

Trinity UMC, Immigrant Legal Center reach out to families impacted by workplace raid

On Oct. 23, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detained 14 workers at the D&D Industries in Madison, Nebraska. Fourteen families are impacted directly through this raid but as Alan Ehlers, superintendent at Madison Public Schools says, the ripple effect goes much further.

It is hard to imagine going to school and worrying that your parents might not be coming home from work.

As soon as the word got out, community members and several other organizations started offering support. Attorneys and paralegal staff from Immigrant Legal Center (ILC, one of our mission agencies) went immediately to offer legal advice and help.

Rev. Donna Goltry at Trinity UMC and her congregation opened the church to receive donations and supplied the food pantry with fresh vegetables and fruit so families would not have to worry about food and other necessities with some being suddenly without their main bread winner.



Raids and deportation policies that separate families and create terror in our communities go against our faith tradition. "If an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God." Leviticus 19:33-34

Attorney Roxana Cortés from ILC reported that "all detainees were transferred to Douglas County and there we were able to meet with them. A few detainees already had representation as they had been working with attorneys. With the others, we took down intake information to see if they qualify for any kind of relief. We sent out word to ask for other attorneys to take on pro-bono cases to help these detainees."

Centro Hispano Comunitario de Nebraska, located in Columbus and a collaboration partner of ILC, is taking the lead in organizing efforts to support families through in-kind donations (kat@centrohispanos.com or 402-564-2110). Donation collection sites are set up at Centro

Hispano in Columbus, Norfolk Family Coalition in Norfolk, Westridge UMC in Norfolk, and Trinity UMC in Madison.

Lutheran Family Services (LFS) is working with Centro Hispano Comunitario de Nebraska to send aid and relief to children and families affected by the raids. As support staff and services are sent to the community, help is needed. Because we're nearing the end of the month and the affected families are without a dependable source of income, money is needed more than anything. All contributions will be used to purchase grocery, gas, and phone gift cards to directly support the affected families.

Donate on <https://www.lfsneb.org/donate/> by clicking on the DONATE button and entering "Help Now" in the "Description of donation" field on the DONATE page.

To support the legal work of Immigrant Legal Center, go to immigrantlc.org/donate/.

Submitted by the Great Plains Immigration Rapid Response Team

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