

## **Refugee/Latino Immigrant Update**

Laura Graney, Liaison to St. Dominic Human Concerns Committee  
September 24, 2018

### **Status of the Refugee Resettlement Programs in Sheboygan and Milwaukee:**

“As of December 31, 2018 our refugee resettlement program will be totally closed. The closure is happening in two phases meaning that some caseworkers, include Kap, will be let go at the end of this month (August) and others not until the end of the year. The remaining staff in our Milwaukee office will be able to work with our Sheboygan refugees remotely as needed and help them transition to a Milwaukee resettlement agency.

All refugees in Wisconsin are eligible for services from a resettlement agency for their first 5 years in the US (and beyond indefinitely when the service in question is citizenship). We will be sending a letter by the end of this month (August) letting clients know this and how to get ahold of these other agencies. The agencies are the International Institute of Wisconsin and Lutheran Social Services in Milwaukee and World Relief in Fox Valley. We hope to make the transition as smooth as possible for our clients but we anticipate that there will be hiccups.

Our Legal Services for Immigrants department is unaffected by the resettlement department's closure.

We do hope to continue to offer educational and community building services to refugee communities after the closure, but we're in the early stages of what that will look like.”

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### **Actions Taken Since Last Listening Session (July 30, 2018):**

1. Spoke with Kap, Refugee Services Case Manager at Catholic Charities in Sheboygan, on August 2, 2018.
2. Attended the Sheboygan Refugee Community Support meeting on September 18, 2018.
3. Spoke with Clarita Wesley, Outreach Case Manager at Catholic Charities in Sheboygan, on September 21, 2018.
4. Attended the SNCP Prayer and Worship Committee meeting on September 10, 2018. Suggested that our Refugee/Latino Immigrant project be considered as the charity of choice for the Advent

Tree of Hope collection on December 15-16, 2018. We will be collecting personal care items. Request was accepted.

5. Developed a Refugee/Latino Immigrant project contact list.
6. Developed a Refugee/Latino immigrant resource folder.
7. Started looking at resources (short You Tube videos) to “market” our Refugee/Latino Immigrant project.
8. Spoke with Carol Dussault, Literacy Council Instructional Specialist on September 24, 2018.

**Modification to the Needs Assessment:** (Identified as “secondary” needs initially, these needs have now been elevated)

1. Helping refugees/immigrants learn English.
2. Decrease the social isolation that many refugees/immigrants feel, especially women.
3. Trauma informed care (mental health).

**Overall Thought:** If desired, I think that our SNCP are capable of attempting to address the needs of both refugees and Latino immigrants. Many of the identified needs are similar between the two groups; the method of implementation would be different based on cultural and language differences. Start small, build up some success, and then add on, as able. Although our project falls under the “Human Concerns” umbrella, I recommend that we refer this project to a standalone committee, because we do not have a combined SNCP Human Concerns committee at this time.