



Exploring the AMMPARO Asylum Seeker Project

What is an Asylum Seeker?

- **Asylum seekers** are seeking refugee or protected status and protection due to **persecution** or a **well-founded fear of persecution** for reasons of **race, religion, nationality, political opinion** or **membership in a particular social group** in their home countries.
- In the United States, when asylum seekers receive this protected status, they are known as **asylees**.

How Refugees & Asylum Seekers Differ

Refugees

- Experienced persecution or well-founded fear of persecution
- Flee to another country where they register as UN refugees; often are in a refugee camp or are urban refugees; are vetted by the UN and the country that will resettle them;
- After they enter the US, they get their Social Security cards & work authorization within a few weeks

Asylum Seekers

- Experienced persecution or well-founded fear of persecution
- Apply for asylum within one year of being in the US
- Find a lawyer who will submit their case
- 1 year after filing the case, the lawyer can file for work authorization for the asylum seeker



Currently, Asylum Seekers coming to the Southern Border of the US...

- Come from many countries, e.g., in Central America, South America, Africa, Asia
- Thousands of asylum seekers have been brought to Mexico in line with the year-old policy, Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP), nicknamed “Remain in Mexico.” Asylum seekers have had to wait outside of the US for the duration of their immigration proceedings. President Biden has just started processing the 25,000 active cases of those in MPP & has stopped enrolling new asylum seekers in the program.



One of Mexico's Largest Migrant
Camps in Matamoros

Some Asylum Seekers have been deported to their countries or to a Central American country





Some asylum seekers are in detention centers in the US



And Some in
Border
Shelters

We have the opportunity to help through the

AMMPARO Asylum Seeker Sponsorship Project

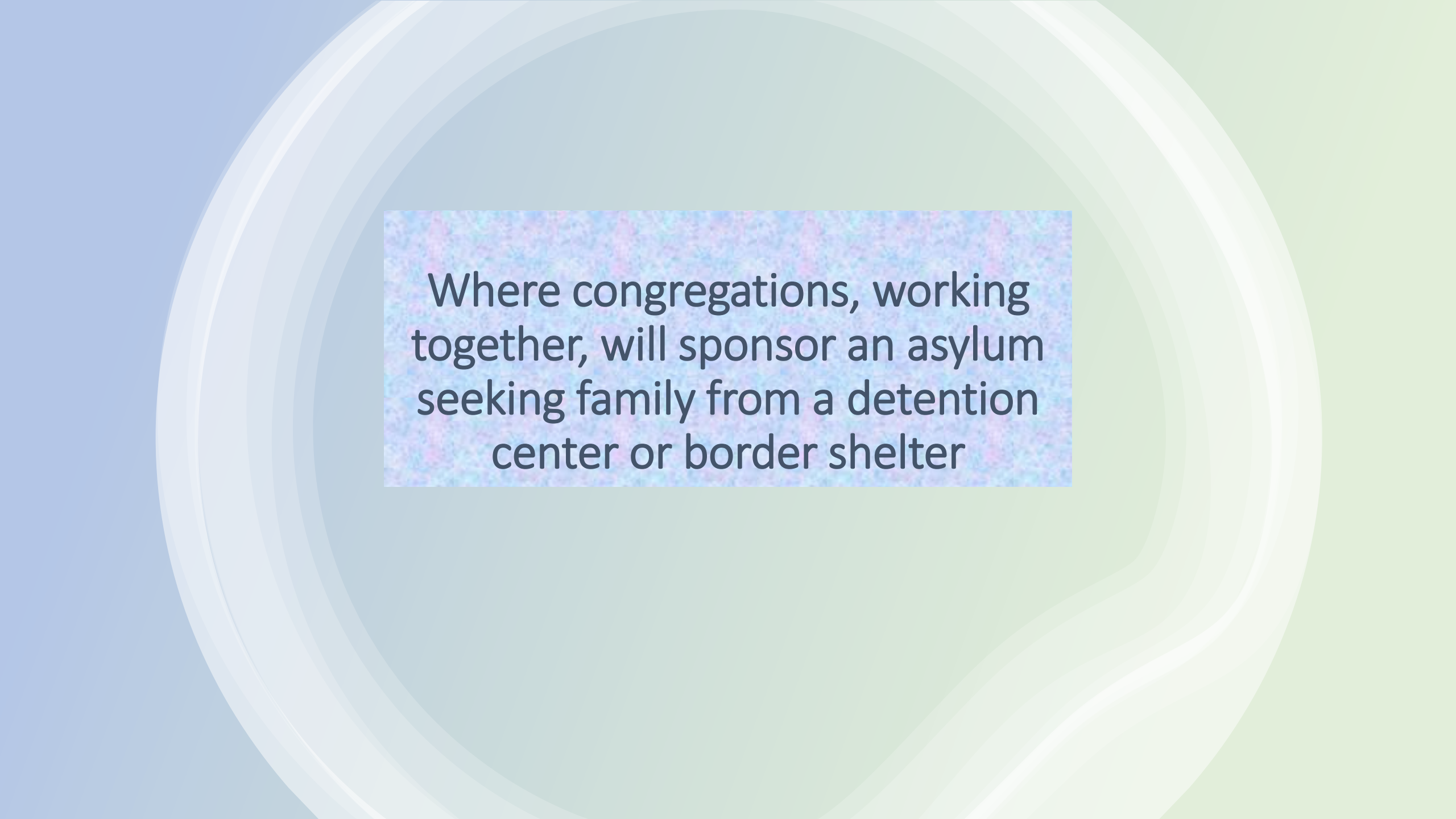


ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) AMMPARO
(Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy,
Representation & Opportunities)



Episcopal Migration Ministries

Lutheran Family
Services Rocky
Mountains

The background features a series of concentric circles in shades of blue, green, and white, creating a tunnel-like effect. In the center, there is a rectangular box with a colorful, pixelated pattern. Inside this box, the text is displayed in a dark blue, sans-serif font.

Where congregations, working
together, will sponsor an asylum
seeking family from a detention
center or border shelter

Our identity, as God's people, includes “Welcoming the Stranger”

Abraham, at the Oaks of Mamre, entertained 3 strangers, one of whom was the LORD. Gen. 18: 1-15

The Good Samaritan, a foreigner, is the one who stops to take care of the beaten-up Jewish person. Luke 10:29-37


Grain on the edges of the fields are saved for the gleaners, the poor & the alien, to harvest & eat. Ruth 2, Lev. 19:9-10.

In Jesus' first sermon, He recalled that:

There were many widows in Israel, but Elijah was sent only to a widow in Zarephath in Sidon, a foreign place. Luke 4:26

Although there were many lepers in Israel, Elisha cured only the leper in Syria, Naaman. Luke 4:27.

After Jesus spoke, people were enraged. They drove him out of the temple & intended to hurl him off a cliff. Luke 4 2:28-30.

The background features a series of concentric circles in light gray, some solid and some dashed, creating a ripple effect. A large blue speech bubble with a pointed bottom is centered on the page. Inside the bubble, the text is white and reads: "Historically, from Biblical days on, reaching out to foreigners & being welcoming of strangers raised up opposition." Below the bubble, the text "Especially In our days now, this may also occur." is written in bold black font.

Historically, from Biblical days on, reaching out to foreigners & being welcoming of strangers raised up opposition.

Especially In our days now, this may also occur.

But throughout the Old and New Testaments, “*Do not be afraid,*” is said to Abraham, Ruth, Zachariah, Mary, the shepherds, & the people.

How is God speaking to us today?

What does sponsorship entail for St. Peter's?

Overview

- Building a protective shell to support the asylee(s) for up to a year
- Preparation and planning
- Gathering partners, volunteers, supporters, and funds
- Building blocks: Transportation to sponsor, Housing, Food, clothing, Health care, social support/case management, legal assistance
- Decide if and when the sponsoring organization(s) are ready

Who and How?

- Family, congregation, volunteers, supporters
- For volunteers and partners, CORI, auto insurance coverage, racial justice and cross-cultural training, gathering resources and funds (AMMPARO grants up to 5k/yr)
- Flexibility to move within 2 weeks upon notification of arrival
- Create a detailed budget, and modify once culture and origin of asylee is learned

Planning and Budgeting

- Housing Possibilities (consider furnishing, utilities, laundry, cooking)
 - Church or Parish property?
 - Rental apartment – market?
 - In-law apartment rental?
 - Unused second home? Season matters
 - Room(s) in volunteer's home?
 - House or condo rental?
 - Support local relatives who want to sponsor but lack resources and support
- Budget? Income sources?
- Contingency Planning
- Resources to ready housing and pledges of support
- Food/groceries
- Clothing (seasonal costs)
- School supplies
- Transportation
 - To site from border
 - To/from court and legal
 - Local
- Incidental expenses
- Recreation / fun
- Adult education, ESL
- Health Care

Next Steps?

- Do some more research / exploration
 - Concrete look at housing options
 - Identification of easy partners, volunteers, resources
 - Legal resources and cost / distance?
 - Attend April Sponsorship Trainings
 - Other?
- Return to JustPeace Team - Timeframe
- Reach out to NIA ? At next NIA meeting– look for partners?
- Proposal to Church Council