

AIDNW office : 1915 S Sheridan Ave Tacoma, WA 98405  
253-572-9659



YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK	
SEPTEMBER 2020	
Immigrants served	7
Stays at the Hospitality /Hotel	6
Welcome backpacks handed out	4
Letters written to detainees	60
Transportation given	7
Volunteer hours	502.75

### NEW PILOT PROGRAM AT HOSPITALITY HOUSE

We have been advising you of the many changes that have taken place at AIDNW because of the COVID virus. For many months we had to close the Hospitality House to overnight guests. “Recently, we have initiated an extended stay program to house longer term residents,” said Deborah Cruz, Program Manager. “ For folks who may want to stay in this area, we can offer a place to stay provided they meet certain criteria. Guests must present a negative COVID test or quarantine for 14 days. All COVID protocols are followed in the house: masking, social distancing, etc. We are allowing 4 people to stay (one to each bed room) as they work on job, school or citizenship requirements,” she said.

Our first guest is ASHFAQ who is from Pakistan and won asylum. He is currently working with World Relief to obtain his work permit and has been attending classes on line. He has been matched with a volunteer who has been helping him adjust to his new life. She has taken him on some long hikes, gone shopping together and even cooked a meal together.

### WANT TO LEARN MORE?



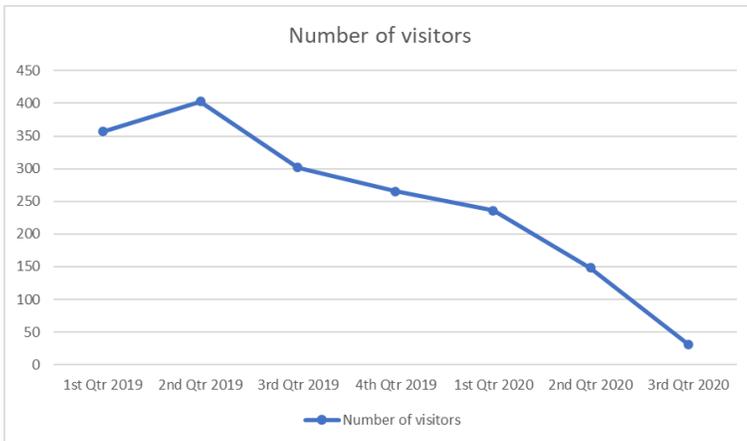
Awareness is a critical part of the work of AIDNW. Our Speakers Group is currently presenting **VIA ZOOM**

to Churches, Synagogues, Temples, Mosques, Service Clubs, Schools and others who might be interested in learning about immigration, detention, the Northwest ICE Processing Center and the work of AIDNW. If you would like a presentation please contact:

**EMAIL: [dcruz@aidnw.org](mailto:dcruz@aidnw.org)**

## The number of immigrant detainees released over the last year has dropped

Restrictions on asylum, closed borders and COVID distancing mean fewer detainees/visitors to the Welcome Center



As the Administration changed, and tightened policies on immigration, AIDNW'S work has been impacted. You can see by the graph above that we are welcoming less detainees than we had previously. In June, a new rule went into effect: if you were coming to the United States to seek asylum, you had to have proved that you tried to seek asylum in one of the countries you came through to get to the US border. Also rules were instituted that impelled refugees to wait on the Mexican side of the border for their first "credible fear hearing." Now, of course, COVID has forced the closure of the border entirely. We still continue our visitation program by writing letters and cards to those who ask, our PDAN group still offers transportation, and we are offering housing to some with the COVID protocols in place.

As an organization, AIDNW has been blessed to be able to adjust quickly to different circumstances regarding issues around those released from the detention center.

We continue our mission of "welcoming and supporting people affected by immigration detention by connecting them to resources and the community." with your support, and the helping hands of all the churches, groups, schools who aid us in this work.

We are grateful for all that you do to help us fulfill the AIDNW mission.

STAY TUNED!! COMING SOON!!!

## GIVE LIGHT TO NORTHWEST IMMIGRANT DETAINEES

FALL FUNDRAISING IS GOING VIRTUAL IN NOVEMBER!

AIDNW GIVING TUESDAY IS DECEMBER 1ST!!

FOLLOW/SHARE ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM!!

aidnwtacoma



### NEXT COMMUNITY MEETING

Register now for our next Community Meeting on Wednesday, November 18, 2020 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Najib Nazhat, Program Manager of asylum assistance for Refugees Northwest in SeaTac and Basel Moussely Program Manager of migrant services for LIRS in Maryland will be speaking together on how they work together to help refugees and asylum seekers both locally and nationally. If you would like to attend, please email

[officevolunteer@aidnw.org](mailto:officevolunteer@aidnw.org).

A link will be sent out a few days before the meeting.

### Changes to our programs under COVID 19

The AIDNW Welcome Center is working outdoors and we are taking all necessary precautions to protect both our volunteers and our guests.

**Hospitality House** is only accepting people who are released who need to wait a few hours for transportation. No overnight stays are allowed at this time.

**PDAN** volunteer drivers are busy taking released immigrants to the airport or to hotels for overnight stays before airport travel.

**Visits** are not allowed inside the Detention Center, but our volunteer visitors continue to connect with detainees by writing letters.

Clothing and other in-kind **donations** are being accepted only through our Amazon Wish list and can no longer be dropped at the house.

**Monetary donations** are accepted through the mail and the website <https://aidnw.org/how-to-donate/>



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