



SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

From the Executive Director

Hello AIDNW Family and Friends! I hope that you are enjoying this second blast of summer weather as we turn the page to Fall. I wanted to do a check-in with all of you. We are in the midst of change, and change is often painful. I am very thankful to the AIDNW Executive Board for their guidance and support in leading this charge! I am especially grateful for their help to make really hard decisions as we navigate and reconfigure ourselves to AIDNW 2.0 and the next 10 years! I know that together we will be able to continue to do the great work that AIDNW is known for and continue to support our friends and neighbors in the detention center. If you have questions, please feel free to join us at the upcoming **Listening Session, Wednesday 9/11 at 6:00pm** on Teams: [AIDNW 9.11.24 Listening Session](#).

If you are not able to attend that meeting, we plan to record it, if approved. If it is not approved, you may reach out to Executive Board Chair Caitlin Boline at caitlinboline@gmail.com for more information.

Next, we will have the September in-person **Community Meeting on 9/18** at Peace Lutheran Church, 2106 S. Cushman Ave, Tacoma 98405, starting at 11:30am. Lunch will be provided. Let us know you are coming by emailing Aidan: volunteercoordinator@aidnw.org.

I have a few additional updates. I would be remiss if I didn't send out many, many thanks to all of our donors, friends, and supporters! We truly appreciate you. Also, special thanks to: Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, Puyallup Tribe Foundation, Lacey Presbyterian Church, and Mount Cross Lutheran Church for your generous donations in the month of August during our Summer Campaign.

Please reserve your seats for the upcoming **Detention Lottery performance**. It will be held on Saturday, November 2 from 3:00 – 6:00pm at Urban Grace Church. Here is the link to purchase tickets online: [Detention Lottery Tickets](#). If you have questions, please email volunteercoordinator@aidnw.org. The event will begin with a social hour and a **silent auction** fundraiser. Please plan to attend and bid generously on the auction items. If you have something to donate or folks that you know who can donate, contact me directly: lcrumtiy@aidnw.org. I have forms and more information to support you to help with procurement.

Again, we know that we wouldn't be here without each and every one of you. As we weather this storm, let us look to the future in which I maintain that we will be better and stronger in 2025 and beyond.

Yours in service,

Lynette

Meet the Book Mongers

They've donated books and cash for phone cards!

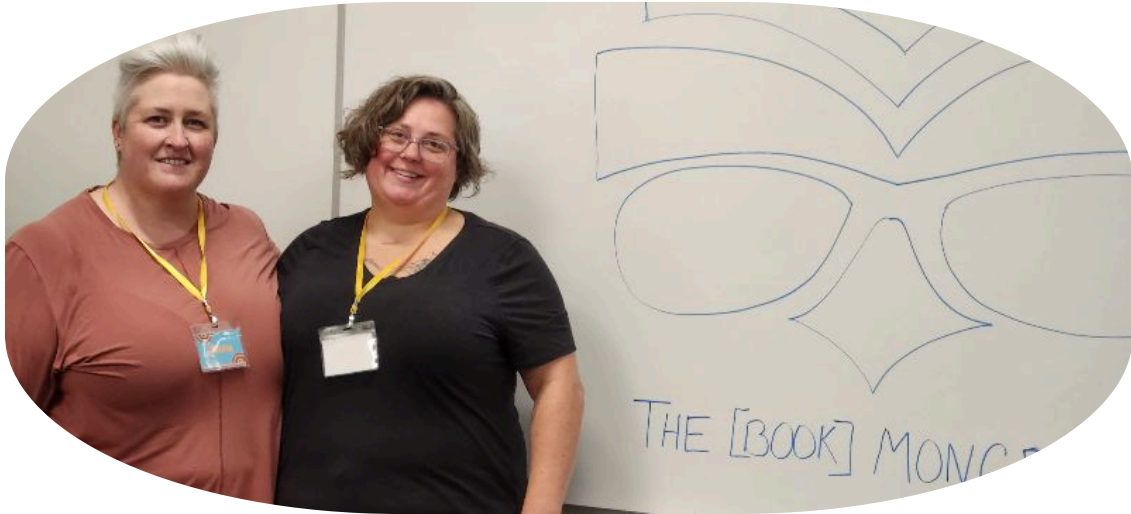
A dynamic duo of book lovers known as The Book Mongers pick up thousands of books in Washington and Oregon, from libraries, bookstores, thrift stores, and estates, and donate many of them to non-profits, schools, art programs, Little Free Libraries and used books stores. Some are sold to recoup operating costs. They also hold a monthly "Buck-a-Book" sales event at their warehouse in Tukwila, WA. They hope to go fully non-profit soon.

Their generous hearts share half of the proceeds with various partners, including AIDNW. In July, the Book Mongers **donated \$480 to AIDNW which was used to purchase phone cards** for Tacoma immigrant detainees. In addition to their monetary donation, AIDNW receives about 10 boxes of books and many jigsaw puzzles (which are in great demand by detainees) monthly. As of August, we've received 1,628 books and 158 jigsaw puzzles from The Book Mongers, including 653 foreign language titles, which are also in great demand.

Addie Bogart and Amanda Thompson are The Book Mongers, with the twofold mission of fostering a culture of literacy and community engagement by gathering and redistributing books, and rescuing literary treasures from the fate of landfills. A 2012 National Wildlife Federation Report stated that an estimated 640,000 tons of books--roughly 320 million books--reach landfills annually.

Several AIDNW volunteers have helped The Book Mongers prepare for their sales event (great fun!) and more volunteers are always welcome. The bonus for a few hours of work is to keep any book treasures you might enjoy, as you sort through hundreds on a variety of topics: fiction, non-fiction, sci-fi, DIY, children's, and best sellers. To learn more about the Book Mongers, visit their website: thebookmongers.com and their Facebook and Instagram pages. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Aidan at volunteercoordinator@aidnw.org

Last year, AIDNW's Book Program donated over 2,000 books to immigrant detainees, due mainly to the efforts of volunteer Nanette R. The goal for 2024 was 4500 books, and this was nearly reached as of August. These is due in large part to both The Book Mongers and to the Tacoma Public Library, which provides 1,200 books annually. AIDNW's Book Program continues its mission and will focus on getting more foreign language books (paperbacks only), jigsaw puzzles, and blank composition books (with no metal bindings). To donate any of these, you may drop them off at the Welcome Center between 3 and 5 pm weekdays.



Hospitality House News

Volunteer Steve Sarwono has been working with Hospitality House guests, taking those who have been granted asylum to DSHS to apply for benefits. He took one guest there by bus, so that he could learn the route. That man was later able to help a new guest get to DSHS. They applied for food stamps, Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and an ORCA card, then walked to the DOL to get a Washington State ID.

There have been several recent challenges. One Iranian guest failed his eye exam at DOL. He claimed that he couldn't see anything. Steve thought he may not have put his head far enough into the machine. DOL staff said he would have to see an optometrist. The guest tried going to a different DOL office, but the note about the optometrist had been entered into the computer system. He ended up paying \$49 for an eye exam after Steve located an optometrist who would accept Apple Health coverage. The guest passed the eye exam, and was then able to get his Washington Driver's License.

Another guest had to have his Afghan driver's license mailed out from Afghanistan when his passport and blue ICE ID were not enough to get him a Washington ID.

One guest bought a car with the help of a friend who co-signed for an auto loan. The interest rate was high but he had no other choice. He uses the car to go to work and deliver Uber Eats on the side. Many insurance carriers won't insure people who have no US driving or credit record. Luckily, Steve found a broker who was able to provide insurance and even waived a \$25 agency fee. He did have to pay two months' premium in advance. Steve notes that language barriers can make it easier for people to be taken

advantage of, though.

Steve noticed that one Afghan guest had been going to the airport for job interviews in jeans and a casual looking shirt. Steve gave him a long-sleeved shirt and a pair of slacks. He asks that if you have any long sleeve shirts and business pants for men, to coordinate with Aidan and bring them to Hospitality House. The guest did get a call back and job offer after an interview with a company that cleans airplane cabins, but ended up taking a different job in Kent.

Your support is needed!

Donate

Thank you !

Community Meeting 9/18 -- register now



THE BORDER CHRONICLE

You won't want to miss our next
Community Meeting!
-- September 18th at Peace Lutheran --

Todd Miller from The Border Chronicle will be joining us
by Zoom from Tucson.

He'll give an update on the current situation at the border
AND
discuss scandals of the border industrial complex

Lunch will be served. please let us know you plan to attend: volunteercoordinator@aidnw.org

Admission is free -- donations welcome!

**September 18th from 11:30 - 1:00 pm
Peace Lutheran Church
2106 Cushman Ave.
Tacoma**

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Curious about [The Border Chronicle](https://www.theborderchronicle.com/about)? Click here:<https://www.theborderchronicle.com/about>

Donate

Coming back to Tacoma!



DETENTION LOTTERY

This immersive play offers a realistic portrayal of immigration court, featuring community lawyers as judges, ICE officers, and guards, with audience members chosen to play the role of detainees.

All proceeds from ticket sales and any additional donations will benefit the Tacoma-based non-profit, Advocates for Immigrants in Detention Northwest. If you're unable to attend, please consider making a donation.

**02
NOV**

URBAN GRACE CHURCH, 902
MARKET STREET, TACOMA,
WA 98402

03:00 PM - 06:00 PM

SOCIAL HOUR - SILENT AUCTION
COMMUNITY CONVERSATION AFTER
PERFORMANCE




Ticket Sales

Officeassistant@aidnw.org

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aidnw-presents-the-detention-lottery-an-immersive-courtroom-drama-tickets-1002487546237?aff=oddtcreator>

Purchase tickets here : <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aidnw-presents-the-detention-lottery-an-immersive-courtroom-drama-tickets-1002487546237?aff=oddtcreator>



August 2024

Your Donations At Work

30

Immigrants served at the Welcome Center

Backpacks given to released immigrants

16

2

Coats given to traveling immigrants

Rides given to immigrants released from detention

21

6

Visits to people in detention

Letters sent to people in detention

8

163

Hospitality House guest nights

Phone Funds
@ \$20.00 each = \$2,100

105

14

Deportation bags made

280

TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS

Looking for a volunteer for a fun project!

If you've been lucky enough to sample a dish made by one of our Hospitality House guests, you'll know why we want to put together an international

COOKBOOK



Interested in working with a small team gathering and illustrating recipes? Please contact Aidan: volunteercoordinator@aidnw.org



Have lots of airline miles?

Occasionally an immigrant is unable to purchase an air ticket to reach a family member or sponsor. If you might be willing to purchase a ticket using your air miles, please let Aidan know: volunteercoordinator@aidnw.org

Passionate about AIDNW's mission?

We need you! Serve on our very important Fundraising Committee, headed by Board member Ben Jones. Especially welcome are those with previous related experience. There are short monthly online meetings (about a hour), though a bit more work before a major fundraising event.

Committee members help identify and generate revenue and will also be focusing on donor management and recognition.

Please contact Ben Jones bjones86@gmail.com for more information or to express interest. Thank you!

You can help ensure the organization's long-term success!

Donate

Welcome Center and Hospitality House needs -- please see

OUR WISHLIST

on [Amazon here](#)

We also need **Safeway gift cards for grocery shopping** for Hospitality House guests.

Please have items sent to the AIDNW office:
6445 S. Montgomery St., Tacoma, WA 98409.

NOTE: Sadly, NO YARN DONATION is allowed at this time

Thank you for your support!



Do you shop at Fred Meyer?

You can support AIDNW every time you shop!

Simply log into your account, select Community Rewards, and search for Advocates for Immigrants in Detention Northwest or enter organization number HB300.

Thank you!



AIDNW Monthly Reports are featured on
Radio Tacoma!

Tune into Radio Tacoma at 101.9 FM on
Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at
5pm or Wednesdays at 7pm @
[RadioTacoma.org](https://www.RadioTacoma.org)



Or catch the report anytime in the Program
Archives: [RadioTacoma.org](https://www.RadioTacoma.org)

***Please share this newsletter.
Thank you!***



Advocates for Immigrants in Detention Northwest is a 501(c)(3) tax deductible, non-profit organization
(27-1031009) that supports immigrants with dignity while in detention and upon their release.

<https://aidnw.org>

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