

02NOV2022

Minutes of the UUFCC Immigration Justice Committee Zoom

Attendees:

Betty Barriga	Patricia Lane	Myrna Charry
Laura Anderson	Linda Richardson	Nancy and Marcel Kates

Guests: Luz Torres

Christina Haas

Treasury report

Betty Barriga reported a balance of \$1400 plus for the IJC. Betty sent an email to the UUFCC treasurer inquiring if separate account could be opened for CAPAS . We voted unanimously to move \$1000 to CAPAS.

Immediate CAPAS opportunity

Christina Haas, Red Cross Case manager, and Luz Torres reported on the status of a Venezuelan mom seeking asylum for her family and seeking work permitting. Her Social Security application online is filled out. She needs supporting documents to be submitted. Application has been filled out for one child to attend the Baker School in Punta Gorda for Head Start.

Maria Laura is a paralegal dealing with Immigration and she is self employed. She can not donate the time to do the asylum application but has reviewed the case and says it seems that the family has a valid case. Maria suggested we contact the Department of Child Services to see if this family can get some assistance there.

The mom became politically active and after the candidate she supported lost, she and her partner were viciously beaten up by individuals in uniform. They were no longer safe in their home country.

They went toward Caracas where her partner had family. Their car was confiscated. They got an airplane to Columbia and then hired a coyote to get to the Mexican border. They walked through the Dorian Gap and they got ill drinking water without filtration. Phyllis Andrews was contacted regarding asylum support but she doesn't feel comfortable taking the case as a paralegal. Lutheran Legal Services was also contacted with no response yet.

This immediate opportunity to help presented itself when Betty received an email from Victor Liu with the Ann Arbor MI Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice. Victor obtained Betty's email from Englewood Indivisible. He reached out to us because one of ICPJ members is working at the Devers temporary shelter, 6792 San Casa Drive in Englewood which is slated to close 15NOV2022. She met this young mom and her two children, ages 2 and 4. The woman supposedly has parole papers, checks in weekly and must complete her application within 45

days. She has 60 days in the US. This mom needs housing, legal assistance and other services.

At Myrna's request, Patricia defined some of the immediate needs if we decide that this Venezuelan family will be our CAPAS guests. Patricia has already verified that this family can be a CAPAS client, as the requirement is to be an asylum seeker.

Patricia Lane has a call out to Lutheran Services in Tampa and she will keep efforts to contact them. Jessica, UU CAPAS coordinator suggested that we start a Faithify account, which is the UU Go Fund Me as a way to get the minimum \$5000 we need to get a matching \$5000 grant on top of it from CAPAS.

Betty will ask the UUFCC BOD if we can start a Faithify account.

Laura and Betty will be connecting with some other church leaders for their financial and time support-s especially as it applies to transportation.

Laura suggested we use the pulpit on Sunday with the lawyers to request the money we need to get our first \$5000.

Laura Anderson has already communicated to the Caring Committee about the need for transportation and they have some capacity to support this.

Betty will take Patricia and Nancy to meet the new family Thursday.

We need:

Immigration lawyer, 2 car seats, high chair, booster seat for dining room table, diapers, baby food, toys/books, english lessons for mom, fold up stroller, probably clothes/shoes and others.

Myrna, Patricia, and Nancy will go shopping for items for support this family. Myra will write an update for the weekly bulletin and Laura will edit it. Linda will donate a Pack and Play and a folding stroller. Laura suggested that auction donors designate their proceeds to go to CAPAS as another source of funding.

'IMMIGRATION ISSUES AND ANSWERS IN FLORIDA'

On Sunday November 13, 2022 guest speaker, attorney Eloisa Ayala, Legal Aid of Collier County, will be doing a presentation on immigration issues and answers in Florida. The Second Helping from this service will be designated for Legal Aid Service of Collier County

For immigration outreach IMMOKALEE office

paid ads/guest speaker

short presentation CAPAS/ Trichia.. anyone else?

Planning a Working LUNCH after the service on Nov. 13, 2022- IJC inviting SJC to joint working lunch. IJC will do short presentation about CAPAS and the lawyer Has agreed to stay to answer any questions.

\* plan lunch menu/ Chef's Thai ? Other suggestions? Pizza

How much to order? What to order? We will plan for 20 attendees.

Betty shared the agenda with CC Dem Club and ZZZ to get others outside of UUFCC who may be supportive.

We talked about donations getting divided and we will target our speaker when we have them there.

Collaborative CAPAS support

Rev Mike Ford, Church Punta Gorda, has offered support for our CAPAS guests. Patricia, Myrna and Linda plan to meet with him to give him an overview of the program and to get defined support to move us forward. Myrna sent an email requesting a meeting but without response, Patricia will call next week to try to get a meeting no later than 17NOV2022.

English Language Learners

IJC played a key role in recruiting tutors for ELL students in Charlotte County schools. School administration has provided training, background checks and assigned English Language Learners. All tutors should have met with their ELL's now. We will have a BYO lunch to share good ideas and challenges at the CC School 29NOV2022 at the Administration Building at 11am.

Linda shared that Nesa is working with the Boys and Girls club and they have a literacy bus that may be an additional support for our ELL's as we proceed.

New Business

This was the longest IJC meeting ever at 1 hour 22 minutes. We all have assignments.

Adjournment