

FALL INTO WINTER IMMIGRATION UPDATE

From Trish Curtis

I hope folks got to see Dan Madden's wonderful thank you note on behalf of our *compa* families. As the holidays approach, a few of us have been thinking about doing something special for our December 6 food distribution. We've decided to give each family a dozen eggs and approximately half a gallon of liquid laundry soap. One of our donors is going to buy instant hot chocolate packets which we will pack with some holiday candy. We'd like to give out homemade cookies by the dozen, so please sign up to bake cookies as soon as possible so we can determine how many we will have to give. If you have any other ideas that we can scale up for 25 families, contact us ASAP.

Immigrant and Refugee Ministry upcoming and ongoing opportunities...

- Ready for Winter will implement a grant program to help our families with weatherization to keep them warmer and their utility expenses lower. Handy volunteers will be needed. We will be collecting warm, gently used coats, hats and blankets or throws. AND asking high school volunteers to sort and organize, but they will need a "mature" but kindly overseer. Is that you?
- Ongoing efforts to help with passports, immigration check-in accompaniments, and Power of Attorney workshops need volunteers, particularly attorneys, notaries public and Spanish speakers.
- Abide in Love St. Genevieve has been finding ways to minister to the needs of the incarcerated. We will be firming up ideas for how we can participate in their efforts, perhaps as pen pals, and getting that info out to you soon.
- The International Institute has a Community Thanksgiving scheduled for November 23, 4 to 6pm, at their Grand location.

- The Logistics Support Team is an effort to connect non-Spanish speakers with tasks that will be helpful for our immigrant friends who are facing increasing challenges as detentions ramp up.

What's been going on...

Over the past few weeks, our support as members of the Immigrant and Refugee Ministry has helped fund and organize:

- 1) Oct. 5th pilgrimage and witness to mark World Day of Migrants and Refugees at St. Pius.
- 2) The Oct. 28th Annual Migration Mass
- 3) Articles keeping the Catholic Church's teachings on the dignity of migrants in front of the Archdiocese as a whole (most recently one in the St. Louis Review about accompaniment).
- 4) The work of IRM Coordinator Kevin Kuehl and Accompaniment Coordinator Annie Anschbacher to respond to calls for help on obtaining passports, accompanying *compas* to ICE appointments, finding housing and furniture, directing folks to resources (particularly for legal and employment), networking with other immigrant service providers, grant writing and reports, setting up support groups to begin to address trauma.

Please be generous when this special collection comes around.