

Rincon UCC Migrant Shelter Proposal FAQs

January 2019

What is the primary goal of this ministry?

The primary purpose of this ministry is to provide humanitarian aid to legal asylum seekers who have come from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and are on their way to their sponsors in various parts of the country. ICE releases families to the streets of Tucson and other cities without money, housing, transportation or the ability to make phone calls.

We offer a safe environment which provides a comfortable place to sleep, warm and nutritious food, the opportunity for children to play and unwind, and the ability to communicate with loved ones back home and sponsors around the country. All of this enables these families to take the next step on their journeys, usually within 2-4 days.

What specifically have we accomplished through this ministry so far?

We have provided these services to close to 600 people in the time that our shelter has been open. This includes infants, toddlers, children, teens, and adults. This is a tremendous accomplishment. In addition, we have been one of the most efficient shelters in Southern Arizona, helping people move quickly to their sponsors' homes. This is important for their legal cases as well as often reuniting them with family already in the United States.

In addition, many of our volunteers report that this has been a powerful part of their spirituality during this time. We are being transformed by helping others.

Is a migrant ministry now the main focus of Rincon's mission?

The migrant ministry is one of Rincon's programs. In addition to educational and social programs, we do many things to help those in need, such as making sandwiches for the homeless, supporting programs for people with HIV/AIDS in Arizona, creating comforting shawls, visiting the sick and more. We also focus on the environment with our Creation Care ministry. It is our hope that providing shelter services on a regular basis means that the program operates less on an emergency basis and more as part of our overall ministry.

Are those we are serving in this country legally?

All of our guests in the migrant shelter are legally seeking asylum in the United States. They are in the beginning stages of a process which will hopefully end with their permanent legal residency in this country.

Are our guests able to leave our property?

Yes, they are free to come and go as they wish. We are simply offering them hospitality.

Are we able to get enough volunteers, donations, and funds to support this ministry?

Yes, we have been blessed by incredible generosity on the part of our members, friends, and the wider community. The scaled-down shelter described in this proposal will require fewer

volunteers and resources than what we were providing in the fall, ensuring that we can readily meet these needs on an on-going basis. We have sufficient money in the bank to fund this program for six months even if we did not receive any other donations. However, people continue to contact us to find out how they can donate to this program, so we anticipate receiving additional resources.

We suggest the following budget for 6 months of operations:

Item	Amount
Personnel	
Shelter Manager salary	9,000
Employment expenses (taxes etc).	2,000
Infrastructure	
Building repair	250
Insurance	320
Equipment	1,000
Cleaning	1,200
Utilities	3,000
Supplies	
Food	4,800
Office/Bath supplies	600
Transportation	1,000
Stipends (for migrants)	1,800
Training	200
Miscellaneous/unplanned	1,000
Total	\$ 26,170

What are the key changes we would make in the future?

This time of reflection and planning has enabled us to make a number of changes. The main changes would be:

- The hiring of a staff person to manage the logistics of the shelter;
- A smaller shelter that operates on a regular basis, allowing us to focus more on the needs of each guest and making it easier to plan for food, transportation and other needs;
- Designating specific areas for the shelter that allow greater safety and privacy for our guests, without interfering with church programming;
- Specific job descriptions for various aspects of shelter management and new policies to ensure greater safety for volunteers and guests;
- Other enhancements, such as bilingual information sheets for volunteers and guests.