melanie Schikore called him and learned that he was 25 years old and from Somalia. He had spent 6 months and 2 weeks in detention before being released. He has a lawyer and has applied for asylum but cannot work yet and is not eligible for any governmental aid. He was living with a friend but the friend moved out of state. He didn't know where else to turn.

This is common for asylum seekers. Unlike refugees, they cannot get government aid and obtaining an employment authorization document (EAD) is a lengthy and tedious process. As a result, many asylum seekers flee violent home countries and end up homeless in the United States. ICDI serves to close this gap by providing housing and assistance in addition to accompaniment for people who are in this situation.

Brother Michael Gosch, Program Director for our Houses of Hospitality and Post Detention Accompaniment Network got in touch with him to share some resources and contacts in the San Diego area. This man has also been placed on our wait list as he was willing to relocate to Chicago if necessary in order to get the help he needs. Please keep him and all asylum seekers in your thoughts and prayers.
Every immigrant has a story

At the annual banquet on May 24, Congregations United to Serve Humanity (CUSH) will be honoring the Interfaith Committee for Detained Immigrants.

ICDI is a Chicago based non-profit, faith-based organization that provides pastoral care to individuals and communities affected by immigration detention, deportation, and post-detention. For the past year ICDI members along with volunteers from the Kenosha/Racine area have been visiting detainees at the Kenosha County Detention Center. These weekly visits are part of ICDI’s jail ministry. Volunteers do not give legal counsel; they are simply there to be the face of a caring human being to another human being.

I have been making these visits for over a year and have met with dozens of detainees and heard their stories. Although there are common themes, each story is different. The detainees are people of different ages, languages, and nationalities. Some are educated; others are not. Some have families; others are alone in this world. Among those with families, some are in contact, but often families are hundreds of miles away, and the high cost of a phone card prevents them for even talking to their family member.

Volunteers often contact these families just to let them know where their loved one has been taken.

Each legal situations is different, too. Some of the detainees were stopped for minors offenses, found to be undocumented and taken into custody. Others have served prison sentences and are awaiting deportation. Some were in this country legally but made a mistake for which a citizen might get a fine or at best a misdemeanor, but an immigrant will be arrested. Others crossed borders in the dark of night or paid high prices, often traveling through many countries, crossing many borders, before reaching the United States. Many are seeking asylum from persecution and oppression. They are from Mexico and Guatemala, Ghana and China, India and the Marshall Islands, Jamaica, Pakistan and Cuba and on and on.

Some of the detainees know they will be deported and are waiting to receive travel documents, often to go to a country they left when they were children. Others are waiting to hear if they will receive asylum. Many came for economic reasons.

Continued on Page 4
More News About Our Annual Fundraising Event

Standing in Solidarity, Awards Dinner and Auction

Continue to SAVE the DATE
September 22, 2016

Chicago History Museum
1601 N. Clark St.
Chicago, IL 60614
From 5:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Dinner tickets can be purchased online at www.icdichicago.org.

We are looking for auction items!

Raffle donation ideas:
• Vacation house/condo/time share – with airline tickets for two.
  Miles to be used for two tickets - economy class.
  Week stay at a vacation destination.

Auction donation ideas:
• Know a chef? Have him donate a dinner at his restaurant or
  Dinner for 4-6 or ? people, donated and prepared in your home.
• Restaurant gift cards – meal for two (breakfast, lunch or diner)
• Theatre tickets for two.
  Group with restaurant gift cards for an evening out.
• Wine donations – Value at least $15 or more to create an Instant wine cellar.
• A wine and or liquor basket.
• Week-end Stays - a condo or house in a vacation location.
• Museum memberships or museum admission tickets.
• Boat cruises on Lake Michigan

Questions? please call Barbara Sipe, 773-779-6100

The Founders’ Award

The Inaugural Founders’ Award will be presented posthumously to Larry Morkert at this year’s event. Larry had a passion to change oppression and worked for many causes while influencing others to follow in his footsteps for justice. Larry was one of the very first to come to the Jail training when ICDI was permitted inside McHenry County Jail. “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 Board Chair. This relationship enabled ICDI to form a partnership with Our Saviour’s Evangelical Lutheran Church in Arlington Heights.
Jail - continued from page 2

Some have been in the United States since childhood; others are newly arrived and had barely crossed the border when they were picked up. A few of the younger ones came for adventure; all came seeking a better life.

All of them are frightened, even if they don’t show it. Many are outwardly anxious; others put on a veneer of assurance but that coating is fragile and easy to see through. Some smile in spite of their situation. Others find it hard to do so, especially at first. Some are anxious to tell their stories; others are more reticent and take time to open up to a stranger, even one coming with no agenda except to offer support, empathy and a few kind words.

Many are people of faith, trusting that God will watch over them in their time of need. Others are not, yet they find the long hours of solitude give them time to explore their beliefs. They want to believe in a God who will take care of them, even on days when the evidence is slow in coming. Many pray and even those who don’t, ask for prayers for their mothers and fathers, wives and children. Many attend Bible study classes seeking hope and encouragement. They read the Bible or the Koran or other sacred texts, which they may have never read before, looking for comfort or sometimes just to occupy the long, silent nights.

ICDI volunteers come to listen. Some stories are simple. Others are long and complicated. Sometimes they are difficult to understand, not because of a language or communication issue, but because they reflect the tangle of laws and statutes and rulings of our immigration system.

What I am always left with after my visits are the personal stories, the stories of families torn apart, people uncertain of their future, in limbo, waiting for a ruling from a judge who may be compassionate and kind but needs to follow the laws. These are the stories I remember; these are the stories I want others to hear.

Jail Visitation will begin at the Dodge County Detention Center, Wisconsin in 2016.
Anyone interested in becoming a Jail Visitation Minister, here are some details:

**Dodge County Detention Facility**
216 W Center St,
Juneau, WI 53039

**Visitation Times at the Dodge Facility**
Saturday morning 8:00 – 11:00 am is the time reserved for us.
Volunteers serve on teams that visit one Saturday morning each month. A volunteer may serve on more than 1 team. Team 5 visits when there are 5 Saturdays in a month, which works out to about 4 times a year.

**Training:**
In order to participate in the visits, a volunteer must complete the ICDI training and apply for clearance to enter the Detention Facility.

**First training for Dodge County**
Wednesday May 25
1 pm – 4 pm
St. Katharine Drexel Church
408 S. Spring St.
Beaver Dam, WI 53916
St. Patrick Room of the Parish Center

**Next ICDI Jail Visitation Training**
Thursday June 2
1 pm to 4 pm
Kenosha, WI

Anyone who is interested in becoming a Jail Visitation Ministry volunteer at this facility is asked to contact the ICDI office at 773-779-6011 and ask for Melanie Schikore.
Senator Dick Durbin - IL (D) came to visit the Marie Joseph House of Hospitality for women, families and teenagers in Hyde Park on May 5, to learn more about all of our programs, but specifically to see the alternative to detention program, the Post-Detention Accompaniment Network and to visit with a few of the residents. The program is housed at the Catholic Theological Union, CTU, where house staff and head office staff were delighted to meet Senator Durbin, who is very active in trying to achieve bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform in Congress.

Wish List for the CTU babies and their mothers.

We now have three babies in the house and two toddlers. A newborn arrived into the world on May 5, 2016 to a mom from Mexico on the morning of Senator Durbin’s visit. Six month old Milkyas is pictured above with Senator Durbin. Babies come with their own wish list and needs and here is what is on our babies’ list. Please call the office, at 773-779-6011 if you have a donation, and ask to speak to Kathy.

- Baby bottles (new)
- Diapers (of all sizes, since we have different ages)
- Baby wipes
- Baby clothes (infant, 6 months, 1 yr, 18 months) - can be gently used.
- Infant stroller, toddler stroller- these can be gently used, if still in good condition - only need 1 or 2.

Wish List

- 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

From left to right, joining Senator Durbin and baby Milkyas is Dacudo from Guinea, Sister Pat, and Ismael from Guatemala. To the Senator’s right is mom, Nazaret from Eritria, and Sister JoAnn.
In Memory of:

*Any donation received after 5/27/16 is not included

Amanda Baker By Randy & Julie Baker
Esther L. Tejeda By Antoinette M. Tejeda
Irene Flosi By Sarah & Fred Flosi
Katie McHugh, BVM By Peg Schneider
Larry Morkert By Mary Naftzger
Larry Morkert By Marilyn Breiding
Larry Morkert By Kay Coyne
Larry Morkert By Eric Draut
Larry Morkert By Neal and Helen Grosshans
Larry Morkert By Barbara Pyle
Larry Morkert By Nancy & Elmer Richardson
Larry Morkert By Carol & Christopher Melby
Larry Morkert By LaVerna & Dick Jackson
Larry Morkert By Myrna & Jim Wylie
Larry Morkert By the Salgado Family
Larry Morkert By Leslie Weber
living & deceased members of the Loftus family By Mary Loftus, RSM
Mary Chiappetta By Sr. Anita Chiappetta
Molly Scholter and Sara Alexander By Ellen Alexander
Nancy L. Borneman By an anonymous donor
Sister Honora, RSM By Joan Marie Bransfield
Sister Mary Vincent Schafer, RSM By Sister Marican Deisenroth, RSM
Sister Paulina Small By Sister Kay McIntyre, RSM
Sr Jean Sculte OSF By Susan Condon
Sr. Vera Donlan, SHHS By Toni Lynn Gallagher
Vincent & Vera Fisher By Sr. Michele Fisher, CSFN
George Pavliak By Sr. Pat Murphy, RSM & Sr. JoAnn Persch, RSM

Brother Michael Gosch, CSV
Brother Peter Lamick
Carol Conway
Cate Morris
Cate Morris
Cate Morris
CAVA members
Frank and Danita Covington
JoAnn Persch, RSM
Pat Murphy, RSM & JoAnn Persch, RSM
Pat Murphy, RSM & JoAnn Persch, RSM
Pat Murphy, RSM & JoAnn Persch, RSM
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Pat Murphy, RSM & JoAnn Persch, RSM
Pat Murphy, RSM & JoAnn Persch, RSM
Sister Conleth, RSM
Sister Kate Brenner, SSSF
Sister Pat M. Murphy's birthday
2016 Mercy Jubilarians
2016 Mercy Jubilarians
2016 Mercy Jubilarians
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In Honor of:
The wonderful work being done by all By Susan Kuhn
Barbara Cetner, RSM By anonymous donor
Brother Michael Gosch, CSV By Timothy Gosch

Thank you for your support and generosity!
As ICDI programs expand, as the needs of our immigrant sisters and brothers grow, ICDI’s budget grows. We would like to be transparent from where our funding comes. The pie chart above is for the fiscal year, 2015-16 which we are in presently, and which will be over on June 30, 2016. The budget for FY 2016-17, just approved by the Board of Directors, will be 30% higher. In an effort to be good stewards of all financial support we receive, we are publishing our budget. For FY 20115-16 actual income and expense figures are on target to be met.

We are grateful for your support and rely on all funders and individuals to meet our budget needs.
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. Your generous support is valued.

Thank You!

www.icdichicago.org