



THE INN of SOUTHERN ARIZONA E-Blast ***URGENT!**

SEPTEMBER 2023

Greetings to ALL Our Volunteers, Donors, and Friends!

We at the Inn would like to express our sincere thanks to all who continue to support our vulnerable families as they, too, hope and believe for a better future.

As most of you know, the Inn has been a sub-awardee of Pima County for nearly 15 months, which has enabled us to serve many more families seeking asylum in the United States. In July, we served 2,502 guests, 1,076 of whom were children! Huge thanks to Gretchen, our fearless director, staff, and volunteers who have made this possible! We would also like to offer an apology for our lack of regular communication, during this very busy time, with you, our supporters, who make this important work possible. As board members, we vow to keep everyone updated in a much more timely manner.

***In August, we received critical news concerning our shelter location. Due to new FEMA guidelines from the Biden administration, there are some big changes in store, particularly for border shelters. FEMA will begin directing more funds to the interior shelters in the U.S. and drastically lowering funds to the border shelters. They will also no longer be supporting their current model of hotel sheltering. The consequence of this new policy, for The Inn, is that we need to find a new, congregate location by December 31, 2023! We are hopeful for some continued financial assistance from the County when we have an approved location. With this short notice, we are beginning a search for our new home, whether it is warehouse space, closed churches, daycares, or any other properties that might suit our needs. We are also looking for temporary locations, most likely churches with extra space, in case we are unable to find a more permanent location by December 31, 2023. At this time, we are asking for any help our supporters can offer! Please let us know of any ideas, suggestions, professional services, or help you might be able to provide. We gratefully want to listen to ANY thoughts you might have. Please contact Gretchen at: gretchen.lopez@theinnofsa.org**

Now for exciting news! As an organization, we have been blessed with the most wonderful donors. At this time, we want to acknowledge our super donors, Wanda and Edwin Eichler, who have given The Inn a beautiful 15-passenger van! With such big changes in store, it could not be better timing, and from the depths of our collective hearts, The Inn thanks you!

MIGHT YOU be interested in contributing financially? As every healthy organization knows, financial donations are critical to their success. Please visit our website, www.theinnofsa.org, to find easy and convenient ways to donate. And remember...all donations are tax deductible! We are grateful.

TO OUR committed volunteers who continue to sign up for hospitality shifts, our off-site volunteers who sort and organize clothing, our drivers, shoppers, and snack bag makers...your work is invaluable and is what keeps The Inn's doors open to welcoming our guests. There are no words for all you do and give. Thank you!

THINKING of volunteering? Each person providing hospitality to our guests is extremely important, playing a huge role in providing a sense of security, acceptance, and graciousness as they face life in the US. Please know that there are wonderful and much-needed ways to interact and help with our families and kiddos. Providing hospitality, with guidance from the Inn staff, is rewarding and satisfying. Guests have been screened and are Covid-19 negative before proceeding to our hotel site. In addition, we follow all Covid protocol on premises and during transportation. If you are interested, you will find a volunteer tab on our website, www.theinnofsa.org, with information and a registration form. After submitting the form, Gretchen, the Inn Director, will contact you to determine where your interests lie and add you to the Sign-up Genius so you can volunteer for shifts that work with your schedule.

What do we need? Believe it or not, it is time to start collecting winter clothes/coats for families who will be heading to colder climes soon! In our next e-blast, we will give a more detailed list of what we will be needing. Look for it before the end of September!

As for our immediate needs, we are in desperate need of men's shorts and jeans in good repair, especially small to medium sizes. We are also in need of small to medium women's leggings and jeans.

For questions or donation locations, please contact Nancy Garcia at (520) 331-6669. Text is best (due to an abundance of spam/sales calls), but email works as well: nanjell@msn.com.

In addition to monetary and material donations, please visit The Inn's AMAZON WISH LIST! This is a great way to support our shelter and can be accessed through our website: www.theinnofsa.org.

THANK YOU!