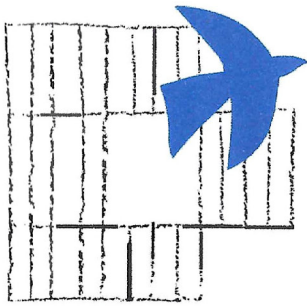




JUNE 2025

Northern New Jersey Sanctuary Coalition

ANOTHER STEP IN THE JOURNEY

Z., Laura Bloom & Ruby Cribbin

It is always a surprise and a celebration when one of our clients is granted asylum. This happened on April 11, 2025, when Z., one of our clients, received asylum.

Newly arrived immigrants have one year from their date of entrance to file a petition for asylum. Often this deadline is missed for various reasons, such as, all written information is in English, finding a place to live and a job seem more pressing, meeting the criteria needed, lack of assistance from a lawyer. Applying for asylum is an important step for an immigrant since it offers a path forward to citizenship.

We are grateful Z. was able to move through the asylum process to a happy outcome. We offer our congratulations and continued support.

Z., congratulations on being granted asylum. We know your journey has not been an easy one. Would you be willing to share just a little of your story of coming here?

I was born on October 1, 1997, in Santiago de Cuba. I have a daughter C. who came with me to the United States on August 22, 2022. We passed through Nicaragua, Honduras, and Mexico. We applied for asylum in the United States because we are afraid to return to the repressive regime of Cuba.

On November 25, 2016, I had the worst moment of my life. Because of torture by the government, I lost a baby. That is to say, I was five months pregnant when I was beaten. From then on, the repression was even worse. They were mistreating my daughter in school. They didn't let her participate in any school activities and were citing her for various things. So, I decided we had to escape to the United States and left the country.

I am afraid to return to Cuba. They will detain and imprison me.

I am so sorry you had to experience such struggles. When you came here, were you aware of the process for asylum?

Yes, I knew I had to apply. At first, I was nervous about going to court for my check-ins. Gradually, I became more at peace and realized what I had to do.

Did you have any help in making the application for asylum?

Yes, I was very lucky. I have a lawyer from AFSC (American Friends Service Committee). He has been very helpful to me all along the way and in completing my application.

Now that asylum has been granted you can look to the future. How has this influenced any plans you have?

Yes. I can look to the future now. I see the need to have more training. I would like to go to school and become a licensed manicurist.

Thank you so much, Z., for your sharing. We hope your plan will be realized and we will be there to support the hope you have for your daughter and yourself.

Laura, would you like to add anything? You have been accompanying Z. and her daughter for a long time.

It came as a total surprise to me that Z. and C. were granted asylum. I knew that Z. had a court date which I assumed was for a check-in. Given the current climate, I was fearful she might return with an ankle bracelet or get detained. I planned to accompany her to court but discovered I wouldn't be permitted into the courtroom. When Z.'s husband told me that they were granted asylum, I thought he was mistaken. I hadn't known that this appointment was their asylum hearing since all of my other clients have had to wait years longer for their day in court. Now, with asylum, Z. no longer has to have "check-ins" at court and can apply for her green card in one year which brings her closer to obtaining citizenship. I am happy for this wonderful surprise and thrilled for Z. and C, her daughter.

Thank you, Laura, for your reflection and for your continued accompaniment of Z. and C.



Filling out the Power of Attorney Form: Helping Immigrant Families Protect and Care for Their Children

Emily Filardo

We in the immigrant support community, and our immigrant neighbors and partners have become aware of the value of “Know Your Rights” information and trainings. These guide people on their rights if approached by ICE or other government agents in various situations – at home, on the street, in their cars, at work, at or near schools and places of worship.

An additional part of supporting and preparing our immigrant neighbors is to help them plan and fill out a Power of Attorney form for each of their children. This is a legal form that designates a person to serve as “Attorney in Fact” for their child. By doing so, the parent gives temporary authority to a trusted person to care for or make decisions for their child or children if the parent is unable to do so because they have been detained. Designating someone as “Attorney in Fact” does not give that person custody or parental rights. The “Attorney in Fact” is simply an alternative caregiver who can act on behalf of the parent and care for the child, temporarily, until the parent can resume caregiving.



Filling out the Power of Attorney form is not complicated. However, this is a painful subject and needs to be approached with sensitivity, and preferably in the context of a relationship of some trust. The process of deciding who will be designated to care for their children can be emotionally complicated. It requires planning and conversations between the parent and the person potentially entrusted with that role.

Here are some things that parents need to know about how to use the Power of Attorney form to designate someone as an “Attorney in Fact.” 1- No attorney is needed in order to fill out the form. 2- The parent must fill out a separate form for each child. However, the same trusted person can serve as “Attorney in Fact” for more than one child. 3- Only one parent is required to sign – not both parents. 4- The form must be notarized. 5- There must be two witnesses, and neither of the witnesses can be the person being designated as “Attorney in Fact.” The “Attorney in Fact” should keep the original of the Power of Attorney form.

To prepare the trusted person to take on this role of temporary caregiver, the parent should put together a set of documents and keep them together in one place. The trusted caregiver needs to be able to access those documents. (This might mean having a key to the parent’s home.) These documents would include 1- the name or names and contact information of their chosen “Attorney or Attorneys in Fact” and copies of the Power of Attorney forms; 2- all documents related to the family members’ citizenship/immigration process in the US or elsewhere -- such as birth certificates, passports, IDs, drivers licenses, immigration court papers; 3- lists of places their children might be, such as school, day care, after school programs, sports teams; 4- A phone chain that can be started up if necessary to reach people who would need to be contacted or can help in the event the parent is detained.

Although the source is ICE, a useful sample POA form may be found online in a packet from June 2021: https://www.ice.gov/doclib/foia/policy/delegateParentalAuthorityPacket_Jun2021.pdf

NEWS & NOTES

We had changes of home for three of our clients in the last weeks.

- C. from Haiti connected with two cousins and their two children to rent a second-floor apartment in a home in Rahway. This made it possible for C. and her seven - month - old daughter to move from their one room to a home with more space.
- L. from Nicaragua is able to rent a small basement apartment in Jersey City. She is still close to buses to New York where she works.
- J. and O. from Ecuador and their two children are receiving rental assistance from NNJSC. The apartment where they lived became unsafe due to drug trafficking. They are now living on the fourth floor of an apartment in Irvington. Unfortunately, since there is no elevator, the three flights of stairs are a workout.

OTHER NEWS

In March, Baby A. was baptized into the Community of L’Eglise Communion de la Manne Evangelique d’Haiti. We offer her our best wishes.

Board Members Ruby and Jon, with his wife Pat, were interfaith guests at the Grand Iftar. The event in Teaneck was organized by the Eid Committee of NJ. It was attended by over 600 people including members of various local organizations (like NNJSC) and local elected leaders, and included prayers, awards, a challenging speaker and a festive meal.



In mid-May, Ruby, along with six representatives of other organizations focused on immigration, spoke at the Peaceworks meeting. Each group presented on their Mission and the challenges they face in the present environment. The hope is to raise awareness and generate involvement and collaboration.



ADVOCACY NEWS

• Because of the numerous activities and decisions concerning immigrants, there have been many rallies and demonstrations. NNJSC has been involved in the following events:

• On April 5th, members of the Board joined over 2000 other participants in the National Hands-Off protest in Teaneck to support immigrants.

• As a continual reminder, several Members of the Board attend a weekly demonstration at the Teaneck Municipal Green to protest the present administration's policies, especially about immigration and its disregard for democracy and justice.

• Members joined the evening rally in Elizabeth to protest the possibility of selling the former Union County Jail to a private prison corporation for use as a 1000 bed detention center for immigrants.

• Beginning May 1st, early morning protests (6:30 – 8:30) were held at Delaney Hall, even in the rain, to question the legality of opening the facility as a detention center for immigrants.

• Since the confrontation with the Mayor of Newark and county officials, there are protestors each day at Delaney Hall to oversee the activities of the privately operated detention center.

• Participants in some of these events include Board Members Annette, Judy, Laura, Lisa and husband Ron, Jon and wife Pat, Ruby and Sally and volunteers Emily and Michaelene, Friends Allison, Adam, Bruno, Sue, Kathy from Pax Christi, Laura and Will from First Friends NJ, NY, Shayam, Terry and Jean from Americans for Immigration, Wendy from Peaceworks.



SAVE THE DATE
WELCOME THE STRANGER GALA
OCTOBER 19, 2025 4-7PM

Temple Emeth, Teaneck, NJ
Honoring Gladys Miller-Rosenstein
Executive Director, Board of Directors of
The Puffin Foundation
Gladys is a lifelong promoter of
Tolerance and Peace.

THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THE NEWSLETTER ARE THOSE OF THE WRITERS AND ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF NNJSC AS AN ORGANIZATION

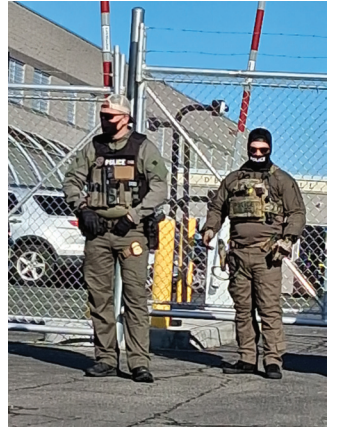
** For the safety of our clients we will no longer use their names.

THREE VIEWS OF DELANEY HALL *Jon Moscow*

From Geo, the private prison operators of Delaney Hall

BOCA RATON, Fla.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Feb. 27, 2025-- The GEO Group, Inc. (NYSE: GEO) announced today that it has been awarded a 15-year, fixed-price contract by [ICE] to provide support services for the establishment of a federal immigration processing center at the company-owned, 1,000-bed Delaney Hall Facility . . . in Newark, NJ. The new support services contract is expected to generate in excess of \$60 million in annualized revenues for GEO in the first full year of operations. . . GEO estimates the 15-year value of the contract with normal cost of living adjustments to be approximately \$1 billion. . . "We are pleased with the progress we have made towards meeting our growth and capital allocation objectives. . . ."

" George C. Zoley, Executive Chairman of GEO.



The view from a detainee's aunt; the Guatemalan detainee came to the U.S after the family lost everything when a volcano erupted, destroying the entire town. "I don't understand how or why this happened. . . . My nephew's never, ever done anything to hurt anyone. He's a good person. His only crime is being undocumented. . . . All we, Latinos, do is come here to work, to work hard, to try to give our families a better life. That's all my nephew was doing, too. . . . He can barely drink the water [in Delaney Hall] because it tastes funky, kind of like it has too much chlorine. And he's told me his daily meals consist of Maruchan ramen noodles and old, stale crackers."

The view from a professor whose student's husband was detained

The husband of one of [her] top students was taken [to Delaney Hall] after being stopped by ICE in an unmarked car. "The agents said her husband matched the description of someone they were looking for and then just took him away," she says. Her student's husband, a 23-year-old native of Colombia, told the officers he wasn't who they were searching for and showed them his license. But [she] says "they still took his car keys from him and dragged him away." Both views are from Daysi Calavia-Robertson, "Uber driver stuck in controversial N.J. ICE center reveals what it's really like inside," NJ Advance Media 5/19/2025

For how you can join the fight against detention and deportations, email info@nnjsanctuary.org.

HOSTING *Sally Cummings*

NNJSC was founded on a model in which asylum seekers (clients) live in a host individual or family's home. Hosts provide housing and, in many cases, food for the client. NNJSC provides stipends to both the host and the client. Hosts and guests work out what arrangements work best for them and sign a renewable six-month agreement, although it can be ended earlier if it isn't working for either of them. Since the pandemic, NNJSC has placed fewer clients with hosts and increasingly is subsidizing clients' rent in their own apartments. However, the host model is still our ideal, where it is feasible. The host is never left alone to fend for themselves. A volunteer board "buddy" assists the client. The host may take on as much or little responsibility as they like. Most hosts report that it is very rewarding, and in many cases, have established long-term friendships. We have recently had two host/client pairings but we welcome more!

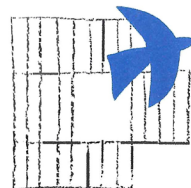
For more information about becoming a host, please fill out the form under "Volunteer" on our website. nnjsanctuary.org or email us at info@nnjsanctuary.org.

Mission Statement

Motivated by the belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every person and the need for social justice, the NNJSC offers compassion, support, and accompaniment to persons seeking asylum, and advocacy for all immigrants.

Practices

Among the services the coalition provides are housing, medical care, financial support, transportation, ESL instruction, educational opportunities, and contact with a social worker and/or caseworker.



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Donations may be made online at www.njsanctuary.org and are tax deductible.