



**NEW HAMPSHIRE CONFERENCE**  
**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**



## **Immigrant and Refugee Support Group**

**140 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke, NH 03275**

May 7, 2018

Dear Friend:

*“I was in prison and you visited me....”*

**Every day there are people imprisoned in immigrant detention, including here in New Hampshire, because of our nation’s inhumane immigration policies. Many of these individuals are seeking asylum in America from unspeakable conditions in their homeland. Now there is a way you can help them.**

The Strafford County jail in Dover has a contract with federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to detain asylum seekers and other immigrants. When someone is detained by ICE, they have no idea how long their detention will last. Will they be hastily deported or will they be detained for months waiting for a hearing or for an outcome? The uncertainty and the isolation take a terrible toll on immigrants and their families or loved ones. However, if detainees are able to secure release through posting a bond, they are able to rejoin supporters or family and to gather the resources necessary to make a strong case in immigration court. **This is where we can all respond to the Gospel call of caring for the prisoner by contributing to the NH UCC Immigrant Detainee and Post-Detention Support Fund. In the Gospel’s spirit, we ask for your support.**

Immigration bond is a simple cash exchange with the court: ICE or the judge sets an amount (\$1,500 minimum) which serves as a guarantee that those who are released from detention will attend all court hearings. After all hearings are completed, the bond funds are returned. Being released from detention dramatically increases an individual’s likelihood of winning the case. Often, however, the bond amount is beyond the ability of the detainee or loved ones to pay, especially if they are also trying to find the money to pay for an attorney.

**The NH UCC Immigrant and Refugee Support Group (IRSG) has organized to provide financial support for immigrants detained in NH.** A critical component of our work is raising money for a revolving bond fund. We also need small contributions to cover the costs of detainee phone calls and commissary expenses. Further, we are seeking funds to provide modest, short-term monthly stipends for detainees who gain release but have no other sources of financial assistance as they await their hearings. **Our Immigrant Detainee and Post Detention Support Fund depends solely on the (tax-deductible) contributions of caring and compassionate people who join us in welcoming the stranger in our midst. Here’s what your donation can do:**

- **\$1,500** provides a minimum bond for one person awaiting a hearing. Once returned, this bond amount becomes part of a revolving bond fund that can provide for others who need the same assistance.
- **\$100** provides a monthly stipend for individuals out on bond awaiting a hearing. We project that 100 such gifts annually will meet the need in New Hampshire.
- **\$25** provides for personal expenses for a month (telephone, commissary, books, photocopying) for an immigrant detained in Dover awaiting a hearing. Many such gifts will be required to meet the NH need.

Your tax-deductible contribution can be made payable to the NHCUCC at the address above with a note on your check memo line referencing the Immigrant and Refugee Support Group (IRSG). You can also contribute online through the NH Conference, UCC website (nhcucc.org). Use this link (<https://bit.ly/2GibJnx>) to get directly to the NHCUCC online donation form. Then indicate your contribution as “Other” and designate the IRSG Detention and Post-Detention Support Fund. Your gift of any size *will* make a difference.

With appreciation and gratitude,

*Nancy*

Nancy Pape, Chair  
NHCUCC Immigrant and Refugee Support Group

*Gray*

Gray Fitzgerald, Chair  
NHCUCC Justice and Witness Ministry