



SEGUIMOS ADELANTE

WHO WE ARE >> what we're doing

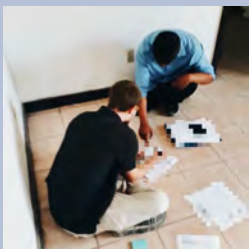
In the summer of 2019, rapid changes in US policy put thousands of migrants onto the streets of Ciudad Juárez while civil society struggled to understand what was going on. Seguimos Adelante was created to be small, nimble and present to respond to such emergencies by supporting the work of the local community and listening directly to the needs of those affected.

MEDICAL NEEDS

We are in the shelters. We know the asylum-seekers. This makes it easy for them to come to us when needs arise. Whether it be a mother whose insulin was taken from her by CBP or a single man with a new prescription he can't afford—we are there to meet those needs.

LEGAL SUPPORT & TRANSLATION

We are established as an organization that can mobilize quickly and fill many roles. When attorneys need help with pro bono asylum application workshops, they know they can call us.



When a shelter director needs a last-minute translation of a police report, she knows it is something we can handle. If an African asylum-seeker needs help understanding immigration documents in Spanish, he knows we will take the time to help.

SHELTER IMPROVEMENTS

When you are present on the ground, you see the needs more clearly. When you have friendships with those running the shelters, they know they can trust you to help. This might mean purchasing a hot water heater before winter arrives or participating in renovations to expand shelter capacity.



ASSISTANCE UPON ARRIVAL

When asylum-seekers are returned to Mexico, they often do not know what is happening nor what awaits them. We want to be there in that moment. Partnering with a project in El Paso called "Sandwiches for Migrants," we help to prepare food on the US side of the border to serve in the Mexican immigration tents where people are first returned. Whether it be food, diapers, toothbrushes or shoelaces; we don't want any of those needs to go unmet.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE BORDER...

As of December 2019, more than 56,000 migrants have been returned to Mexico under a devastating government action known as the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP).

More than 636 cases of rape, kidnapping, torture and violent assault have been officially documented against migrants returned to Mexico under MPP.

Those in MPP are not the only asylum-seekers forced to wait in Mexico. The current administration has refused to process more than a handful of asylum-seekers daily. As a result, Mexican authorities in Ciudad Juárez maintain a waiting list with the names of nearly 6,000 asylum-seekers hoping to have their asylum claims heard.

TRANSPORTATION

Whether it's a mom and daughter we are taking to a psychologist or a bus full of families joining us on a trip to a museum, transportation is a crucial part of what we do. The shelters we work with are in very remote areas, and it presents a significant danger for anyone to leave unaccompanied.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Migrants in Ciudad Juárez are among the most vulnerable people in a city officially recognized as one of the most dangerous in the world. For this reason, most families do not leave the shelters after they are sent back. They are spending months confined to small, overcrowded spaces with little to occupy their time or to give them a reprieve from focusing on their reality. In response to the requests of numerous families and shelter directors, we are focusing a great deal of our current efforts and future plans on addressing this need. By hosting events, bringing activities to shelters and supporting fellow organizations in similar efforts we have begun to lay the groundwork for the creation of small, in-shelter schools and vocational training programs.



HIGHLIGHTED PROJECT

PAINTING THE BORDER: A CHILD'S VOICE

In the first event coordinated by Seguimos Adelante, we partnered with Skidmore College (NY) and the World Organization for Peace (Ciudad Juárez) to bring children from several different shelters together to participate in a therapeutic art project. A prominent El Paso muralist donated his time to assist the children in using art as a form of expression—particularly as an avenue to express their feelings about being returned to Mexico. We explained that they would keep one of their paintings while the other would go to the US as part of a traveling exhibit intended to share their stories. It was an incredibly powerful and joy-filled event, and we look forward to seeing the impact it will continue to have.



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ONLINE: www.seguimosadelante.org

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 REACH OUT