

DISASTER RESPONSE SPECIAL UPDATE

Desert Southwest Annual Conference

FEMA at the Border

Recently, we were introduced to Dawn Hubert from FEMA. Dawn is assigned to coordinate volunteer organizations providing assistance to migrants and asylum seekers at the Arizona border with Mexico.

Polly Turner in conversations with Dawn provided her with information about UMCOR trained volunteers ready to serve. Dawn was pleased to have Polly as a contact to recruit volunteers to assist at the border centers and other possible locations as the need emerges. As the details of these volunteer opportunities are posted, notice will be sent to all ERTs.



FEMA

Justice for Our Neighbors Volunteers Needed

A ministry of our annual conference, Arizona Justice for Our Neighbors (Arizona JFON) “welcomes immigrants by providing affordable, high-quality immigration legal services to low-income immigrants, engaging in advocacy for immigrant rights, and offering education to communities of faith and to the public about immigration.” (Website quote) Ella Rawls its co-founder and staff attorney says the organization is assisting asylum seekers in Nogales, Sonora in preparing personal documents, organizing evidence for their cases, and providing information on the asylum process.

The specific request for volunteers, preferably bilingual individuals, is to work in the Tucson office with various clerical tasks and legal support. A background in law is most helpful. The only staff currently in the office is Ella and her Executive Director.

Ella also anticipates needing volunteers to support the distribution of rental assistance to immigrant residents in the Tucson area.

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Justice -

In April, the organization is offering virtual Border Tours to raise awareness and funds for this work.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Ella Rawls at:

Phone: 520-488-3201

Email: ella@azjfon.org

PO Box 11181
Tucson, AZ 85734

www.azjfon.org
www.facebook.com/AZJFON



Welcome Centers in Phoenix/ Tucson

The International Rescue Committee has active centers welcoming immigrants and asylum seekers in both Phoenix and Tucson. Polly Turner in reaching out to Eliana Carrera, the ASF Volunteer Coordinator, discovered volunteers are needed and the process to serve with this organization. According to Eliana, a potential volunteer can complete an application at:

<https://rescueglobal.secure.force.com/volunteer/>

Additionally, you will need to have an interview, background check, three references, and a level one fingerprint card.

While the process is involved, the work is rewarding.



Desert Southwest
The United Methodist Church