



Desert Southwest Conference

The United Methodist Church

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Fall Newsletter

To all our Valued Donors, Friends and Volunteers,

As we begin this 4th Quarter Newsletter, we encourage you to read it thoroughly as we have lots of updates and news to share with you!

First, we'd like to send a huge congratulations to our Site Coordinator, Gretchen Lopez, and her husband, Pedro, on the birth of their second daughter, Mia Elizabeth. Mia was born September 8th and we are all excited to welcome her into our Inn family!



Secondly, we are grateful to Church World Services for providing us the opportunity to hire a full-time staff member and we could not have found a more perfect addition to our team! We are truly blessed to have Gustavo Rodriquez, with his knowledge, expertise, and huge heart, join us. You will learn a little more about him later in the newsletter.



CWS
Church World Service

Lastly, notice anything different about our newsletter heading? The board of The Inn would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Cassandra Akpan of NYC for designing our new logo! Her gift of love, compassion, and time is so appreciated as we start this new chapter as a 501(c)(3) with a fresh new logo!



As always, a huge THANK YOU goes out to all the committed and tireless volunteers who make our mission possible. As we continue to receive asylum seekers, released from governmental agencies, journey on to destinations throughout the U.S., we could not continue without the hours you donate to this important work.

And to our wonderful, generous donors: as we continue to serve our families in the safety and security of our temporary hotel location, following all CDC guidelines for testing, avoiding congregate settings, and offering vaccinations, we are truly thankful for your gifts. We rely on your generosity to provide this wonderful space for our families. We are grateful.

Volunteers Needed!



URGENT NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS

Due to the ongoing Covid crisis, our fearless leader, Gretchen, out on maternity leave, and an increase of asylum seekers in need of our services, we desperately need more volunteers to fill all hospitality and driving shifts. If you, or anyone you know, can give four hours or more of your time weekly, we would be immensely grateful. **Please visit our website, theinnofsa.org, to submit a short volunteer application form** and you will be contacted quickly!



BY THE NUMBERS:

So far in 2021, The Inn has welcomed 2450 total individuals, including children traveling with their families. We received 271 individuals in July, 458 in August, and 299 in September. The majority of migrants in the past few months have been from Brazil, Venezuela, Columbia, Haiti and Cuba.



Please welcome **Gustavo Daniel Rodríguez Atlahua** to The Inn of Southern Arizona! His position is funded through a grant from Church World Service until March 31st, 2022. He is funded to determine which guests qualify for

case management and refer those guests for additional help with their asylum cases. He is a specialist in immigration topics, has multidisciplinary training and experience that allows him to have an analytical vision of the national and international environment, migration issues and Mexico-United States relations. He is also covering many of Gretchen's responsibilities with guests while she is on maternity leave. If you haven't met Gustavo, come by, and introduce yourself.

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION.

LOCATION: We are now in the process of searching for a more permanent location, eagerly anticipating the time when volunteers and guests can safely congregate again. If you have time and expertise to help in this regard, please contact our Board Chair at diane.everhart@hotmail.com





Support The Inn of Southern Arizona with your Tax-Deductible Donations

Your generosity is greatly appreciated and is what keeps our doors open. We hope you will consider becoming a monthly donor under one of the following sponsorship categories. Sponsorship includes our quarterly newsletter, invitations to special gatherings and activities, and the satisfaction of knowing that your gift is changing lives.

Christ's words in Matthew 25:40 "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.
~Mother Teresa

When you light a light for someone, it will also brighten your path. ~Gautama Buddha

The Inn Sponsorship Program 2021-22

Become an integral part of The Inn, providing sponsorship at a level that works for you. If you have given in the past, please consider increasing your support. If you are a new donor, we welcome you at the sponsorship level that suits you best. Your gift ensures that the Inn can provide the necessary support to asylum-seeking families.

Your donation helps provide a bed, clothing, and food in a safe, loving, Christian environment. As a sponsor you will fulfill the call Christ spoke about in Matthew 25:40 when he said, "Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

As a sponsor, you will join in partnership with the staff and volunteers who provide for the day to day needs of our guests. You will receive periodic newsletters, invitations to special gatherings and activities in addition to the knowledge that your donation is changing lives.

Please become a sponsor of The Inn. Sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/3stjpepek>

Choose your level of support:*

Type of Sponsor	Monthly	Yearly
Wise Ones	\$1,000.00	\$12,000.00
Inn Keepers	\$100.00	\$1,200.00
Angels	\$50.00	\$600.00
Shepherds	\$25.00	\$300.00

We also welcome **one-time gifts**. Please donate online here: <https://theinnofsa.org/donate>

*Donations are tax deductible

Checks can be made payable to The Desert Southwest Conference UMC with "The Inn" written on the memo line and mailed to:

Treasurer, Desert SW Conference UMC
1550 E. Meadowbrook Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85014

The Inn of Southern Arizona
P.O. Box 43332
Tucson, Arizona 85719

Sponsorships make an ideal birthday or holiday gift for a family or friend. Helping a family seeking asylum and a new life is a perfect way to tell someone you love them. One-time sponsorship: one guest, \$25.00; family of four: \$100.00 or choose a level above. You will receive a card you can send explaining your special gift.



WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR STORIES.

Put into words what volunteering at
The Inn has meant to you.

Please send stories to theinnofsa@gmail.com.

Today, as I (Diane Everhart) was working in the clothing area at FUMC with two dedicated volunteers, doing our usual sorting and packaging of clothing, we looked up and saw a family of four who had just come down the steps. After greeting them and asking if I might help them, the wife asked "No, where is the shelter?" I explained we'd had to move to a hotel due to Covid-19 and this space, our previous location, was now being used as a storage and supply area. She began to explain that in October of 2019 they were guests of The Inn, as her husband pulled out his phone to show me photos of their stay. He pointed out the corner of the room where they slept and showed pictures of his daughter being served a meal, his son playing in the "family" room.

This family was seeking asylum from Russia and the wife/mother, who spoke a little more English, expressed the uncertainty they'd felt when they arrived and their gratefulness for the help they had received. Now living in California, they said they were taking a road trip and this was the first stop on their journey. And that they had brought donations for The Inn! They expressed how very important it was to them to give back to the shelter that had helped them. The family then brought in 35 pounds of fresh apples, a case of breakfast cereal, four bags filled with packages of cookies, and four large bags of clothing! As kids produced their "artwork" when they passed through the Inn, we taped their pictures all over the walls and doors for everyone to admire. Well, their daughter looked for the picture she had made when they were with us and, after finding it, took it to the desk and wrote "Thank you very much!" She then added her name and today's date. As they walked around, I realized this visit, so important to them, was equally as moving for me; how rewarding it was to see how they had thrived since their stay here almost two years before.

As they were leaving, they asked if they could take photos; I said of course they could. Then they wanted a photo with me. I also asked if I could get one with them as well and they said "yes." I had tears in my eyes as they left. We so seldom know what happens to our guests after they leave and head to their sponsors. It was a joy and privilege to be at FUMC when this family returned to express gratitude and say what it meant to find The Inn, a safe, helpful and loving place. My heart is filled to overflowing. What we do matters, and we are remembered.



Board Members have been visiting churches and clergy meetings to share the news about The Inn. If you would like them to come to your church, please contact Diane at theinnofsa@gmail.com.

STAY INFORMED! Please sign up for our digital INN Newsletter by registering at this link: <http://eepurl.com/hf7nEj> and visit our new, improved website, www.theinnofsa.org, to be inspired by Pastor Rolly Loomis' short video.

It is our privilege to share in the journey of migrants arriving in Tucson, on their way to loved ones across the U.S. Covid testing is essential for the health of our migrant families as well as volunteers, so as they arrive in Tucson, medical specialists at Casa Alita administer testing and perform general wellness checks. We try to assist by bringing as many individuals to the Inn as possible. Partnership has been a part of our advocacy work from the beginning. Currently, the flow of arrivals continues to fluctuate.