Welcoming Asylum Seekers in ABQ

In February of 2019, the influx of asylum seekers from Central America increased dramatically. By March, El Paso was desperate for help from Albuquerque in hosting asylum seekers. Five institutions answered the call: Albuquerque Interfaith, Catholic Charities, Congregation Albert, Lutheran Family Services, and Saint Michael and All Angels.

Hundreds of Albuquerque volunteers and donors sprang into action and welcomed more than 4,000 asylum seekers with housing, medical assistance, food, fresh clothing, and travel arrangements.

These institutes are the direct result of that experience. We know compassion is not enough. We need to be educated, organized, and strategic. We need to build the capacity to act, rather than just react.

About Albuquerque Interfaith

Albuquerque Interfaith believes that for community leaders to be truly effective, they must be educated and informed citizens. True politics is not about polls, focus groups and television ads. It is about engaging in public discourse and initiating collective action guided by that discourse. AI leaders hold that active citizenship and real political action create opportunities for ordinary people to effect real and dramatic change in the community.

Albuquerque Interfaith believes that learning must lead to action.

- We are a non-partisan, not-for-profit group.
- We organize through one-on-one meetings of people of diverse ethnic, social, and economic backgrounds and with diverse political perspectives.

For more information, please contact:
Phone: (505)315-3596
Email: abqinterfaith@gmail.com
Web: www.facebook/AlbuquerqueInterfaith

The Institute for Public Life

Reclaiming Asylum as a Human Right and Welcoming the Stranger

Presented by the five Asylum Seeker Host Sites: Albuquerque Interfaith, Catholic Charities, Congregation Albert, Lutheran Family Services, Saint Michael and All Angels
About the Institute for Public Life

Albuquerque Interfaith organizes in congregations, schools, and caring communities to develop leaders who, through building relationships that lead to action, reweave the social fabric of community life. Without intentional leadership development to sustain and strengthen local institutions, member families remain isolated and disconnected in weakened institutions.

From every disaster comes an opportunity. From this disaster of our immigration policy and the treatment of asylum seekers, we seek to build this organized caring community into a powerful constituency to impact policy locally, statewide and nationally. Therefore, we are developing the Institutes for Public Life to provide the opportunity for education, compassion, and action around our broken immigration policy.

Please join us.

Summer/Fall 2019 Institute for Public Life

Confronting the Business of Mass Detention
Thursday, July 18, 2019 6:30PM
St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
5301 Ponderosa NE
Led by Margarita Mercure-Hibbs, Our Revolution New Mexico, and Javier Benavidez, Albuquerque Interfaith.
One of the underlying components of mass deportations is the perverse incentive to detain asylees and immigrants in New Mexico’s private prisons, both to fund the corporation and local government. Many states are banning for-profit private prisons. We will explore the political landscape and possibilities for change here in New Mexico.

Asylum at the Border
Friday, July 19, 2019 12:00PM
UNM School of Law, Room 2401
Featuring Jessi Miles, Co-Founder of Borderland Immigration Council, and Special Guest Damian Lara.
This will inform us of the asylum process, what is happening at the border in El Paso, and how federal policy has affected the asylum process. Learn about the Migrant Protection Protocol (Remain in Mexico Program) and get firsthand knowledge regarding the realities of asylum in America. UNM School of Law, in collaboration with Indivisible Nob Hill and Albuquerque Interfaith.

Undocumented in 2019
Tuesday, August 6, 2019 6:30PM
First Congregational UCC Church (Lomas & Girard)
Led by NM Dream Team
Dreamers and other undocumented families have lived with the threat of deportation for years. That threat is intensifying. What are their policy options, and if family breadwinners are deported, what is our obligation as caring communities for those left behind?

Theological Foundations of Welcoming the Stranger
Date, Time, & Place TBD
Faith traditions call us to “Welcome the Stranger.” This is an opportunity to better understand that call from Christian, Jewish, and Muslim traditions.

Root Causes of the Central American Exodus
Date, Time, & Place TBD
What is going on to drive so many families from their homes and risk everything to come to the United States?

Economic Impact of Immigrants in New Mexico
Date, Time, & Place TBD
This session will address the vital contributions of immigrants from an economic, entrepreneurial, and demographic perspective.