



AIDNW office : 1915 S Sheridan Ave Tacoma, WA 98405



### HOW TO KNIT IN THE DETENTION CENTER

Detainees are very grateful for the craft supplies that are donated by AIDNW. Many of us who volunteer at the Welcome Center are often astounded by the number of hats and other items the folks knit in there.

A few weeks ago, a guest came out with many knitted gifts for his family, and he also brought out his own knitting machine!

In the Detention Center people are not allowed knitting needles, so to knit an item they make their own "machines". These are made with the small pencils they are given for writing, dental floss, cardboard and tape.

Our guest showed us how to loop yarn around the little pencils and catch it around the second time to keep the stitches together. He told us that he could make a knit cap in just a couple of hours ; he found it really relaxing and productive. He probably had a dozen or more caps for his family's Christmas....it would be his first Christmas home in almost 3 years.



### YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK DECEMBER 2020

Immigrants served	<b>32</b>
Hospitality House	<b>4</b>
Stays at Hotel	<b>3</b>
Welcome backpacks handed out	<b>24</b>
Letters written to detainees	<b>110</b>
<b>HOLIDAY LETTERS</b>	<b>305</b>
Transportation	<b>8</b>
Volunteer hours	<b>538</b>

### 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)**



<https://aidnw.org/how-to-donate/>

## INTERVIEW WITH VOLUNTEER MARY CLARE



### Which programs do you volunteer for?

I have visited detainees in the past when that was permitted, currently I am delivering craft supplies to the NWDC as well as deportation backpacks as needed. I am also on the

Finance Team for AIDNW.

### How long have you volunteered with AIDNW?

I have been a volunteer for a year and a half, since mid 2019.

### Why do you volunteer with AIDNW?

When I moved to Tacoma from Seattle in 2016 I wanted to be involved with working with the detainees at the NWDC. I actually found an article from the Seattle Times this last year that I had saved from several years ago that talked about AIDNW and what they were doing at the van (the older model) for released detainees. After I moved to Tacoma I saw a presentation at my church, Tahoma Unitarian, about AIDNW and that prompted me to go to a public information session, where I volunteered to visit detainees and also volunteered to be on the Finance team after talking to Deborah at that info meeting and telling her my background was in accounting.

### What do you feel is the importance of AIDNW's work?

Without AIDNW the detainees for the most part would be isolated from local people who can be points of contact via letters (formerly visits) and who can provide gifts of craft materials to help pass the time in space that is essentially a prison for those held there. They also have phone time paid for so that they can reach friends and family, which is so critical especially now that no in person visits have been permitted since March of 2020. The detainees who are released are not walking out to a sidewalk on a deserted street in an area of Tacoma without public resources, sometimes released with just the clothes they had on when they were picked up, no matter what the weather is on the day they are let out of the gate. Instead there is a van parked there with food and clothes and funds to help them on the way to the next place they want to be. Most of us are descendants of immigrants, and our ancestors could have easily been in similar at risk situations depending on what the laws were when they came to this country. For those detainees who end up being deported, they can at least be provided with a backpack containing clothes and shoes and masks, funded and delivered by AIDNW.

## ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 12,2021 5pm

The AIDNW Annual Meeting will be held on January 12th at 5:00 pm, in the Zoom webinar format. You are welcome to observe by send an email to [officevolunteer@aidnw.org](mailto:officevolunteer@aidnw.org) to receive a link to the meeting.

## NEXT COMMUNITY MEETING

Register now for our next COMMUNITY MEETING

February 17th, 2021 9:30am – Community Meeting  
Speakers: AIDNW Board “Everything you always wanted to know about the AIDNW Board but were afraid to ask.”

If you would like to attend, either or both meetings ,please email [officevolunteer@aidnw.org](mailto:officevolunteer@aidnw.org).

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

### Can you share a significant interaction you've had while volunteering?

In my very first months of volunteering, I visited a detainee from Kenya named Kevin, aged 26, who was detained at a traffic stop in Kent while visiting a friend in Washington due to a lapsed student visa. I visited him almost weekly for several months, as well as sending him cards and letters with various cartoons and articles enclosed, especially with any news about Kenya. I was able to go to two hearings at the Detention Center for Kevin in early 2020, where I was the only guest in the audience, and I know the judge noted that Kevin did have someone there supporting him. Kevin was actually released after the second hearing, and I drove him to friends of his mother's who were living in Yelm at the time. Kevin later ended up back in Tacoma after that family was transferred with the military, and I helped Kevin reconnect with AIDNW and World Relief to get hotel space near the airport for a few nights and a flight to Kansas, where he had previously been a University student and where he still had some contacts. During the time I was helping Kevin I was able to have several wonderful emails with one of his brothers in Kenya. I found out from Kevin that I was very close in age to his mother, and we both have the first name of Mary. I told him I was his US foster Mom, since his own Mom could not look out for him here. Kevin's brother has told me that if I ever want to visit Kenya, his family would happily welcome me. Kevin told me more than once that he had saved every card and letter I sent to him, and he was so grateful to AIDNW for setting up the in person visits at NWDC that resulted in me visiting him there. - Jo E Robinson

## CHANGES TO OUR COVID 19 PROCEDURES

We are following the latest guidelines and these can be found on our webpage:  
[aidnw.org](https://aidnw.org)

Please check here as well for the latest information on donating, too!



<https://aidnw.org/how-to-donate/>