A father, Marwan Saffaf, meeting and greeting his boys at O’Hare after being separated from them for nearly three years!

This happy reunion was possible because of what ICDI did for Marwan while he was in the Post-Detention Accompaniment Network program (PDAN).

Marwan came to the United States from Syria nearly three years ago, and immediately applied for asylum. He left his family behind to pave their way to the United States eventually. They have been in the United Arab Emirates waiting to be reunited as a family. His journey thus far dates back to his days at McHenry County Jail, being detained there for six months. He had met pastoral jail volunteers, one of whom was Sister JoAnn Persch, RSM, jail volunteer and Executive Director of ICDI.

When Marwan was about to be released from McHenry County, he let Sister JoAnn know. She asked, “This is great news, Marwan. Where will you be going?” Marwan’s reply was, “With you Sister!” This is about the time the men’s house of hospitality was opening in Cicero, IL and Marwan was one of the first residents.

This part of the story has a happy ending, as Marwan was able to get a job at O’Hare airport working as a cargo handler; he has successfully won his asylum case; he has secured his green card; and has successfully petitioned to have his family come to the United States.

The full ending to the story still needs to be written, because only part of Marwan’s family, these beautiful boys, have been able to arrive and join their father. Marwan’s wife is still in the United Arab Emirates with their daughter, the eldest child. It is uncertain why the three boys received their visas to enter the United States, but the mother and daughter did not. Now Senator Dick Durbin’s office is helping to expedite visas for the mother and daughter, to make a final reunion happen. The boys had to travel recently because their visas were about to expire. They are now secure in their immigrant status because Marwan was been granted his asylum. ICDI arranged for the boys’ passage was through the generosity of donor, Christine Speiser.

Marwan was in the PDAN program and successfully graduated from the men’s house of hospitality to live (Continued on Pg. 8)
From the desk of the Executive Director, Sister JoAnn...

Dear Friend, Supporter, and Volunteer of ICDI,

We have come a long way over the last couple of years. ICDI programs have grown from two in the first years to four and now we have five. And you have seen it all. The growth has come from the expressed needs of our immigrant community. Their needs have dictated what we have done. Our instinct is to nurture and be a problem solver.

As a friend of ICDI, we thank you for your volunteer hours, for your financial support, and for your overall support of our work. You have been our best and loyal cheerleaders, and we could not have come this far without your love, support and loyalty.

This past month, we have created a monthly giving program, called the Interfaith Giving Circle. Because ICDI has so many daily obligations and needs which stress our checkbook, we ask that you consider donating on a monthly basis. This can help with baby diapers and other baby needs, cleaning supplies in the houses; bus passes used by residents; phone cards in the houses or trac phones used by short-term PDAN, those who travel back to family; or for any and all emergencies just like all family budgets experience.

We have been blessed over the past few years to be able to make ends meet as we have grown. To ensure we continue to do so, we ask that you consider a monthly giving plan that will include ICDI in your budget. There is no amount that is not appreciated, and that is the beauty of the program. We have several of you who donate monthly now and this is a big help! Thank you.

To give monthly, simply decide what amount you are willing to give on a monthly basis. Consider that for $.16 a day, or $5 a month, our Unaccompanied Children’s Interfaith Ministry child can have art supplies for a month, or for $10 a month, which is $.35 a day, a detainee in jail can have extra money in his commissary account to make a call home to family or buy some hygiene products. The items that are listed on page 3 are examples of how your donations will be used. There are so many needs.

We appreciate any and all donations, and if your family budget has a line item for a lump sum yearly gift to ICDI then we are grateful for your special gift. If you are able to give on a monthly basis, then your monthly gift is a blessing.

The process is simple. You can go online and click on the Interfaith Giving Circle page, which pops-up first and then click on “find out more”. You can choose what amount you wish to donate and join. If you can only give by check, we will welcome and appreciate your monthly commitment.

For ease of payment and not to think about giving monthly, provide us with your credit card information on our secure site and your account will be debited on the same day every month for the amount you have designated. If you wish to increase your monthly donation or to stop payment all together you can do so.

We will thank all donations as they come in, and at year’s end we will send out a tax letter for all the donations accrued that year. If you wish not to receive each individual monthly thank you letter, just let us know. You will be notified by email when your donation has been processed. As a member of the Interfaith Giving Circle your donations will be acknowledged in our fall annual report.

ICDI sincerely thanks you for your continued generosity.

Peace and love,

Sister JoAnn Persich, RSM
Current Monthly Supporters—are now members of the

**Interfaith Giving Circle:**

3 Anonymous donors  
Dennis & Debbie Conway  
Jim Cusack  
Shanti Elliot  
Nancy & Emmett Fleming  
Ann Legg

Charlaine & Patrick McAnany  
Julie Mineman  
Kathleen Morkert  
Kathryn Olsen  
Libby Pappalardo  
Jim Sherry

Join the *Interfaith Giving Circle* - go to our website [www.icdichicago.org](http://www.icdichicago.org) and click on the Interfaith Giving Circle page which will pop-up first and then click on “Find out more”

For all other donation acknowledgements, please look for our *Inaugural Annual Report* in newsletter form coming out at the end of October for our Fiscal Year 2015-16.

Thank You!
Annual Fundraiser Update

Standing in Solidarity, Awards Dinner and Auction

We have saved you a seat - it’s not too late to join us.

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 or call 773-779-6011

Auction 2016

- The evening will feature a Silent Auction and Live Auction which has something for everyone.

The primo Live item will be “Dinner with the Sisters” - Offered by Billy Lawless and the Gage Restaurant located on Michigan Ave, across from Millennium Park. Have dinner with Sisters JoAnn and Pat and a few of your closest friends—a gourmet delight which will take place in the lower level, special dinning room of the Gage. Value: Priceless! Details to follow.

Follow the progress of the auction, both silent and auction by going to www.charityauctionorganizer.com/auction/ICDI.

The Founders’ Award

The Inaugural Founders’ Award will be presented to Larry Morkert’s family the night of September 22, 2016. Larry was the Pastor of Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church in Arlington Heights. Our fundraising event is also an opportunity to honor an individual or group, with this award. The criteria for selection are that a person or group chosen must have 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. Rev. Morkert, who passed away in early 2016, dedicated his life to deep faith and a commitment to justice, with a passion to change oppression. He also served as one of ICDI’s first volunteers to serve on a jail visitation team when the organization’s jail visitation program began in 2010 at McHenry County Jail. He was faithful to this program, showing a deep love and respect for the immigrant sisters and brothers he served.
Our Sponsor List Has Grown

Standing in Solidarity Sponsors:

Platinum Sponsor: The Owens Foundation

Gold Sponsor: INTREN

Silver Sponsor: Pierce Family Foundation

Bronze Sponsors: Reed Smith

& Duane Sigelko and Mary Kay McDermott

& Segal Family Foundation, Carole Segal

Copper Sponsors: Speiser Family Foundation, & Christine Speiser

Thank You Sponsors!

Standing in Solidarity Awards Dinner & Auction

Grand Raffle

“Best of Chicago”

- Broadway tickets for 2
- Dinner
- 3-night stay, Hyatt Chicago Magnificent Mile

Second Prize - 48” Vizio Smart HDTV
Third Prize - Premium Wine Basket

Tickets: $20 per ticket
3 for $50
8 for $100

Drawing will take place the night of the dinner.

September 22,

Tickets can be purchased online at www.icdichicago.org or from our offices.

or

Mail a check to 10024 S. Central Park Ave. Chicago, IL 60655 and the ticket stubs will be mailed back to you.
ICDI Board of Directors

Peg Casey
Shanti Elliot
Fr. Mark Francis, CSV
Jim Even, Treasurer
Sidney Hollander
Kathleen Morkert, Board President
Julie Owens Mineman, Secretary
Duane Sigelko
Sr. Betty Smith, RSM, Vice-President
Fred Tsao

From the Desk of Jim Even, ICDI Board Member...

I joined the Board of Directors of ICDI as Treasurer last year at the request of Sister JoAnn Persch. I’ve known Sister JoAnn and Sister Pat Murphy for 35 years through common involvement with Little Brothers/Friends of the Elderly and Su Casa Catholic Worker House. Growing up, my home parish was Mary Seat of Wisdom in Park Ridge, and I recently discovered they had lived in the convent of Mary, Seat of Wisdom when I was about to enter Kindergarten (sorry Pat and JoAnn!). Being educated by Sisters of Mercy and reconnecting with Pat and JoAnn throughout my life, including a few years at Misericordia with Sister Rosemary Connelly, I soon learned one never says no to a Sister of Mercy! I also learned that God works through JoAnn and Pat to do wondrous works in His name and I am privileged to assist.

Since joining the board, I quickly immersed myself in the organization and find it remarkable that these two tireless women have created such a loving and caring organization that helps so many people who are in such need. The houses of hospitality, jail visits, court watch, unaccompanied youth ministry, and the detention center prayer vigil are all powerful testimonies to God’s work. Matthew 25:35 says “For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” And we mustn’t forget Jesus Christ was an immigrant himself. Although, ICDI fervently hopes and prays for immigration reform, to fix a broken system, our work is through peace, love and respect for immigrants and their families as well as the immigration and detention officials who have come to welcome our work. We do see that the undocumented and their families endure great hardships and separations.

I am involved with ICDI because I believe we are called by God to serve the weak, the poor, the sick, the suffering. ICDI helps as many undocumented people and their families as they can regardless of their ethnicities and faiths. As an interfaith organization, ICDI believes we are all God’s children and that all faiths can work together to make the lives of the people we serve better.

As a board member and treasurer, I find it remarkable that so much care and service is provided to so many by ICDI even with limited financial resources. It is a very efficient organization with much of the work being performed by our great volunteers and through contributed services and supplies. We are so grateful for all of our financial and volunteer supporters who give of their time, talent and treasure. But we are still in great need of continuing financial support.

I will be attending the fundraising event, Standing in Solidarity dinner on September 22nd and hope you can also. It is important that we spread the word about the work of ICDI and how we can help bring about better treatment and conditions to our immigrant friends as well as to financially support the mission of the Interfaith Committee for Detained Immigrants. I hope to meet you on the 22nd.

Jim Even
News from the Jail Ministry...

**Touching stories come out of the jail ministry every week and we want to share as many of them as possible with you:**

“I would like to thank you for all the love and camaraderie I feel every time I enter your presence. It is a palpable, profound sensation, the warmth and love and emotional support I feel when I am around you and your fellow members. The feeling is needed, especially to the downtrodden, frustrated, and neglected among us; which is the majority of people who attend your Pastoral Care meetings.

I never thought that I would encounter such love in a place like this (jail) at a time like this. The love you and your fellow members emit is like a physical washing away of stress and hurt that inundates us on a daily basis...

I know that I am not being singled out, I know that I am not the only one who is a recipient of your love and benevolence. In life there are times and places where special people make an indelible mark upon your life, and the members of the ICDI has made such an imprint upon mine. I only wanted to send you a note of thanks, but my emotions and my love and gratitude just overflowed into this letter. Thank you (a million times) for your beautiful and loving hearts and strong spirits. I will never, ever forget you all.”

- Story from a detainee, Ray Fuller, who has been at McHenry County Jail for a long time and he hopes to write a book about his immigration experience. This excerpt was in a letter sent to Jail Ministry Program Director, Pam Shearman.

**ICDI Summer Intern:**

Many of the program volunteers met Erin Brown, our summer intern from Valparaiso University. In addition to being a delightful and personable young woman, she was a valuable asset, because of her energy, compassionate spirit and creativity. Here is some of what Erin did for Jail Ministry.

She put together multi-lingual prayers/Psalm cards and a communication booklet, which were a tremendous help to the ministry teams. The volunteers shared some comments about the materials:

There was a group of men at McHenry County Jail where no one spoke English. The volunteer team was so happy to have prayers in other languages! The group was able to read the Psalm in all six languages and one of the men only spoke Arabic. He was feeling very down because he is not able to communicate well in jail. So he boldly read the Psalm in his language with his head held up high and then left the visit with a big smile on his face.

The communication booklet was tested with two groups and they loved it! The volunteers say it’s a lot of fun to go through the pages of this picture book with the sisters and brothers in detention. It was noticed that the groups using the books were the loudest groups in the room. It was happy noise with a lot of laughter and smiles. It is such a joy to be able to communicate and it helps volunteers to visit with more than one person at a time when they don’t speak each other’s language. One volunteer visited with a man from China and a man from Somalia at one time, making way for people to get to know each other and to find common interests.

The **communication booklet** is a picture book, focusing on identifying where detainees are from; how they worship; what the pastoral visits are about; what they like to do, all in picture form to help the volunteers and detainees communicate. A very creative and valuable tool for Jail Ministry.

---

**Target Gift cards for many uses:**

- To purchase some clothing for a newly released detainee.
- Sheets and blankets for CTU
Standing in Solidarity
Awards Dinner & Auction
September 22, 2016
Join Us!
Details inside!

(Continued from Pg. 1) Reunion
in second stage housing, which is independent living through the generosity of the De La Salle Christian Brothers. Marwan and a few others, who moved out to live on their own, created room for new residents in the men’s house of hospitality. Second stage is for those who have work permits and jobs, and who are stable enough to move out. ICDI case managers stay in touch with these former house residents, to make sure they continue to do well on their own.

Now with his boys with him, Marwan will be moving to an apartment in the Northwest Suburbs, with the help of several organizations in that area. They have been able to secure for him affordable housing, some furniture, and additional supplies for three growing boys.

ICDI 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 the latest about ICDI, how to purchase tickets for the fundraising event and to purchase Grand Raffle tickets!

www.icdichicago.org
We appreciate your generous support!