



NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2022

AIDNW office : 1915 S Sheridan Ave Tacoma, WA 98405

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PIERCE TRANSIT HELPS AIDNW HELP OTHERS



AIDNW transportation volunteers often put several people at a time on the bus to the airport when they are released from detention. In the past we could use one ORCA card, tapping for each person riding the bus. Recently, the ORCA rules changed and now there must be one card for each person. Our guests are not staying in the area, so we can't issue them their own cards, so AIDNW Program Manager Deborah Cruz contacted **Nathan BeVelle**, Community Developer for Pierce Transit.

Mr. BeVelle worked his magic and Pierce Transit donated **200 paper passes** that we can give to each person riding the bus. He also donated 10 ORCA cards with \$40 each and 10 cards with \$5 each for future use. Pierce Transits employees **Brenda** and **Tammie** were also very helpful in training Deborah on how to set up a business account and arrange for pickup of the passes.

A BIG THANK YOU to Pierce Transit for helping AIDNW help our guests and travelers!

SEE THE GREAT CONTINUING STORY OF "J" AND HIS WIFE ON PAGE 2!!

YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK MAY 2022

Immigrants Served	89
Hospitality House	10
Coats Given Out	80
Welcome backpacks handed out	83
Letters written to detainees	108
Transportation	86
Phone funds to detainees	68
@\$20 each	
Volunteer hours	855



AIDNW Monthly Reports are a new feature on **Radio Tacoma**. Tune in

to hear our first report, which features recent program statistics and interviews with both a released immigrant detainee and one of our dedicated Welcome Center volunteers. You can listen to the report at <https://radiotacoma.org/aidnw/> or, if you are in the vicinity of Tacoma Mall, tune into **Radio Tacoma at 101.9 FM on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 5 pm**



MEET AIDNW'S NEW BOARD MEMBER

EDNA LOPEZ

Edna is a first-generation Mexican American born in Denver, CO. Her family is from Oaxaca & Ciudad Juarez Mexico. She moved to NY when she

was 14 to attend boarding school, then Missouri for college and now lives in Seattle. EDNA SAYS "I joined AIDNW because I felt I could make a difference in the lives of my community. My mother immigrated to this country and I grew up seeing the struggles that she endured. I now have that opportunity to be a helping hand and support for families going through the same struggles today. By helping these families, I am also showing my gratitude to those that helped my mother and family in their journey. "

She is a member of the Fundraising Committee and led our GiveBig Fundraiser this year. We are excited to have her bring her professional experience to help us with managing our data platform, email marketing and with our fundraisers.

We welcome Edna and all of her skills to the AIDNW BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

"J" AND FAMILY LAND ON THEIR FEET!

Diligent readers of the MARCH NEWSLETTER may remember that feature story was the first person story of "J" and his family and their harrowing journey to the US border. He told of their physical hardships and also recounted how he and his wife were separated. For quite awhile he could not get in touch with her and was very worried about what might have happened to her. Once he got to the Hospitality House, AIDNW was able to help him reach his wife's family and eventually be in touch with her.

Program Manager Deborah Cruz had a phone call from him the other day, and heard the happy news that both of them have been granted asylum! "We are so happy for them! ", Deborah said, "This is the hope that we have when all of our guests leave the hospitality house and it is so amazing that it was a great outcome for "J" and his wife."

So, Volunteers and supporters, know that your work is not in vain. There are success stories like this all over the USA now **because of the support you give AIDNW!**



NEXT COMMUNITY MEETING

JULY 20, 2022 9.30 AM



EMAIL : officevolunteer@aidnw.org to register for the link GUEST SPEAKER

Dr, Yael Schacher, Refugees International Will speak about Title 42/Asylum at the Border
Dr. Schacher, is Deputy Director for the Americas and Europe of Refugees International in Washington DC. She is the author of [MPP \[that's Title 42\] as a Microcosm: What's Wrong with Asylum at the Border and How to Fix It](#) –



AIDNW IS LOOKING FOR LEADERS!!

Care to join the leadership team? We need you! There is much "behind the scenes" work that is critical to our ability to provide critical services to large numbers of immigrants. We are looking for **additional Board members** and someone to fill our new **Executive Director (paid) position**. To express interest in the Board, please email

governance@aidnw.org, and for the Executive Director position: EDapplicant@aidnw.org.

Donate

