

A Week on the Texas Border at Laredo with Asylum Seekers

Please take a moment to read Siobhan Bertone's moving report. We'll be accepting cash donations to send to Catholic Charities (CC) Laredo as part of Social Concerns Weekend, June 1 & 2. The Social Concerns Committee has sent 150 dozen pair of shoelaces to CC Laredo.

I recently returned from a week serving alongside Catholic Charities Laredo, (as an employee of CCWVa), to welcome and provide food, clothing, a shower and shelter for asylum seeking families who were passing through the shelter on their way to their new destinations in the US. The shelter has been up and running for only a few months. It came into being as a result of migrants being dropped off after their time in detention with no money or knowledge of what to do next. The three person staff have been working their own jobs as well as running a shelter full time with few resources. My time there was spent connecting migrants with their families all over the US, who will take responsibility for them as they proceed in their asylum cases.

We received about 50 people a day in my time there, but as of last week, the numbers have quadrupled to 200 persons a day being dropped off by ICE to Catholic Charities. The staff, volunteers, and building itself are overwhelmed. There is a dire need for basic needs items and monetary donations.

Please consider offering help to our brothers and sisters who have fled their countries of origin due to fear of persecution, harm, or death. I met one woman, traveling with her three young daughters who is from El Salvador, a beautiful, but dangerous place to live. Those were her exact words to me. She didn't want to leave, but their lives were in danger.

We have created a Wishlist on Amazon which will allow you to ship items directly to CC Laredo. The migrants arrive with the clothes they've been wearing for quite some time, and without shoelaces, as these are taken from them when they enter the US.

View the Amazon Wishlist: <https://smile.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/Z7SLORKRRE4T>

Purchases should be sent to: Catholic Charities Laredo, c/o Joe Barron
1701 Main Ave.
Laredo, TX 78040

"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to one another." (St. Teresa of Calcutta)
Indeed, we belong to one another, regardless of geography or skin color or race. Thank you for caring and for any support that you feel called to extend.

Siobhán Bertone

Please go to the St. Agnes website for details on making Amazon purchases through "smile" and designating St. Agnes as your charity of choice: <https://stagnesshepherdstown.org/shop-amazon/>