

## **Update from the Christ Church Mercy Team: Care Pod Support for ICE-Affected Families**

### **What is a “Care Pod”?**

Together with the Diocese of Washington Refugee Response Committee, and Migrant Solidarity Mutual Aid (MSMA), we are responding to the emergency needs of families impacted by ICE detentions and deportations. A dozen churches so far including Christ Church have established a **Care Pod** for a family facing significant challenges due to the deportation or detention of one or more family members. Each Care Pod consists of a dedicated group of volunteers who will offer logistical, spiritual, financial, and material assistance to help meet the individual family’s particular urgent needs. A small grant from the *Beloved Community Incubator* helps fund the response.

### **Leadership and Volunteer Team**

Our Care Pod is led by Thea Kayne, who communicates with the family and coordinates the efforts of the team of eight other volunteers: Dwight Allen, Terri Clausen, Kathy Cowan, Kate Duchelle, Cynthia Mitchell, Eva Nye, Lissa Ramsepaul, and Kathy Slack. Each member contributes their time and talents to ensure that the needs of the family are met in a timely and compassionate manner.

### **Collaborative Outreach and Family Support**

We are working with a family of four: a mother, an eight-year-old daughter, a nineteen-year-old son, and a twenty-year-old daughter with special needs, identified by a local church. The recent deportation of their father has created significant challenges for the family. Our hope is that we will be able to offer loving support that will contribute to their well-being at this difficult time in their lives.

### **How You Can Help**

- Pray for the family.
- Watch the weekly *Christ Church Connection* for a sign-up genius that will identify specific items needed. Or email Cynthia Mitchell [cynthiamitchel@yahoo.com](mailto:cynthiamitchel@yahoo.com), for details.
- Finally, if you would like to have a major positive impact on the life of a family in crisis, *please consider helping us to form a second Care Pod*. Interested? Contact Thea Kayne at [theakayne@gmail.com](mailto:theakayne@gmail.com). There are hundreds of families in our area in need of compassionate emergency support.