



AUGUST 2022 NEWSLETTER

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DIANA PEREZ' STORY - IN HER OWN WORDS **

I was released from the detention center on March 8, 2016. I was detained for exactly four months and released just on International Women's Day, which is why I never forget the date. The memories of my stay with AIDNW were very short but something that I will never be able to forget. I remember that it was a very cold day. We were released together my sister Elizabeth and I who, thankfully, was never separated from me during our detention process. I must confess that I write this with tears in my eyes; I will never forget the weather that day, the sky was clear but it was very cold. It was around two or three in the afternoon. The GEO officers just took us out and told us "Already, you are free. Welcome to the USA." We asked for our relative and they said that he had to be there to pick us up soon but that we couldn't wait inside. The GEO officer pointed to the RV and told us to go there and that they would let us stay in case our relative was taking too long to arrive. I was shivering! It was really cold, or my body was just reacting in a scared way. I had no shoes or socks, the only jeans I had in between moving from one detention center to another were ripped and I was wearing scratchy and not warm sweatpants that GEO gave me. Nor did I have a coat to cover me from the intense cold that day. I remember that two beautiful and warm women received us and welcomed us. They gave us coats, hats, gloves and socks. They made us hot chocolate and told us not to be scared. The hug and hot chocolate were the best and warmest welcome I had ever received. From the moment I received that hug, I knew that the nightmare of having been locked up without being able to see the light of day, without being able to breathe fresh air, since I got into that RV, I knew that nightmare was over.



To read the rest of **Diana Perez' remarkable story, and how she overcame tremendous obstacles to return to a career in legal services, go to our website: aidnw.org/who-we-are, or our Facebook page: [aidnwtacoma](https://www.facebook.com/aidnwtacoma).

YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK JULY 2022

Immigrants Served	218
Hospitality House	19
Coats Given Out	21
Welcome backpacks handed out	181
Letters written to detainees	40
Transportation	210
Phone funds to detainees	72



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:

dcruz@aidnw.org



NEXT COMMUNITY MEETING

Wednesday



September 21st 9:30 - 11:00

Our guest speaker will be **Caitlin Wasley** of **Refugee Women's Alliance (ReWA)** in Seattle. She has over 10 years experience working in refugee and immigrant programs, and will be speaking about ReWA and the services they provide.

The meeting will be held on Zoom. Please email officevolunteer@aidnw.org to register and receive a link.

Calling all supporters, donor, and volunteers:

AIDNW's Community Outreach Committee is planning an October "Warm Coat Drive". If you personally know a management employee at a socially progressive corporation or company to whom we could reach out with request for coat drive support, please let the committee chair, Patti Kilpatrick know. [pattiaidnw@gmail.com.] The key management positions who could authorize sponsorships or actual coat donations will be in marketing positions, generally with these titles: public relations, community affairs, CSR (office of Corporate Social Responsibility), and sometimes sale promotion. Sample companies are: Starbucks, Amazon, Costco store managers, Patagonia, REI, Outdoor Research, Sierra Trading Post/TJMAXX, Dick's Sporting Goods, Tableau, Microsoft, among others. Thanks for your support to make this immigrant coat drive a success!



SEEKING GRANTWRITING HELP

Hello All,

I am a member of the Fundraising Committee and am hoping to form a group dedicated to searching and applying for any grants appropriate for AIDNW. Any-one up for a scavenger hunt? Networking contacts to discover possibilities can uncover amazing opportunities. Are you willing to join the hunt?

Perhaps you know of someone, if so, please extend this invitation to them.

If you are interested please email officevolunteer@aidnw.org, please include your phone number.

***Best Regards,
Sharon Olson***



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.