

WHAT YOU CAN DO to help migrants and Voices from the Border

Follow Voices from the Border and other similar organizations on Facebook (as a source of reliable, factual information and news stories). Share our posts with your networks. Encourage your friends to sign up for our newsletter by emailing: voices@voicesfromtheborder.us .

Organize a “Circle of Friends” zoom meeting with your network and engage virtually with our board members and volunteers to learn more about our work. Contact Janice at zinkzonk@hotmail.com

Voices is a project-based volunteerism organization. Volunteer for Voices’ events or project committees when they are announced, and let us know if you have specific ideas for projects to assist, develop and/or broaden our work. We can help you connect with others who may want to become part of a project that can be developed under our umbrella. We have specific current needs for social media assistance, possible website assistance, grant writers, and researchers.

Demand that your elected officials oppose laws that hurt migrants and asylum seekers, and/or perpetuate the exploitation of Central Americans and Mexicans by international corporations. Support the designation of climate refugee status as an official reason for asylum claims.

Sponsor a Facebook fundraiser event for Voices. Several people have done this and it not only collects funds but generates support for Voices’ mission. Contact us to learn how to do this most effectively.

Find organizations or churches that support refugees and/or asylum seekers and volunteer (and let us know what you find out). There are many ways to be of service and many of them do not require bilingual skills. At the moment, Voices cannot accept volunteers for work in Mexico due to the current situation, but Casa Alitas in Tucson is currently in need of drivers to help ferry migrants to the airport and bus stations and help them with travel paperwork. To volunteer go to: volunteers@casaalitas.org.

If you are interested in sponsorship of an individual asylum seeker or a family, check out this resource: <https://www.asylumsponsorshipproject.org/> Additionally, there are many ways to support a seeker without taking on the full responsibility of sponsorship. With committed individuals, that responsibility can be shared by a community. Voices is able to answer some questions about this process as well.

Introduce some of these books to your book club for discussion (or for your personal enrichment). Suggested readings:

- The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears by Dinaw Mengestu
- American Dirt by Janine Cummins
- The Land of Hard Edges and A Stranger at My Door by Peg Bowden
- Border Patrol Nation, Storming the Wall, Empire of Borders, and Build Bridges, Not Walls--all by Todd Miller

Research the School of the Americas to further understand the US’s role in destabilizing Central American countries (<https://abcnews.go.com/International/story?id=81917&page=1>). Share the truth behind some of the reasons people are fleeing Central America and Mexico, as well as the facts behind US subsidies and “free trade” agreements (i.e. CAFTA and NAFTA).

Buy gifts from Artisans Beyond Borders, a nonprofit that sells embroidered items made by migrant women in Nogales, Sonora, helping to sustain them and their children while they await their admission to the US. <https://www.etsy.com/shop/BordandoEsperanza>

Buy fair trade products from companies that support local farmers and cooperatives south of the border. Products include everything from coffee, chocolate, bananas, clothing and textiles to gold. Check it out: <https://www.fairtradeamerica.org/shop-fairtrade/fairtrade-products/>
<https://www.fairtrade.net/product> and www.justcoffee.org

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