

Immigration and Criminal Justice
April 19-24, 2008
Participants: 13
Leaders: Ben Harville and Ivan Anguamea
Emergency Phone Numbers:
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Sunday, April 19

All arrived by 5:00pm

5:00pm Introductions and Orientation at Borderlinks

6:00pm Dinner at Borderlinks

****Overnight Borderlinks*

Monday, April 20

8:00am Breakfast at Borderlinks

9:00am The "Legal Immigration Simulation"

The Legal Immigration Simulation is an interactive activity that allows participants to understand various challenges encountered by would-be immigrants as they attempt to apply for a legal path to US citizenship.

9:45am Pack van

10:00am Leave for Nogales

11:00am Desert Walk with Debbi and Ed McCullough

Debbi McCullough is a local mixed-media artist and activist who raises awareness about social justice issues on the border through her work. She is on the BorderLinks board of directors, and is very involved with the Samaritans, a faith-based group that provides humanitarian aid in the desert.

12:00pm Sack Lunch in desert

3:00pm Visit with officers from the Nogales, Arizona Police Department

5:00pm Arrive homestays

6:00pm Dinner with homestay families

****Overnight homestays*

Tuesday, April 21

7:30am Breakfast with homestay families

8:30am Pack van

9:00am Visit Repatriated Minors shelter

A shelter for children ages 1 day to 17 years. They house many children especially between the ages of 14-17 who attempt to cross the border alone in search of work to support their families or to reunite with parents already in the United States. The Shelter for Repatriated Minors is a place where they go if they are unable to locate relatives to claim custody. They also care for children who have been mistreated in their homes or are living on the streets.

11:00am Tour of the Nuevo Nogales industrial park

The industrial park is comprised of a group of maquiladoras, foreign-owned manufacturing plants established under the Border Industrialization Program and NAFTA that use Mexican labor to produce goods for export. Usually, their taxes and tariffs are minimal.

12:00pm Lunch

1:00pm Grupos Beta

Grupos Beta is a federally funded agency that offers basic services to migrants in Mexico. There are approximately 17 groups scattered along both the northern border with the U.S. and the southern border with Guatemala. Grupos Beta offer migrants who are heading north information on the desert and its dangers as well as their rights once they cross into the U.S. They also offer limited shelter and food to repatriated migrants and work with the Mexican consulates in the U.S. to locate missing people or to coordinate rescue missions.

2:30pm Visit to the border wall

Construction of the border wall in Nogales began in 1994 with Operation Safeguard, part of an effort to seal the areas around urban ports of entry by increasing security features such as physical barriers, technological surveillance, and Border Patrol and military staffing. The 14-foot wall is built out of reused landing strip materials from the Gulf War and has become a site for public art and less formal personal expression.

3:30pm Buy breakfast and collect information for the Market Basket Survey

4:30pm Arrive at the Casa de la Misericordia, Casa tour

BorderLinks, which is a bi-national organization, has the Casa de la Misericordia as its center in Nogales, Sonora. The Casa was incorporated into the BorderLinks Organization in 2001, and has become a very important ministry of service and education for the people of Nogales. Some of the programs offered at the Casa include adult education and training classes and the Child Food Security Program, which provides lunch to children and education for their families on nutrition and gardening (through the on-site garden). The Casa is also home to a women's cooperative that produces jewelry that raises awareness about deaths in the desert. Facilities at the Casa make it possible to host delegations there while visiting Nogales, as well as youth conferences and other groups from throughout the region.

6:00pm Dinner at the Casa

7:00pm Calculate the Market Basket Survey

A participatory activity that demonstrates the cost of living in Nogales, Sonora, and many border cities in comparison with the United States. It takes into account prices of goods and buying power.

****Overnight Casa*

Wednesday, April 22

7:00am Breakfast Casa

7:30am Pack van

8:00am Get in border line

10:00am Arrive Tucson

10:30am Talk with Nina Rabin from the University of Arizona

Nina Rabin, J.D. moved to Tucson in 2006 and joined the Southwest Institute for Research on Women as Director of Border Research. In January, 2009 she was one of the authors of "Unseen Prisoners: A Report on Women in Immigration Detention Facilities in Arizona," a report that documents widespread violations of the rights of women in immigration detention. It recommends actions at the local and national levels to address the detention facilities' noncompliance with applicable standards and laws.

- 12:00pm Lunch at Borderlinks
- 1:30pm Visit to Federal Courthouse to witness Operation Streamline
Operation Streamline, which began in Tucson in January of 2008, is a zero-tolerance program targeting illegal entrants apprehended along the Arizona border with Mexico. Based on other initiatives begun in Del Rio, Texas and Yuma, AZ, the initiative aims to process 100 migrants with misdemeanors and deport them, thus setting the stage for stiffer and longer penalties for repeat offenders.
- 3:00pm Talk with Federal Public Defender about Operation Streamline
- 5:30pm Dinner at Borderlinks
- 6:30pm Reflection
 ***Overnight Borderlinks

Thursday, April 23

- 7:00am Breakfast Borderlinks
- 8:00am Visit to the day labor program at Southside Presbyterian Church
The Day Labor Program runs daily out of Southside Presbyterian Church, helping to connect workers, many of them Spanish-speaking immigrants, with employers. The primary functions of the program are to ensure that workers receive fair wages, prevent workers from being taken advantage of due to lack of documentation, and inform workers of their rights. It is volunteer-run and seeks to promote the development of leadership among the participants.
- 10:00am Pack van
- 10:30am Leave for Florence
- 12:00pm Sack Lunch in Florence
- 1:00pm Meet with Kara Hartzler of the Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Program (FIRRP)
The Florence Project is a nonprofit legal service organization that provides free legal services to men, women and children detained by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), formerly known as the INS. Although the government assists indigent criminal defendants and civil litigants through public defenders and legal aid attorneys, it does not provide attorneys for people facing deportation charges. As a result, 90 percent of the detained people go unrepresented due to poverty. The Florence Project strives to address this inequity both locally and nationally.
- 3:30pm Visit with Alessandra Soler Meetze, Executive Director of ACLU of Arizona
Alessandra Soler Meetze is the first Latina to head the Arizona ACLU. The ACLU of Arizona was formed and officially chartered by the national organization 45 years ago. Since that time, they have fought to defend individual rights in Arizona through litigation, legislation, and public education.
- 6:00pm Dinner
 ***Overnight PHX

Friday, April 24

- 7:30am Breakfast
- 9:00am Visit to the "Tent City" Jail in Phoenix
The Tents Jail was begun in 1993 when Sheriff Joe Arpaio was able to obtain some surplus military tents. These tents were set up in an area adjacent to one of the existing Maricopa County Jails in Phoenix, Arizona. .The Tents Jail can currently hold up to 2,000 inmates. Sheriff Arpaio has added two Sky Watch Towers for security, stun fences around the perimeter, and facial recognition computer software for inmate identification. K-9 units and patrol deputies have been added for additional security.

11:00am

3:00pm Talk with Danielle Alvarado from No More Deaths

*Since 2006, **No More Deaths**, with members of other Southern Arizona humanitarian organizations, has sent hundreds of volunteers to work in aid stations and resource centers in Northern Mexico and support people after they are repatriated or deported to the other side of the border. These volunteers have heard thousands of stories of abuse of migrants while detained by the Department of Homeland Security, which have been compiled in to a report presented at a Congressional hearing in Washington, DC, last fall. The organization intends to continue working in coalition with other groups concerned with migrant well-being and dignity to petition for the successful implementation of standards of care while in short-term U.S. custody.*

5:30pm Dinner Borderlinks

6:30pm Final reflection

****Overnight Borderlinks*

Saturday, April 25

All participants leave