

Indiana AID

THE INSIDE VIEW

October 1, 2022 / Vol 1

Arturo's Story*

**The name has been changed to protect the author's identity and the story is translated from the original Spanish.*

I came here to the US in 2006. It wasn't for fun; I was threatened by evil people. I didn't say anything to my family until I got to this country in July 2006. I then told my brother to file a police report so that, if anything happened to me, they would know. It's very sad; I have not been problematic, I've worked in the fields. I will continue fighting to see what happens.

For this same reason I returned to this country when they deported me. For right now, I might try to look for another country where I can go and be able to help my family, but I still don't know what will happen because one can plan but God wills it. It's very difficult in my situation but I will try to see what happens. I am not grieved by anything

Continued on page 2 -->

Monthly Report

In future issues, we plan to offer an update on our expenditures and activities from the past month, but because this is the first issue, this covers January - September 2022

- Over 100 virtual visits made by volunteers, which cost approximately \$1,400
- Over \$15,000 spent on commissary items (such as coffee and ibuprofen)
- Over \$1,500 spent to purchase books

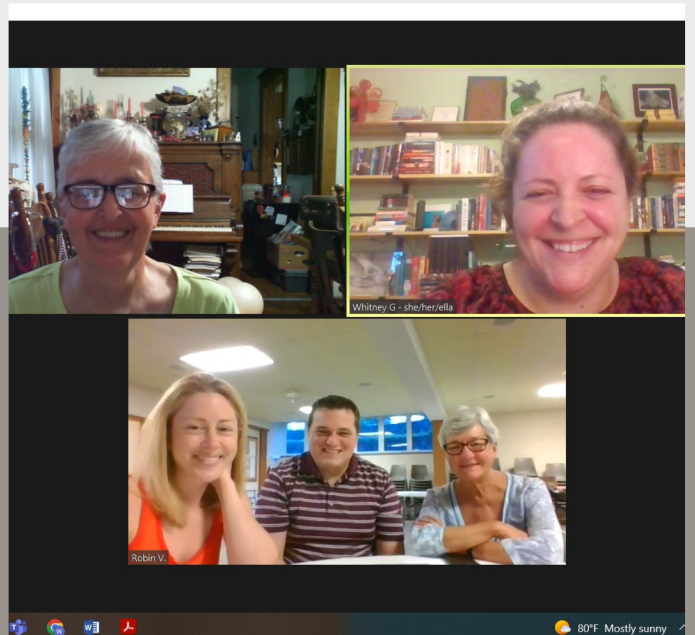
First Issue

When an undocumented immigrant is arrested by ICE in the state of Indiana, anywhere from Evansville to Fort Wayne, they are usually sent to the only jail in our state authorized to detain immigrants long-term: the Clay County jail in Brazil, IN (pictured above). This jail is located in a rural county of western Indiana that is far from the urban centers where most of the people there live. There are very few staff members who speak the languages of the

people there, very few legal or educational resources, and very limited options for visitation. At the Clay County jail, immigrants are isolated from the rest of the world.

This newsletter is designed to change that. The Inside View is committed to informing the public about what is happening in immigration in Indiana and, more importantly, to give voice to the people detained at the Clay County jail. Simply by reading this newsletter, you are reducing the isolation these people experience - so thank you and read on!

~ Pastor Brian Bither



Continued from page 1 -->

because I don't have a problem in my country but things happen because of the time we live in right now and some people don't want to work.

I have gone through many difficult things as, at this time, I am about to lose my family. I am the father of 4 children who, thank God, are here but with my wife. I am going through a very hard crisis for the time that I've been in jail since I was detained due to alcohol in September 2018 for two years. I was deported in October 2021 and it was very hard for me to return in January 2022. They gave me another 21-month sentence and now I will be deported again. I stay sad to once again not be able to see my family or help them, due to the alcohol. For that reason, I now value myself, my family, and all those who surround me because here one loses everything. It's very sad for each one of us going through this.

I am now a different person with good thoughts and I will continue on the good path. I will fight, though I am far from loved ones, and I will try to help other people who are going through what I am feeling during this time.

Immigration Snapshots

National Snapshot

- The "Remain in Mexico" policy - a dangerous policy which required asylum-seekers from Central America to remain in Mexico, where they faced significant danger, to await their immigration court date - has finally ended.
- DHS issued a final rule that preserves and fortifies the DACA policy for some immigrants who arrived in the United States as children. This rule provides them a renewable work permit and staves off deportation.

Regional Snapshot

- ICDI (The Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants), which was the largest visitation program in the Midwest, ended its visitation programs this summer after the "Way Forward Act" took effect earlier in the year and ended all immigration detention in Illinois.
- The Clay County jail in Indiana is moving forward with plans to expand its contract with ICE and more than triple its capacity to detain immigrants there. Crews are planning to break ground in early October 2022.
- A new immigration court is set to open in Indianapolis in 2023 to help address the 40,000-case backlog of immigration cases in Indiana and around the country. This will also make the court more accessible for many Indiana residents.

Volunteer

Currently, our greatest needs are for...

- Spanish-speaking visitation partners
- Financial support
- Volunteer drivers (add your name to an "on call" list to consider transportation requests)
- Website and social media specialists

Contact Us

- Email: indianaaid.contact@gmail.com
- Phone (voicemail only): 317-721-4044
- Donate: <https://www.indianaaid.org/donate>