

## The NHCUCC Immigrant Bond & Support Fund Is In Urgent Need of Our Collective Generosity!

Through the work of the Conference's Immigrant & Refugee Support Group (IRSG) and its life-altering *Immigrant Bond & Support Fund*, we are living out our faith-filled call to provide extravagant welcome for the asylum-seekers in our midst and to embrace them as our neighbors. This includes immigrants who are fleeing life-threatening situations and who end up incarcerated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for the act of seeking asylum (as is their right under international law).



These illustrations are from the young daughter of an asylum-seeker with whom the IRSG is in accompaniment.

**The IRSG is deeply concerned that our Bond & Support Fund is dangerously depleted, and we are appealing to all individuals and settings of our Conference to donate as generously as you can to replenish this essential Fund. [Donate Here](#) or mail a check to donation to NH Conference UCC, 140 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke, NH 03275-3711 with Immigrant Bond & Support in the memo line).**

Our unique Fund helps provide bare-bones basics (a phone call, personal care items, a warm sweatshirt, some additional food), through the jail commissary, for asylum-seekers held in ICE detention in Dover, NH. We also provide bond payments and other essential post-ICE-detention supports. Recently, the IRSG was delighted to be able to bond two asylum-seekers out of ICE detention (at a cost of \$13,000!). In

addition, we provided critical legal fee support for three other individuals (for a total of \$4,520). We also provided \$25 in jail commissary support for 77 ICE-incarcerated immigrants in May and June alone. However, this has almost fully drained our Fund. We are now especially concerned about being able to continue to serve the 100 or so immigrants detained by ICE at the Strafford County Jail in Dover. Here are two of their stories.

D. from an African country is cold all the time because the vents blow cold air into her room. "I spend a lot of time in bed because it's the only place I can stay warm" she said. Two months of commissary money from the Immigrant and Refugee Support Group's Immigrant Support Fund allowed her to buy two warm articles of clothing from the commissary. M. from South Asia is a wiry young man who lifts weights and shoots baskets in the jail recreation room to help pass the time. He says he's constantly hungry because they don't feed them enough at mealtimes. "I use the commissary money you give me to buy snacks to keep my stomach from making noise", he reports in gratitude. All detained immigrants also need money to make phone

and video calls to family members, friends and lawyers (if they have one), because the phone system the jail uses is private and expensive. ICE has discontinued the practice of providing one free 15-minute call per day to each detained immigrant saying that doing so was a pandemic response and was never meant to be permanent.

Our IRSG-AFSC jail visitation volunteers average 20-30 requests for commissary support each week. The IRSG's ability to continue to meet this need is wholly dependent upon the compassion and caring donations of our whole faith community. Please give as generously as you are able – today!