

ABQ ASYLUM SEEKER WELCOME

Dear Friends of Asylum Seekers,

December 2022

The ABQ Asylum Seeker Welcome (AASW) wants to say thank you, thank you, thank you to the many friends who have donated money, clothing, and thousands of hours of volunteer time that allows us to be welcoming. We are wrapping up a full year of receiving asylum-seeking families. The need continues, and we will continue with your help.



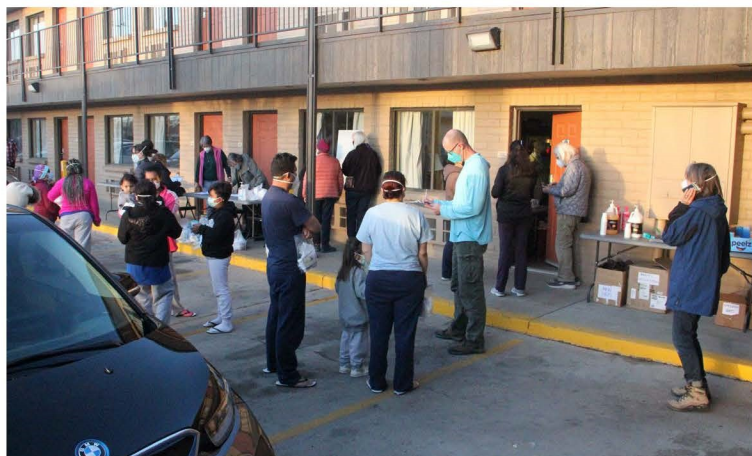
An asylum-seeking family waiting to board a plane to their sponsor. A thumb up and smiles reflect their relief, gratitude, and hope for the future.

The families arrive by bus with nothing but the clothes on their back, and a lot of hope that their journey is about to get easier. As faith-based and secular volunteers, we work very hard to help them on their journey to loved ones. We welcome them at a hotel where they have hot showers, privacy, fresh clothing, diapers, shoes, medical attention, and good meals. We also assist them with their travel plans. Most guests are from Latin American countries and are often, first generation immigrants, unlike Cubans, for example, who are firmly

rooted in the U.S. with strong networks. Many of the families we welcome are very limited in both their financial resources and family/friends' networks. Therefore, AASW needs to help more families buy plane and bus tickets, which are ever more expensive since the pandemic began.

Their stories are heart-breaking but truly inspiring both in what they have endured to get here and why they left home in the first place. One 13-year-old boy saw his grandmother murdered before his eyes. Many families have passed through the Darien Gap of Panama, which is a 70-mile trek through the mud and terror of the jungle. They have been beaten and robbed; kidnapped and terrorized; separated from their family members; and still they persevere. Most families spend weeks traveling here. Those few who have resources often fly into Mexico City and take a bus to the border.

Initially, we welcomed a bus of families every other week. Now we receive families weekly, which means providing 50 pairs of shoes, 100 pairs of socks and underwear, warm clothing, hygiene products, backpacks, diapers, and coloring books every week. Gratefully, Second Presbyterian Church, at Lomas and Edith, donates space for our Donation Center. Each week our



Tables of clothing & other goods for guests.

ABQ ASYLUM SEEKER WELCOME

wonderful volunteers load up their vehicles and take what is required for a bus of families to a local hotel. (FYI -- The December Donation Request List follows this message.) AASW is extremely grateful to the City of Albuquerque, which is a wonderful partner in our efforts. The city, using FEMA funds, pays for the hotel and meals for the families.

AASW averages spending \$4,000 per bus of families. A wonderful and generous donor has offered us a \$20,000 dollar-for-dollar match for donations. St. Therese of the Little Flower serves as our fiscal sponsor.

Will you help us meet that match?

Make donations *by check* to:

St. Therese of the Little Flower
300 Mildred Ave NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107
Be sure to write "Asylum Seekers" on the memo line.

For *online giving* from your bank account go to:

<https://www.osvhub.com/littleflowerabq/giving/funds/abq-asylum-seekers-welcome>

Select "View All Funds," then click on "Give Now" under the AASW heading.

Many thanks to the hundreds of volunteers and donors who are making it possible for us to welcome asylum-seeking families. Please help us continue this work.

Blessings to all,

Co-Site Directors for ABQ Asylum Seeker Welcome

Eleanor Milroy and Jane Braithwaite (Wednesday Team)

Beth Spafford and Robert Minear (Tuesday Team)

Please see the next 2 pages for the

***ALBUQUERQUE ASYLUM SEEKER WELCOME - DECEMBER 2022
DONATION REQUEST LIST***

ALBUQUERQUE ASYLUM SEEKER WELCOME (AASW) DECEMBER 2022 DONATION REQUEST LIST

We continue to follow COVID protocols.

Please provide *new* items as much as possible particularly underwear and shoes.

Our donation center is located at
2nd Presbyterian Church 812 Edith
NE 87102 just north of Lomas.

Hours:
Monday 4p to 6p
Wednesday 4p to 6p
Saturday 10a to Noon

Send monetary donations by check
made out to:
St. Therese of the Little Flower
300 Mildred Ave NW
Albuquerque, NM 87107
Be sure to write "Asylum Seekers"
on the memo line.

Below are the UR code and the
website link for online giving by
bank account to AASW. Select
"View All Funds," then click on
"Give Now" under the AASW
heading.



<https://www.osvhub.com/littleflowerabq/giving/funds/abq-asylum-seekers-welcome>

Thank you for supporting this
project and our friends seeking
asylum

Jan Hans 505-328-1730
Text please. Identify yourself.

MEN / WOMEN

This month we will focus on
adult sizes xs, s, m and lg

Boxers, Briefs
Standard cut non-cotton
women's underwear
Sports bras
Women's ¾ and knee socks
Men no-show socks

T-Shirts long sleeve
Sweaters/Sweatshirts
Hoodies
Sweatpants w/pockets
Leggings w/phone pockets

Tennis shoes:
Men 6-13/Women 5-10
Light jackets
Winter weight Jackets

BOYS / GIRLS

WE NEED EVERYTHING
Children Size 4 thru Teens

Boxers / Briefs
Girls Underwear
Socks
Travel pajamas 12 mos to 6 years

T-shirts
T-shirts long-sleeved
Sweaters/Sweatshirts
Hoodies
Sweatpants
Leggings

Light jackets
Winter weight Jackets
Tennis shoes
All children sizes

BABY

12 mos thru 48 mos
All clothing
Size 4 Pull-up Diapers
Both genders

OTHER ITEMS

Bottled water
Forever Grocery Bags
Feminine Hygiene
Thinner daily use most preferred
No tampons please

8 count Crayola packs
Thin coloring books
Adult playing cards
New **small** stuffed animals
about 8" or smaller
Hot Wheels

Lightweight Backpacks 17"
Children's Masks – boxed
Wide Tooth Combs
Wide Tooth Hairbrushes
Hair Claws
Scrunchies
Nail Clippers -travel size
Sunglasses
Razors
Children's Toothbrushes
Travel Blankets 4x6ish
Stocking Caps adult/kids
Gloves – adult and kids

**Below is the LINK to *Albuquerque*
Asylum Seeker Donation Request List
at Amazon.com**

The Amazon list is for your
convenience. Amazon prices change
constantly so feel free to search for
better prices on Amazon or elsewhere.

**We have an ongoing need for all items
listed. Multiple pictures of the same
item are for DIFFERENT SIZES. Open
the item to find the size. Items will
ship to my home address unless you
change it to your own at checkout. Do
not ship to 2nd Pres.**

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/17MWK5A0VYXPX?ref=wl_share

Our donation needs are ongoing as we continue to receive a busload (25 kids, 25 Adults) each week.

Our guests (Asylum Seekers) are with us for only a few days. Consider them travelers passing through our fair city.

When they arrive via bus, exhausted, hungry, longing for a shower, and a gentle bed to sleep in they are only 2 to 3 days away from their long journeys' end. They do not stay in Albuquerque. We serve as a transition stop from ICE to their final destinations.

We alert their sponsors and assist with their travel accommodations. The sponsors finance their travel.

Our volunteers and your generous donations of product and money provide our guests a landing point to clean up, freshen up, relax, and regain their sense of self.

They indulge themselves in multiple showers and enjoy the opportunity to repair their much damaged hair.

Our guests are quite conservative and dress in current simple styles. The women prefer a sports bra, a camisole, non-cotton standard cut underwear, leggings with phone pockets, socks, tennis shoes, and a zippered hoodie or sweatshirt. That's it.

The men are just as simple to please. T-shirts, hoodies, and sweatpants with pockets.

They desire to look their best when they meet their sponsors. We do our best to help make that happen.

We encourage groups to buy in bulk or send money and we can purchase in bulk.

We also encourage thrift store, garage sale and estate sales as ways to purchase higher quality clothing **and tennis shoes** at bargain prices.

We encourage "mini donation drives" among groups such as friends, churches, organizations, and families.

Focus on 1 or 2 items on our list or a category and have your group collect and deliver.

We cannot use dress shoes, leather shoes, heels for the women or work boots and heavy hikers. Remember they are traveling with children, comfort is fun.

**TITLE 42 IS RESCINDED AS OF DECEMBER 21, 2022.
WE ABSOLUTELY NEED TO BUILD A HUGE INVENTORY TO SUPPORT THE ANTICIPATED INFLUX OF ASYLUM SEEKERS.**

WE ARE ALWAYS IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS AT THE DONATION CENTER TO ORGANIZE & SORT DONATED CLOTHING AND OTHER GOODS. HOURS CAN EXPAND WITH EXTRA VOLUNTEERS.

THANK YOU!