AIDNW volunteers open the Welcome Center, a large RV and two tents outside the release gate of the NW ICE Processing [detention] Center, at 2:30 pm every week night of the year—no matter the weather!

These stalwart volunteers braved the cold December weather and greeted happy but chilly (understatement) immigrants and helped them along the way to a better life. The week after Christmas was the coldest, replete with snow and ice. Volunteer Bill L reports “Happily, I brought a shovel, and got some of the worst cleaned off before the first guests arrived. A bit later Jan L. arrived and continued while helping to serve (along with other volunteers and drivers) a rather large number of detainees. The whole week was just as challenging with freezing temperatures and icy conditions. Everyone met the challenges with panache and aplomb, going the extra mile just to get to the Welcome Center in some cases (our volunteers drive to the Center from all over the South Sound!!).

Huge thanks to those who put on an extra layer of clothes and worked in the cold on travel plans, interpreting, phone calls, computers, printers, batteries, and passing out coats, hats, backpacks and toiletries.
Drivers needed
A vital part of welcoming immigrants released from detention is helping them get where they need to go to reunite with family members. Our volunteer drivers take guests from the Welcome Center (an RV parked outside the NW ICE Processing Center on the Tacoma tide flats) or Hospitality House (1915 S. Sheridan Ave.) to the bus station or airport. Speaking a second language is a plus but not necessary. Drivers are scheduled to be available 3 or 4 times a month, one from 4:30 pm until the end of the shift and a second person on-call if needed. The end time varies depending on how many people have been released. We also welcome drivers who are willing to be listed as substitutes if a regularly scheduled driver is unavailable. To express interest, please complete and send a volunteer application, which you can find on our website at aidnw.org/get-involved/. Please check the TRANSPORTATION box at the top.

Special Volunteer Opportunity
Potential radio personality volunteer(s) sought … Have you always had aspirations to be a radio broadcaster? This your chance to be the announcer for the monthly Radio Tacoma AIDNW public service announcements! Please contact Louisa Beal
louisa.beal.dvm@gmail.com or officevolunteer@aidnw.org.

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

Radio Tacoma KTAH 101.9FM
AIDNW is now featured on Radio Tacoma! Radio Tacoma - KTAH—is a community radio station which can be found at 101.9 FM. Tune in to hear highlights from AIDNW Welcome Center shift reports, our monthly statistics and more.

https://radiotacoma.org/

Calling all PENPALS!!
Please fill out a volunteer application on our website (aidnw.org/get-involved) and check the "VISITATION" box at the top.