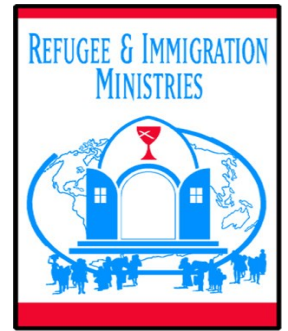




Provide Gifts for Kids & Moms from Central America Detained This Christmas!



Thank you for the incredible compassion so many of you have demonstrated with Refugee & Immigration Ministries (RIM)

throughout this year for children escaping violence in Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala. As Disciples, we have done so much together!! For the holidays, a special partnership has just been worked out between RIM, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS), and ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement) to provide gifts to children detained in a facility in Karnes City, Texas. We know that the hundreds in Karnes City are part of over 1,700 children and mothers isolated this holiday season from their families—including hundreds just transferred also to a newly opened facility in Dilley, Texas.

These little children in Karnes City and other family detention centers face medical issues, restricted movement and depression as a result of detention. We only need 300 gifts to create happy memories for these children amidst the trauma of spending Christmas in a detention center. Due to health and safety regulations, the federal government typically allows only letters to be sent to detained individuals: no packages. They are making an incredible exception to allow gifts into the facilities. Our partners have worked closely with them to determine the safest way to send presents.

Please follow the instructions below to order and ship a gift to a child in family detention. Please have your gift arrive at Good News Lutheran Church by Dec. 23 so it can be delivered to the facility by Christmas morning. Gifts that arrive by any other process will not be accepted by the ICE facility.

Here's how to order:

Go to the Amazon gift registry at: www.myregistry.com/public/hopefortheholidays. Once on the site,

1. Choose a gift.
2. Purchase the gift.
3. Enter in the church mailing address listed on the registry. *Note: The address and contact information for the church is: Good News Lutheran Church, 11020 Old Corpus Christi Hwy, San Antonio, Texas 78223. Phone: 210-213-6620. Contact: Rosemarie.* (The spelling of Highway must be Hwy to order!)
4. Return to the registry and mark your gift as purchased.

Let us know that you sent a gift by emailing our Disciples RIM office at: sstanley@dhm.disciples.org. Also, email to: visitation@lirs.org. This way, we can personally thank you and/or your church, and keep track of our Disciples participation!!

Thank you for helping to bring hope and joy to the children in detention this season. Your gifts are powerful memories to the children and mothers who cannot celebrate Christmas this year. See the next issue of *Just Women* magazine for a story about Family Detention, and contact:

Rev. Sharon Stanley-Rea, Director,
Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries
sstanley@dhm.disciples.org, 202-957-7826 (cell or text)

for questions, or to receive further information about children in detention and other immigration issues.

