

Attendance: Tom Woodward, Mike Apfelberg, Karla Tolomeo, Kristy Besada, Paul Introcaso, John Rowntree, Matt Hodgkiss, Pam Wellman, Joselyn Henning, Mick Grzonka, Meta Vornehm, Tanya Stormo Rasmussen, Jon Spira-Savett, Krystal Tsechrintzis, Cindy Owing (Faith relations at Greater Nashua Habitat), Nonny Egbuonu, Kelly Turney, Jim Jensen, Kathy Boss, Kim Hester, Nancy Meyer, Cheryl Massie, Sarah Jane Knoy, Becky Green, Bobbie Knickerbocker, Adam Cook, Karl Hester

Begin with prayer: John Rowntree

Presentation:

Pam Wellman: Introduction of Continuum of Care as a body that works collaboratively to end homelessness in Nashua. What are our resources for helping undocumented families who come to Nashua or are in Nashua? (Family Promise cannot support these households)

Who are the resources for undocumented people and families?

Paul Introcaso, from the UU Church of Nashua.

Presentation.

Non immigrants: students, temporary workers, visitors, people on temporary visas who are only staying a short while.

Immigrants: settle in the country intending to stay permanently and become citizens.

Legal, permanent residents (green card holders with renewal time limits)

Refugees, asylees (leave their country under threat of harm)

Difference between refugee and asylee (refugees have permission and are resettled by agencies, while asylees are already here when they apply for protection and must prove a credible fear of persecution in home country.)

Undocumented: entered without showing a visa or green card, may be here with expired papers, do not have documents to stay. May be working.

Types of assistance to immigrants by faith organizations:

Inspire congregants to do the work as a faith calling,

Assist in release from ICE Detention and find legal representation and pay bonds. Having a known and identifiable address is a prerequisite for release.

Hosting and accompaniment - creating stability in people's lives until they can thrive.

Advocacy work - promoting pro-immigration policy at national, state or local level. Letter writing, attending meetings, talking to legislators

Spiritual and pastoral care.

List of local organizations already helping. (15 or so)

Hosting models in home or church:

Welcome immigrant to volunteer's home

Introduce guests to community

Assist with language, education enrollment and support

Fundraising to ease financial burdens while getting settled

Assisting individuals in search for employment

Helping people access and navigate US healthcare system

Helping locate additional resources and benefits

Help with Legal assistance as needed.

Neighborhood Support Team Model (see slide)

Similar supports as host-home, but from a wider base of people.

Coordinate with resettlement case managers.

Example accompaniment locations in Hillsborough county. (map slide)

People can host in church buildings or homes.

GSOP has Centro Latino in Manchester as a resource center where folks are not living but are supported.

How to create a welcoming environment for immigrants.

Write articles, send letters to legislators, reach out to refugees and immigrants in the neighborhood, befriend newcomers where you are, increase awareness of refugee/immigrant issues. Form a club at school, Raise money, food/clothing drive for a local or national organization that serves immigrants/refugees.

Questions:

What if a busload of people are shipped here from Texas? Who would respond/how would we connect? Mike Apfelberg - got call from Meals on Wheels, who chairs the volunteer organizations in active recovery. Has been tasked with answering this question exactly. United Way will become involved from a food perspective. This question came from the governor. Paul suspects that about half would have a family connection to which they could be redirected. Governor is looking at Pease Airforce Base for temporary accommodations for such folks if they did arrive.

Sarah Jane: GSOP is very active on advocacy side of things, especially making it easier for folks to get adjusted. Created sanctuary network for undocumented people who do not have a chance as asylees. Manchester UU, Meriden Congregational and Dover (church?). She was in Texas at the border when a bus was sent to Las Cruces. Response was primarily faith based.

It is important that we're clear that the largest number of immigrants in this state who have adjustment problems are undocumented immigrants, and that's about 11,000, primarily Latino and they have no public benefits at all, save public education for their children. (No food stamps, wic, healthcare, rental assistance) Groups like Centro Latino step in here to help.

Kathy Boss: What are logistics for a church or individual to actually host a person/household.
Paul: Several models. One is where a person volunteers with a group to help support the household. Another is when someone stayed in a church and the congregation supports with level 2 sanctuary churches to back up the level 1 sanctuary churches. Neighborhood support teams can be set up, mostly for refugees, but it could be done with greater supports needed.

Kathy: Who vets the hosts? Paul: Ascentria requires background checks and checks of the house. Renovations may be required. Fire marshall vetting, etc.

Nonny: Regarding busloads – The trauma that immigrants are going through watching such scenarios playing out needs help. She is part of the Let's Talk group for pastoral care to help people deal with bottled up trauma. This could be a resource for immigrants to help them deal with physical, mental and spiritual attacks. Can the NAIC talk more about what role we can play?

Mick Grzonka - book "Good Economics in Hard Times" by Bannerjee and Duflo (?) immigration is good for the economy. Paul: a conservative group has published a similar book.

Small Group Conversation:

If you had to leave your home quickly, what would you take with you and why?

One group: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints recommends "72 hour kit." Pets, children, documents. Will you return? Will you never return? This changes the answer, as well as how you travel.

Announcements

Becky Green: Crop Walk. Lots of people came, and the total number is not yet in. People need to leave together and not before safety features are built in. See scanned sheet for data (attached). New church from Londonderry. Indian community has a new leader and pulled in \$1700 for their first year. Two winners (St John Neumann and Christ the King) are still raising money and are very close. Awards will be announced at the Interfaith Thanksgiving service. The mini award may be Corpus Christi or SHARE Inc. The small community is between the Indian Community and Medium: Ctk, Large: Milford UMC. Very Big: St. John Neumann. Expecting final tally around \$65,000. \$15,000 stays at home.

Thanksgiving Service: progress on service Nov 22 at 7 pm. 9 participants and interfaith choir. More are welcome

Old business: Asphalt plant is likely to be tabled to December 1, awaiting the environmental impact study.

Announcements:

Habitat for Humanity will likely be opening application process in February for a new family on Granite St.

Mike Apfelberg: Sleepout at community college - they're seeking to engage more youth, so they're going to create a youth-oriented sleepout in April. Seeking youth groups from faith communities as well as reaching out to schools.