



West Coast MCC invites you to Encourage Migrants

HOST A CARD PARTY



Dear PNMC Churches,

THANK YOU again for your amazing response to the Immigration Kit Drive in July!

In one month, the West Coast region collected nearly 650 kits (approx. 350-400 came from PNMC churches) which have been distributed to partners agencies in southern Arizona. In one case, a non-church goer remarked, "I thought Christians didn't care about what was happening at the border.....I guess I was wrong." Thank you for blessing many migrant families and for witnessing to our world about the love of God.

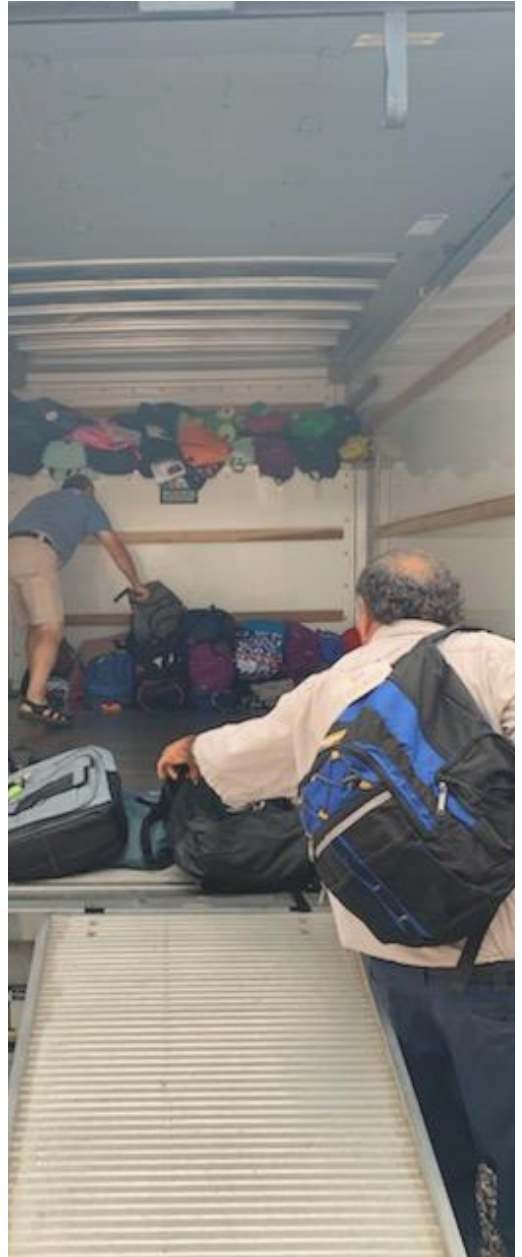
Across the U.S. additional kits are being distributed in Texas through MCC Central States. Furthermore, the spontaneous outpouring of dollars is allowing us to provide travel support to migrant families receiving the kits who are unable to pay travel expenses through their family and friend networks. Yet, many continue to ask, "is there more that we can do?"

I invite you to continue your love and care for migrants in another tangible way by making and sending cards to Tucson, AZ. A few years ago, Shalom Mennonite Church launched a Detention Visitation Program called Casa Mariposa. This ministry coordinates volunteers who visit long-term detainees every week until they are released. On occasion, the volunteers helped connect people with pro-bono attorneys. They also provide phone cards so that people can communicate with family. West Coast MCC is using some of the funds received to provide phone cards through this ministry for a number of months. But you can help by making personal encouragement cards. In this packet there is a clear, easy-to-use guide that will allow you to bless and encourage migrants in this way. I hope you can organize small groups, youth groups, SS classes, or other groups in your church to continue responding to the needs of the migrants caught in the dark web of our flawed immigration system.

Thank you for the many ways you are helping to spread God's shalom in this world.

Gratefully,

Nate Yoder
Executive Director, West Coast MCC



HOSTING A CARD PARTY



Thank you for hosting a Card Party! Your efforts may help those in detention feel that they have not been forgotten. You are also now part of a nationwide network of folks committed to showing our immigrant sisters and brothers that they are **KNOWN, LOVED and SUPPORTED**. They need to hear this now more than ever!

Below is what you need to know to get started. Questions? Please don't hesitate to ask.

Email: cmvisitation@gmail.com

On behalf of the **Casa Mariposa Detention Visitation Program**, we thank you.

In solidarity,

Rocío Calderón and Elizabeth Smith

Card Parties - *perfect for after worship or meetings, during drop-in events, with book clubs, at a holiday party, etc.*

Supplies needed:

- Cheerful cards (blank, colorful cards are a great choice, and so are ones with pictures *printed* on them)
 - *You will determine the number of cards based on how many people you estimate will participate and how much time there is for card-writing. For a larger event, 100+ cards is easy to do!*
 - **Note: no stickers, glitter, bows, sequins can be on the cards or envelopes.** If you'd like to make the cards or envelopes more cheerful, drawing pictures is perfect!
- Colorful pens/Sharpies
- "Helpful Phrases" sheets (*make copies to spread out on tables*)
- "Envelope Tips" sheets (*make copies to spread out on tables*)

Steps:

- 1 - Set up tables and chairs. Consider playing soft music in the background.
- 2- Spread cards, pens, helpful phrase sheets, and envelope tip pages on tables.
- 3 - Begin writing! Some folks can write cards, while others address envelopes. Or folks can do both!

4 - **Do not seal the envelopes!** Write on the back of the envelope, in small print, a letter indicating the language used on the card. E- English, S - Spanish, F - French, E/S for a combo of English and Spanish.

5 - Collect all finished cards, with envelopes, and place in a large envelope or box.

6 - Mail envelope/box to us and we'll add a name and A# to each card.

Our address is: **Casa Mariposa, PO Box 40884, Tucson, AZ 85717**

Additional thoughts:

- To provide some context about immigration detention, we encourage your group to watch the 24 minute documentary, "Locked In A Box," before your card party. You can access it here: [Locked In A Box](#)

HELPFUL PHRASES

I am a friend of Casa Mariposa in Tucson. / *Soy una amiga/un amigo de Casa Mariposa en Tucson.*

You are strong! / *¡Ud. es fuerte!*

You are brave. / *Ud. es valiente.*

You are not alone. / *No está solo/a.*

Keep fighting for your dreams. / *Siga luchando por sus sueños.*

God Bless You / *Dios le bendiga*

I hope you feel God's presence during this difficult time. / *Espero que pueda sentir la presencia de Dios en estos tiempos difíciles.*

Please know that you are not alone or forgotten. I am praying for you. / *Por favor sepa esto, no está solo ni consignado al olvido. Yo estoy orando por usted.*

ADDITIONAL TIPS:

- **Write as a friend.** You are not writing as a doctor, lawyer or counselor. Just tell them what is happening in your town, hobbies, your daily activities, your family, etc.

- **Keep your promises!** Don't promise to write more if you can't, and please do not write false hope. Do not write that someone will win their case, that everything will be fine, that they will be protected, etc. We know this sounds counterintuitive, but **false hope can actually be more damaging in the long-run.**

- **Respect their personal power.** While they may be temporarily vulnerable, many of those in detention are courageous, intelligent and resourceful people. Many have had business careers, speak several languages, and have been leaders in their homeland and attended university.

- **Do not assume everyone wants to reunite with their family.** Some folks flee difficult or dangerous family situations.

- Keep in mind **your cards will be read by a guard.** Be tactful and conscious of this.

ENVELOPE TIPS

Envelopes should be addressed like this:

_____ *(we will write a name here)*

A#

Eloy Detention Center

1705 E. Hanna Road

Eloy, AZ 85131

For return address:

- You can write your personal address or a shared address (like your church's or organization's) if you hope to receive a response from the person who gets your card. Be sure not to use return address stickers.

OR

- You can use our program address. This means you will not receive a response to your card.

Casa Mariposa

PO Box 40884

Tucson, AZ 85717