

No one should walk alone

Are you eager to support immigrants who have been targeted for mass deportation? If so, sign up for a two-hour training offered by the New Sanctuary Movement (NSM) of Philadelphia that will teach you how to be a supportive companion to an immigrant as you accompany them to an immigration hearing in Center City. The training will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 10. To sign up go to <https://bit.ly/volunteerwithnsm> and fill out the volunteer form. You will then be contacted by NSM.

Volunteers must be available at least one day a week, typically between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Accompaniment requests often occur on short notice and not necessarily every week. NSM responds to individual needs rather than working on a fixed schedule. The venues for immigration hearings are all in Center City. They include immigration court, federal court, family court, traffic court and the offices of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Spanish-language skill is a plus but is not required.

Companions do not act as legal advisors, but rather as caring human beings who let immigrants know they do not have to walk alone. Companions also signal to the courts and ICE officials that the faith community is watching what they do.

For more information, contact NSM's communications director Tania Bonilla Mena at tania@sanctuaryphiladelphia.org and 215-279-7060. You can also buttonhole Saint Martin's parishioners Huntly Collins and Charlie Day, who have been through the training and are now volunteers. NSM is an inter-faith organization of 33 faith groups, including St. Martin's.

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