



FAITHWORKS

TCIM PROJECTS

Compassion & Justice Immigration Ministries



Inspiring Models of Immigration Ministry
for Churches

THRIVING CONGREGATIONS IMMIGRATION MINISTRY

Through TCIM, FaithWorks engages churches in immigration ministries of either compassion or justice. Up to 10 churches per year participate in a two-year cohort to develop or expand immigration ministries, and by doing so, their congregations thrive.



COMPASSION CHURCHES & JUSTICE CHURCHES

COMPASSION CHURCHES:

Churches who provide direct services to the immigrant community.

JUSTICE CHURCHES:

Churches who want to help change the narrative surrounding immigration.

COHORT 1

FIRST YEAR KEY ACTIVITIES



JANUARY 2025

Cohort 1 gathered for their Learning Conference to officially begin their journey in the TCIM Program.



MAY 2025

Cohort 1 traveled to California to engage with immigration ministries and build meaningful connections as they began preparing for their projects.



JULY 2025

Cohort 1 submitted their project proposals and presented them to one another via Zoom.



AUGUST 2025

Cohort 1 entered the implementation phase of their projects.

HOSPITALITY HOUSE



The Casa Peregrina project, led by a Church in Nacogdoches, Texas, provides compassionate, faith-based support to immigrant families seeking asylum in the United States. The church operates a hospitality house which offers housing, transportation, health care, legal assistance, and other essential resources to help families navigate the challenges of resettlement and gain independence. The ministry is administrated by the church's Missions Committee and supported by community partnerships. Through their participation in the Thriving Congregations Immigration Ministry, the church covers monthly expenses for rent, utilities, food, transportation, and professional services for the resident family.

Through this initiative, the church lives out its mission of “welcoming the stranger,” while strengthening both its congregation and broader community relationships.



**THE CHURCH BECAME THRIVING
NOT BECAUSE WE FOCUSED ON
GROWTH, BUT BECAUSE WE
FOCUSED ON BEING THE CHURCH.**

Pastor of the Church



MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT GRUOP

Mental health support groups hosted biweekly in Fort Worth, TX, provide a holistic support system centered on mental health, financial literacy, legal guidance, and spiritual growth. Each session includes a shared meal, expert-led presentations, small group discussions, and resource distribution, all in a welcoming and inclusive environment. Open to newly arrived and long-term immigrants, the ministry aims to empower participants through knowledge, community connection, and faith. Key resources include childcare, translation services, and collaboration with local organizations. The ultimate goal is to equip immigrants with the tools and confidence to thrive in their new context while strengthening their personal and spiritual well-being.



HOSPITALITY HOUSE MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

Operated by a church in Waco, TX, the Naomi House is a temporary place of refuge for women and their children as they prepare for the next steps in their asylum-seeking journey.

Through its participation in the Thriving Congregations Immigration Ministry, the team of the Naomi house set to establish a comprehensive, trauma-informed mental health support program for women who have experienced significant trauma. The initiative provides professional counseling through a licensed MSW therapist, creates peer-led mental health support groups, and hosts a specialized trauma healing retreat. With the grant funds, the program aims to meet both immediate and long-term mental health needs, fostering healing, resilience, and spiritual growth among residents. This initiative will expand the holistic care Naomi House offers, ensuring emotional and psychological support is integrated into its mission of restoration and empowerment.



HOSPITALITY AND FOOD DELIVERY MINISTRY

Faithfully serving the immigrant community in Brownsville, TX, for many years through a holistic ministry that includes food distribution, transportation, clothing, and temporary housing, this church continues to serve despite the challenges it faces. Through its current project, the church continues to meet the evolving needs of immigrants, with a particular focus on individuals and families who are stranded in Brownsville with limited options for moving forward. As part of this ministry, the church now provides home-delivered groceries to families in need once a week. Additionally, the church welcomes and temporarily hosts young adults who have aged out of the system at their respite center. The respite center also offers safe lodging and support for those traveling to Brownsville for immigration court hearings or returning to their home countries.



CENTER FOR FAITH AND JUSTICE



The Immigration Justice and Community Ministry proposal, submitted by a church in Austin, TX, aims to strengthen immigrant justice efforts through collaboration, community engagement, and cross-border partnership. As an expression of the church's emerging Center for Faith and Justice, the project fosters structured collaboration between iACT Refugee Services and TODOS Language Co-op—two immigrant-serving organizations already housed within the church.

Key components include quarterly gatherings to build trust, a joint public event uplifting immigrant voices, development of a shared resource directory, and ongoing mission work in Piedras Negras, Mexico. With their TCIM grant, the initiative seeks to mobilize volunteers, amplify immigrant leadership, and integrate justice-oriented ministry into the life of the congregation and broader Austin community.

SHELTER & FEEDING MINISTRY

Located in Piedras Negras, MX, this church has long served and ministered to migrants as they seek a pathway into the United States. The church has provided essential support to migrants throughout their journey, offering shelter, food, transportation to the border for official appointments (particularly during the use of the CBP One app), as well as opportunities for community building, fellowship, and pastoral care.

The church hosts families, engaging them in various activities and spiritual support during their stay. Although the CBP One app is no longer a viable route for lawful entry into the U.S., the church continues to minister to migrants whose appointments were canceled, and to those still pursuing a better future for their families.

Some migrants are waiting for a new opportunity to enter the United States, others are returning to their home countries, and some are beginning to settle in Piedras Negras. No matter their journey, the church remains steadfast in offering care, compassion, and support every step of the way.



WHAT IF YOUR CHURCH COULD BE PART OF A MOVEMENT THAT TRANSFORMS IMMIGRATION HEADLINES INTO HOPE?

TO LEARN MORE:

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WILL YOUR CHURCH BE THE NEXT THRIVING CONGREGATION?



Cintia Aguilar serves as the Immigration Ministry Manager at FaithWorks. In her role, Cintia walks alongside congregations as they discern how to create or expand immigration ministries within their churches and communities.

Cintia earned a dual degree in Divinity and Social Work from Baylor University's Truett Seminary and the Diana R. Garland School of Social Work. Her passion lies at the intersection of faith and practice—bringing together her training in ministry and social work to inspire, empower, and strengthen others both through her professional work and her personal life.

