

## **Faith Coalition Santa Fe**

### **Volunteer Opportunities: Updated August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

#### **Working Group for Santa Fe Public Schools (SFPS) engagement**

SFPS has approximately 10,000 students, about 20% are bilingual and/or children of undocumented immigrants which have special needs. SFPS, and New Mexico Schools in general are nationally ranked poorly in terms of academic scores, reading levels, graduation rates and college attendance. Greater community involvement – through programs to assist bilingual students with tutoring and other support – as well as tutoring across the board and encouraging greater community involvement and teacher support would benefit all students and lead to improved outcomes. SFPS has just hired a new School Superintendent, and this presents a unique opportunity for greater community engagement and reform

The Church Faith Coalition is looking to create a working group to discuss the issue and how best to engage with other organizations such as Adelante, Communities in School, Gerard's House among others to provide tutors and other support to SFPS administration, teachers, students and immigrant students. If you are interested in being part of the working group please contact:

Bruce Goslin at: [brgoslin@fastmail.fm](mailto:brgoslin@fastmail.fm)

Lynn Bickley at: [lbick09@gmail.com](mailto:lbick09@gmail.com)

#### **Contigo Immigrant Justice (formerly Santa Fe Dreamers)**

This organization provides a range of legal services to immigrants. They welcome volunteers who can assist them in delivering services to clients, helping at immigration clinics, as well as providing general office support, fund raising and other events.

Volunteers are asked to fill out a brief questionnaire, including the amount of time you are willing to volunteer and when, activities you would like to participate in and skills sets, such as language, legal knowledge and so forth.

To volunteer- click on the link here: [Santa Fe Dreamers Project](#) On the landing page click on Get Involved at the top of the page, then click on Volunteer, which will take you to the questionnaire.

## **Gerard's House**

Gerard's House provides grief counseling and support to the larger Santa Fe Community, from those experiencing loss or family separation due to deportation and incarceration. Gerard's House is a resource for Adelante – a program within Santa Fe Public Schools – to work with immigrant children who experience a loss due to deportation of a parent or significant adult.

From their web page:

*Gerard's House is here for everyone in our community who is grieving. Because so many families experience barriers when they need grief support, we energetically focus on making our services accessible. Services include 25 weekly peer grief support groups, a mobile unit, individual sessions, summer camps, teen movies nights, crisis response services and support for parents/caregivers, all free of charge and bilingual for youth ages 3 – 21 who have experienced life-changing loss. We also provide 7 weekly grief support groups for adults in English and Spanish, all free of charge.*

*When you give to Gerard's House, or volunteer, you join us in this spirit of justice, love, healing and partnership.*

Gerard's House provides a range of different programs, each depends on volunteers who go through a training and orientation program and work with professional counselors and staff. Volunteers are able to choose which program to volunteer with, as each has different commitments and needs.

To volunteer, click on the following link: <https://gerardshouse.org>

At the landing page click on the Volunteer button which is on the top of the page. The volunteer button will further explain the program, outline their activities and where volunteers are needed, as well as the commitment and weekly time expected from the volunteer. Continue scrolling down to the application form, which can be filled out and submitted on line.

To become a volunteer there is a background check – which may require a fingerprint and criminal background check. Before beginning there is a required formal orientation and training session that must be completed before volunteers can start.

### New Mexico Immigrant Law Center (NMILC)

This organization also provides legal services to the immigrant community, and welcome the help and support of volunteers and community organizations

From their web page:

Our mission is to advance justice and equity by empowering low-income immigrant communities through collaborative legal services, advocacy and education.

Volunteering with the NMILC.

The NMILC welcomes volunteers to assist them with a range of activities. To volunteer click on the NMILC link below:

[www.nmilc.org](http://www.nmilc.org)

Once on the NMILC landing page, click on Get Involved along the top of the page. This will take you to their volunteer page. Several different volunteer opportunities are described in detail, including requirements and tasks expected for each position. Continue scrolling down to their application form which can be completed on-line.

### **Afghan Scout Relief Education Fund**

**Background:** When US troops pulled out of Afghanistan on August 26th, 2021, the Taliban took over and implemented strict rules, especially brutal and oppressive to women. Girls were no longer allowed to attend school and were forced to stay home with no voice and no options.

**Rescue:** Each of these students had dreams of completing their education and starting careers in fields like medicine, accounting, and business. They are the lucky

ones...connecting with an Afghan Evacuation organization that was able to bring them to the United States because of the danger they were in. High school students were matched with host families at Waldorf schools, and college students were placed in cooperating universities. Almost all are on partial scholarships that need to be supplemented. The Faith Coalition are in the process of reviving an Afghan Fund previously used for Afghan Refugees to help support continued education for these students.

Volunteer Opportunities: We are currently working with the organization to update the volunteer needs in light of the Afghan travel ban.

### **New Update!**

#### **VIDA - Volunteers for Immigrants in Detention Albuquerque. (Updated June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025)**

VIDA supports asylum seekers in detention throughout NM. Members (not just from ABQ), led by coordinator Kelly McCloskey Romero, visit Tarrant and Cibola Detention Centers on a monthly basis and also participate in writing to detainees.

The conditions in these facilities are abhorrent. The visits and letters give detainees a sense that they are not alone. VIDA listens to the stories of detainees (all men from various countries, mostly Spanish-speaking) and collects their written testimonies about conditions in the detention centers.

VIDA volunteers are also in contact with the New Mexico immigrant Law Center as well as U.S. Congressional staff. VIDA communicates with NM State legislators, county commissioners, and attends rallies in support of ending ICE detention in New Mexico. For information and guidelines about letter-writing and visiting, please refer to the VIDA Website at [www.abqvida.org](http://www.abqvida.org).

Volunteers are now required to do background checks and plan further ahead for visits. These are ICE requirements that we must comply with in order to keep the visits going. So, VIDA has instituted some new procedures in order to manage all of this. As we adjust to these procedures, the visits will be smaller and not have as many new people involved to keep things simple.

If you are new and motivated, you can still sign up, and we'll see what we can do. New people should refer to the "Visiting" tab on our Website and fill out the appropriate forms online. These new circumstances will require flexibility and patience.

For more information see the website at [www.abqvida.org](http://www.abqvida.org). You may also contact Jackie Neel, 918-699-5950 or Faith Yoman, [faithyoman15@gmail.com](mailto:faithyoman15@gmail.com)

## **Esperanza – Domestic Violence Shelter in Santa Fe**

Volunteer needs are currently being updated