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eConnection

Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA

A Reconciling in Christ synod

Update: Church Together accompanying families reunified



On Friday, July 20th, [Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountain](#) was asked by [Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service \(LIRS\)](#) to provide emergency services to 300 immigrant families in Albuquerque, NM who were separated under the short-lived family separation policy.

Overnight they organized the team in their Albuquerque office and sent additional help from their Denver office so they could begin receiving families today. They expect to receive 50 adults and children per day through July 27th. They need your help.

They were called upon on short notice because of their reputation in resettling refugees, expertise

working with children and families who have experienced trauma. Rev. Judith VanOsdal from the Office of the Bishop as well as local Spanish-speaking clergy from the Albuquerque area, are working with LFS staff to offer pastoral care for families.

They are in the care of LFS for only a brief time (24-36 hours), and their staff are meeting immediate needs that include temporary housing, food, clothing, legal/health referrals, and transportation to their final destination with family and friends in the U.S.

This work in Albuquerque is in addition to the hospitality being offered by Cristo Rey, Peace, and Border Servant Corps in El Paso and Las Cruces.

Through our recently established Border Emergency Fund, the Rocky Mountain Synod Council has sent \$2500 each to Peace, Las Cruces, Cristo Rey, El Paso, and Lutheran Family Services. **This was made possible through your generosity! As of July 24, we have received over \$11,000 in gifts to the Border Emergency Fund.**

We also know that many congregations have sent gifts directly to these ministries. Help us tell the full story of our synod's generosity by letting us know if you are or have given directly to our partners by [emailing Deacon Erin Power](#)

Continued generosity is needed, either directly to LFS or to our Border fund, which will be allocated to ministries as needs emerge.

Give to the Border Emergency Fund [HERE](#) (select the give now button on the bottom right corner of the website)

Updated information will be posted on the [RMS Website](#) or follow [LFS on Facebook](#)