



Our Purpose

- To **expedite items** needed for the asylum seekers quickly to Annunciation House sites in El Paso
- To **support** the staff and volunteers at 7 different asylum seeker shelters through staff relationships and donations of only requested supplies.
- To **illuminate** the human stories of asylum seekers at the El Paso/Juarez border.
- To **educate** those concerned about immigration issues at our southern border.
- To **activate** those who care, but did not know how to support asylum seekers.
- To **advocate**, highlighting opportunities for caring people to affect US policy.

Our work begins after the asylum seeking families have been processed and allowed access into our country by US Customs and Border Protection. They are transported by ICE to a network of Annunciation House shelters. There, the asylum seekers will receive a hot shower, hot meal, change of clothing, basic medical needs and help to connect with their US sponsor. After a few days, the asylum seeking families will be driven to the air/bus/train terminal, with their ticket which was purchased by their sponsor or a non-profit.

Las Familias Solidarity has been serving the Annunciation House shelters in El Paso, Texas for 4 years. Our parish, St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church, is the umbrella for our 501c3 status. First Congregational UCC and Congregation B'nai Israel also collect shelter needs for us to deliver.

We have cultivated strong, working relationships and effective communications with the managers and volunteers at various Annunciation House network of shelters, which run totally on donations and volunteers. We meet with the various shelter staffs each month to support them and find out what is really happening at the El Paso/Juarez border.

Each month, we deliver **ONLY the most critically needed and requested items** to 3 shelters with the greatest needs in El Paso. We buy in bulk whenever possible, and scout the best prices on each item to lower item costs. Our different teams of 24 volunteers total prep all donations, remove any store packaging and tags, sort by gender and size, bag and label all items for easy processing by shelter volunteer staffs. Each month we bring needed supplies in 3-4 fully loaded SUV's to El Paso. These items cannot be shipped directly because of the confidentiality of the shelter addresses. Las Familias Solidarity is totally funded by donations, grants and in-kind donations. **The value of the 2023 donations totaled \$81,600!** Our sponsors include individuals, congregations and organizations. **100% of all donations go directly to the shelters.** Our volunteers donate all transportation, repackaging, printing and mailing costs.

We believe that the most important work of Las Familias Solidarity is our **Monthly Border Trip Report** that we send to over 200 donors. Each month, we highlight the very real human struggles of immigrants at the El Paso/Juarez border, and provide the latest developments of US immigration policies, and enforcement by Customs and Border Protection. We also build awareness through advocacy information and "action" opportunities to reform US Immigration Law and policies.

Thank you for your interest, prayers and support!

Liz, Mike, Sharon, Denise, Linda, Mike, Leanne, John

Liz & Mike Hanna, Sharon Palma, Denise Ulibarri Clauss, , Linda McCreary, Mike Bourdrez, Leanne Locklin, Sue Hoadley, John Clauss

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Ways that you can volunteer to make a difference to so many:



**LAS FAMILIAS
SOLIDARITY**

- ❖ **Donors** – Contribute needed shelter supplies, or contribute to our fund to purchase items in bulk.
- ❖ **Prayers** – The power of prayer is greatly needed for the frontline staff, volunteers and asylum seeking refugees
- ❖ **Gatherers** – Do you have a social network? Gather family/friends/neighbors to contribute requested items.
- ❖ **Drivers** – Come join us as we deliver critical supplies to the Asylum Seeker Shelters in El Paso. It's a long day (6 a.m. – 7 p.m.), but rich in inspiring experiences.
- ❖ **Bakers** – Use your talent to bake cookies for weary asylum seekers & volunteers at the shelters.
- ❖ **Knitters/ Crocheters** – Calling creative people! Create warm children's or adult winter hats and mittens for the asylum seekers in cold weather.
- ❖ **Advocates** – Write letters, emails and call government leaders in support of Immigrant rights. Our monthly report contains advocacy links to protect immigrants' rights.
- ❖ **Shoppers** – Are you a good researcher? Help us find good quality, wholesale sources for the urgently needed shelter supplies.
- ❖ **Organizer** - Assist Las Familias Solidarity in unpackaging, counting sorting and labeling items.
- ❖ **Volunteer** – Are you ready for a life changing experience? Volunteer for 2 weeks or longer at AnnunciationHouse.org. Food and lodging in El Paso is included.



Interested? Contact Liz Hanna at Liz_Hanna@hotmail.com or 262-424-3382
