

TOP LINE NEEDS

- Hygiene kit and food pack items for Phoenix Welcome Center
- Socks and underwear for women and girls
- Diapers from NB - size 6
- Groceries for el Buen Pastor
- Donations to Refugee Fund
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ASYLUM SEEKERS: PHOENIX WELCOME CENTER (WC)

Carol Rickel and I traveled to the Welcome Center last week to get more information about their volunteer needs. We shadowed Mary Jo Miller, head of Refugee Aid. There has been a change with ICE- they have contracted with a national nonprofit to operate a series of hotels to be used to house and coordinate travel for released families. That process started last week. So, instead of getting 100-150 refugees a day at the Welcome Center, they are getting 15-20. There were 14 the day we were there. BUT, there is much for volunteers to do at the WC- organizing their clothing donations, watching children, serving snacks and meals, driving folks to the airport or bus station, cleaning, etc. Refugee Aid is bringing 6-10 volunteers plus a coordinator per shift (2 shifts/day, AM/PM) every Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday. No other volunteer group has an organized schedule for the other days. So, there is a need for for a group/ church to commit to a day/week with a contingent of volunteers. If any of you are interested in putting a group together to meet this need, let me know, I am also going to ask other volunteers from our Network. If we can come up with a dozen or so people, we can look at covering one day a week. If anyone wants to consider being a shift coordinator, let me know that, too. The number being released is expected to rise dramatically over time and the WC will be at full speed again. Meanwhile, we will continue to collect hygiene kit and food travel pack items. Refugee Aid will assemble the kits/packs and transport to the Welcome Center.

Hygiene kit items: small soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, chap stick, washcloths, combs, razors, brushes, toothpaste, and toothbrushes. (Carl ordered many of these items in bulk for us. Better pricing. We have tons of toothbrushes, but other items are needed.)

Food pack items: soft granola bars, squeeze applesauces, Vienna sausages, trail mix, crackers with cheese or peanut butter, raisins, nuts, etc.

IGLESIA CRISTIANA EL BUEN PASTOR

Thank you for groceries to Stan and Friendship Village, Faith, Joyce, Bonny, Cathy, Junior, Cheri, Carl, Kay, Sharon, and Room 2 donors. You all make a difference for those at el Buen that are food insecure. We will discontinue our weekly food/gift card donations to el Buen Pastor at the end of May. Funds left in their account will allow them to continue to help their members for several additional weeks as their mission transitions to a new format. **PLEASE, let's not let down our efforts these last 5 weeks and continue with ample supplies each week to feed the 15-18 families that come to the food bank.**

El Buen Pastor has registered with ICE to be an asylum seeker drop site. When that ministry begins, we we assist them with hygiene kits, food packs, clothing, and other items they may need. In the past, they needed drivers- so, if you want to volunteer, let me know.

ASYLUM SEEKERS: AJO SAMARITANS

We will keep in touch with the Samaritans and respond to their needs as we hear of them. The current system, as worked out by the nonprofits, seems to be working for now. Asylum seekers dropped in Ajo are COVID tested, fed, and then transported to Tucson for final transportation arrangements. We will be delivering hygiene kits and car seats to them this week.

ASYLUM SEEKERS: SONOYTA SHELTER

A new family shelter is scheduled to open in Sonoyta in the next couple weeks. The location will be more secure and several of our current families may prefer the new site. The Ajo Samaritans are in conversation with the new shelter manager, which will be housed on the grounds of a Catholic Church, and will support this new facility- as will we.

An additional nonprofit, Shelters for Hope, is in process of opening a migrant Resource Center in Sonoyta that will provide clothes, legal assistance, perhaps English classes, etc. The Ajo Samaritans will add their support to this facility as well. There are new people coming to the Sonoyta shelters weekly, so there is ALWAYS a need for **men's jeans, tshirts, flip flops, tennis shoes, socks and underwear**. We can also always use **women's leggings, sports bras, summer dresses, kids shoes, plus toddler and young boys and girls clothes**. If you don't feel comfortable shopping the thrift stores, donations to the Refugee Fund will enable our

volunteer shoppers to fill the requests. We spend about \$500 on each trip (mostly on shoes) and make about 2 trips a month. Let me know if you want to be a shopper!

Thank you to GG, Roanne, Faye, Larry, Brigitta, Carol, Kathy and Cheri for helping in the clothing room and on the stage this week. We made huge progress and have a staggering pile of items for Dan to take to Ajo this Friday. We may need another driver- so let me know if you can take a load in the next couple weeks.

Checks for the Sonoyta Refugee shelters, the Phoenix Welcome Center, and the Ajo Samaritan asylum seeker hosting can be mailed to UPC or dropped through the mail slot. Indicate "Refugee acct" on the memo line. Donations of "stuff" can be left in Room 2, brought to my house, or call for a pick up.

GROCERIES FOR EL BUEN PASTOR

Deliver to my house or Room 2 by noon on Thursdays

Most needed grocery items are rice, pinto/refried/black beans, canned chicken/tuna/beef, canned vegetables, cereal, spaghetti and sauce, soups, vegetable oil, salt/pepper/oregano/garlic, laundry/dish soap, TP/paper towels, bread/tortillas, jello/pudding, massa, green chilis, tomato sauce, chunky salsa (med), dog food, and coffee. We had a request that beans, rice, oil, etc be sent in smaller bags/bottles (2-5 lb bags are great). Fruit or vegetables that don't have to be refrigerated in the short term are also possible (apples/oranges/melon/onions/potatoes). I can keep them in the house until I transport. Of course, anything you donate will be used and appreciated!

Thank you all for your continued compassion, energy, and generosity. We appreciate all of you that help.

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