

CATHOLIC WORKER IOWA CITY

December 1, 2024

RE: 2024 Advent Appeal to serve the poor and protect vulnerable families

Dear <FirstName>,

Giving to the Iowa City Catholic Worker this year is crucial to serving the poor and protecting immigrant workers from mass deportations and family separations. Your financial support helps provide deeply affordable cooperative housing, wrap-around holistic care, legal aid, organizing, and effective advocacy to feed the hungry, house the homeless, and defend immigrant rights.

Together, our Works of Mercy programs ensure that vulnerable families have a voice and the support they need to rebuild their lives in Iowa. Take for example, Ruby Caceres, an asylum-seeker from Venezuela, who shares her family's story on the last page of this letter about how living at the Catholic Worker House changed their lives.

Will you stand with us and make a difference today? Please donate to our Advent Appeal and help us continue our vital Matthew 25 work. Thanks to people of faith like you, last year we:

- housed an average of 35 immigrant men, women, and children every night.
- Moved 22 new immigrants and their family members into our houses of hospitality, and moved 15 migrant workers out into independent living;
- Helped over 1,000 immigrant workers access other critical services, including legal aid, work permits, English classes, transportation, health-care navigation, benefit eligibility pre-screening and enrollment, and more.
- Served more than 3,600 meals at our Free Breakfast and Lunch program at our Sycamore St house of hospitality.

In 2024 we also invested significantly in renovation, repair and improvement projects at our two historic Victorian houses of hospitality.

Together, we:

- ★ Fortified both foundations at 1414 Sycamore St and 113 S Johnson St;
- ★ Installed a new plumbing system at Sycamore House;
- ★ Installed a new rain gutter system at Johnson St House;
- ★ Prepped Sycamore House for a 2025 expansion that will add two new bedrooms and one new bathroom, expanding our housing and hospitality capacity.

Our mission is more important than ever. Are you ready to give today? We know you're busy and that there are many important causes to support. Your donation will keep families together, protect a neighbor from deportation and detention, and ensure hardworking families can start a new and safe life in the United States.

Any donation amount makes a big difference. Here's what your gift can do:

- \$5,000 - Defends an immigrant worker and their family against deportation.
- \$2,500 - Covers a month of utilities at our houses of hospitality.
- \$1,000 - Educates ten unaccompanied minors about their legal rights.
- \$500 - Pays a work permit application fee for a low-wage essential worker.
- \$300 - Screens ten people for a workshop to apply for asylum.
- \$100 - Provides a legal consultation to keep a family together.
- \$50 - Supports a month of secure phone calls with a lawyer.

Thank you for your support and all that you do - it means alot,

Emily Sinnwell David Gred

Emily, David, and the Catholic Worker House team

Iowa City Catholic Worker

PO Box 3324

Iowa City, IA 52244

iowacitycatholicworker.org/donate

CATHOLIC WORKER

IOWA CITY

Dear <FirstName>

Hello, my name is Ruby Caceres. In Venezuela, I was a professional medical worker and researcher, but I was forced to leave. My family and I have been living in the United States and Iowa City for over two years now.

When we first arrived here, we didn't know anything. We had nothing, no documents, no place to live, and no work. My family and I were homeless. We couldn't rent an apartment because it's so hard for a new immigrant family to rent an apartment. To rent an apartment in Iowa City, we have to have a Social Security number, bank account, stable job and a good credit score.

Like so many other immigrant families, when we first arrived, we had none of these things. I also couldn't speak English. What could I do? Luckily, Emily, David, and the Catholic Worker House helped us so much. They gave us a home for almost two years and helped so many of my family members too.

The Catholic Worker helped me find a lawyer for my family, enrolled my son at school and enrolled me at Kirkwood to learn English. Thanks to this early support, I got my work permit, Social Security Number, and Iowa drivers license. Now I have a stable job at a local factory, my own bank account, and a good credit score. After two years at the Catholic Worker, I was able to rent my first house, but it wasn't easy. The sun came out to my family, thanks to the Catholic Worker House.

Last July was our last day at the Catholic Worker House and my way to say thanks is to write you this letter and ask you to support the Catholic Worker House. Your help makes projects like fair housing for immigrants possible.

Please think about other children like my son who are immigrants too and just need a safe place to live. We come here to work hard, raise our families, go to church, and find the American Dream. Your support makes it all possible.

Sincerely,

Ruby

Ruby