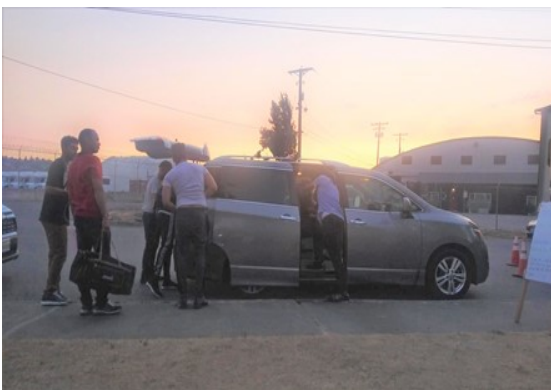


**AIDNW office : 1915 S Sheridan Ave Tacoma, WA 98405  
253-572-9659**

## Record numbers of immigrant guests at the Welcome Center!

We are happy to report that a change in immigration policies finds us welcoming a greatly increased number of asylum-seeking immigrants, who arrive from the southern border and are released from the detention center a few days later. With as many as 59 immigrants being released each night our amazing volunteers are answering the call as best they can. Besides the increased workload for our volunteers, it has meant an unexpected drain on our financial resources.



*Ready for onward travel! Thank you AIDNW volunteer drivers! Two or more volunteer drivers are scheduled to serve one night each week to drive guests to the bus station, airport or other local destinations. Others agree to be "on call" if needed.*



*August 3rd: 59 released! A new record for AIDNW*

### YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

**July 2021**

Immigrants served at the Welcome Center	295
Transportation given	138
Hotel rooms paid	26
Letters written to detainees	75
Backpacks given out	139
Volunteer hours served	1,382.5

### How can you help?

We are looking for additional volunteer drivers, Welcome Center volunteers, clothing and other supplies, and monetary contributions. Please visit our website, [aidnw.org](http://aidnw.org), to see our program descriptions and services, fill out a volunteer application, check the Amazon wish for needed supplies, or find the donation link. You can also send checks to our office at: 1915 Sheridan

### Like and follow AIDNW!



Facebook.com/aidnwtacoma



Instagram.com/aidnwtacoma



## Letter from the inside

*Due to COVID, our Visitation Program had to change. Instead of meeting face-to-face, AIDNW volunteers and interested immigrant detainees meet pen-to-pen through our pen-pal program. Here is one letter to a volunteer from a detainee, who gave us permission to share it.*

“ Getting correspondence from people in the streets helps to keep our mind out of this place. I imagine that visits are a lot better. One gets the whole in-person experience - instant interaction and conversation, in real time...

I'm not going to be here past this week. I already went to my immigration Kangaroo court...and I should be on my way out of this country next week.

Yes, it is difficult being in this place. No human being should be in here. This is an Evil place. For One: no one should be deprived of their liberty if we are not serving a criminal conviction. Two: the judges have already made their judgment on our moral character without even knowing us; and Three: their decision is likewise already made before we even start our proceedings. The coldest and cruel part is that they give us a false sense of hope, making us think we have a chance to stay in the USA. I can only speak for me, when I was very young I made a mistake and it cost me half my life in .... [prison]. I have no problem being held accountable for my bad actions. These people talk and behave as if they never made a mistake in their lives. Anyhow, I paid my dues to society - day for day. I should be a free man in the country I claim as my home and where I built a life and have all my memories. Being subjected to this now is like a second trial for the same crime. This is double jeopardy!...

I'd like to take opportunity to thank you and your wife for the volunteer work you do...Because of people like you guys I hang onto the hope that one day the human race will unify and help each other, not divide and destroy one another...

Well okay...it was great to have made your acquaintance. I appreciate you taking the time to write me. I wish you the

best.”

*If you would like to write to someone detained in the NW ICE Processing Center in Tacoma, please fill out a volunteer application in our website ([aidnw.org](http://aidnw.org)) and check the Visitation Program box*

## Community Meeting

August 18th, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m

Join us for the next Community Meeting, when we will discuss the recent dramatic trend at the Welcome Center. Our guest speaker will be Dianna Parra from Communicativa, a local grassroots organization. She has been helping the local Health Department with interpretation when people are released from detention with Covid. If you would like to attend please send an email to [officevolunteer@aidnw.org](mailto:officevolunteer@aidnw.org). A link will be sent out a few days before the meeting.

## Seeking your opinion

We are in the process of reviewing the AIDNW website, and we would really appreciate having your input. If you would take a quick 5 minute (max) survey it will give us valuable feedback and allow us to hear any suggestions you may have too.

Before starting the survey please take a minute to refresh your memory of the site at:

[aidnw.org](http://aidnw.org).

Then, **on the home page**, you will see the survey button in **light green** towards the **top**:

**"Dear Visitor - please take a short survey about our website"**.

Once again:

- 1) Refresh your memory of our site at: [aidnw.org](http://aidnw.org)
- 2) Towards the top of the home page you should find a button, in green, labeled **"Dear Visitor - please take a short survey about our website"**
- 3) Click on that button, and the survey will pop up
- 4) Help us out tremendously by completing the pop out survey of four questions, which should take about 1-3 (maximum 5) minutes!

Thank you very much for your help!  
AIDNW Marketing and Communications  
Committee

## Book Club

Several AIDNW volunteers meet to discuss books on immigration-related topics. This month they continue with several chapters of No Justice in the Shadows, by Alina Das, on August 12. If you would like to join in please email [niallenbooks@gmail.com](mailto:niallenbooks@gmail.com)