

## Catholic Racial Justice Coalition: MAY 2025

### RESOURCES for the Immigrant/Refugee Community & Allies

#### IMMIGRANT-LED ORGANIZATIONS – community organizing & advocacy

**UNIDOS:** <https://unidos-mn.org/our-story>

Emilia Gonzalez, Executive Director, Representative – Bob Kell

Our issues: Immigration, Education, Environmental Justice and Participatory Democracy. Our campaigns' common goal is *honoring the inherent dignity and worth of all human beings regardless of age, race, class, gender identity, dis/ability and/or immigration status*. We are accountable for one another and our community.

info@unidos-mn.org  
1515 E Lake St, #202  
Minneapolis, MN 55407  
(612) 231-9719

**PUEBLOS:** <https://pdlye.org>

We are a coalition of leaders and volunteers in Minnesota, South Dakota and North Dakota converging in synergy to create spaces for voice, services and social justice for the immigrant community.

Executive Director: Karla Arredondo (maternity leave until Aug, 2025)

Contact: Myrna Garcia

**MIRAC:** <https://www.miracmn.com>

MIRAC is an all-volunteer, grassroots, multiracial, and multinational immigrant rights mass-movement organization. MIRAC fights for legalization for all, an end to immigration raids and deportations, an end to all anti-immigrant laws, and full equality in all areas of life.

**COPAL:** <https://copalmn.org>

COPAL, *Comunidades Organizando el Poder y la Acción Latina*, is a member-based organization established in 2018 to improve the quality of life of Latine families. Over the past seven years, COPAL has evolved to become a well-known, grassroots power-building, and visionary transnational organization.

**ASAMBLEA de DERECHOS CIVILES: on Facebook**

A statewide, faith-based non-profit organization which organizes to build power for changes in the immigration system and the underlying systems behind it. Based in Minnesota, affiliated with the National GAMALIEL Network.

#### RESOURCES, SERVICES, ADVOCACY for immigrants and refugees

**ACCOLA:** <https://www.accolamn.org>

Accola grew out of the work of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. Its name is derived from Latin and translates to "neighbor." Just as good neighbors look out for one another, Accola responds to the needs of our communities, addressing pressing issues with empathy and action.

- **Learning in style school**

Providing quality education in English, math, computers, and citizenship for adult immigrants.

- **Sarah's... an oasis for women**

Offering a safe home, dignity, resources, and support for a diverse community of immigrant women healing from trauma.

- **Wisdom ways Center for Spirituality**

Offering workshops, classes, and community gatherings that explore and promote the intersection of spirituality and the pursuit of social justice.

## **THE ADVOCATES**

Representative - Michele Garnett McKenzie, Interim Co-Executive Director

With the help of more than 1000 volunteers, The Advocates for Human Rights works to protect the human rights of people seeking asylum, trafficking survivors, children facing immigration cases alone, and people in immigration detention. Volunteers provide legal representation, monitor immigration court hearings, conduct client intake, greet clients in the office, and interpret and translate in many languages.

Client Representation - The Advocates for Human Rights

Immigration Court Monitoring - The Advocates for Human Rights

Intake Volunteer - The Advocates for Human Rights

Receptionist - The Advocates for Human Rights

Interpreting & Translating - The Advocates for Human Rights

Give Online - The Advocates for Human Rights

## **BRAVER ANGELS: <https://braverangels.org/immigration>**

Bringing Americans together to bridge the partisan divide and strengthen our democratic republic.

## **CITY of MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE of IMMIGRANT and REFUGEE AFFAIRS**

Michelle Rivero, Director

[Michelle.rivero@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Michelle.rivero@minneapolismn.gov)

T: 612-394-6018

## **CITY of ST PAUL IMMIGRANT and REFUGEE PROGRAM**

Edmundo Lijo, Director

[Edmundo.lij@ci.stpaul.gov/immigration-resources](mailto:Edmundo.lij@ci.stpaul.gov/immigration-resources)

T: 651-266-8753

## **CONVERSATIONS WITH FRIENDS (CWF)**

Representative – Steve Kraemer, Executive director

Conversations with Friends (CWF) is a dedicated, humanitarian, all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose members write weekly pen-pal letters and send cards to people detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in the Freeborn County Adult Detention Center (Albert Lea), Kandiyohi County Jail (Willmar), and Sherburne County Jail (Elk River). In addition, we make modest commissary deposits; provide 'Dignity' backpacks for those who have been ordered deported; provide Safe Release services to people who have been released and need assistance reaching their final destination; and visit people detained by ICE at the Freeborn County Adult Detention Center. For more information, please see our Programs page: **[www.conversationswithfriendsMN.org](http://www.conversationswithfriendsMN.org)**

**ICOM: MN Interfaith Coalition on Immigration: <https://mnicom.org/>**

Representatives - Tom Haigh

ICOM engages in courageous spiritual, multicultural action in solidarity with immigrants and refugees to achieve justice and stand up to systems of oppression.

**IMMIGRANT LAW CENTER of MN**

Representative - Kathleen (Kathy) Knight, staff attorney

More information about our work, getting help, volunteering, taking action and donating can be found at [www.ilcm.org](http://www.ilcm.org)

**IMMIGRANT POLICY TRACKING PROJECT:** A comprehensive and dynamic catalogue of immigration policies issued by the Trump administration since January 2017.

- The Immigration Policy Tracking Project (IPTP) is a collaborative project begun in 2017 to Track Trump 1.0 policies with Stanford and Yale law students and the support of key experts who review every entry before posting. Each policy entry also has the capacity to link to external commentary and to significant litigation developments.
- White House Presidential Actions website: This official website contains a list and links to Presidential actions including Proclamations, Executive Orders, factsheets and more.
- Department of Homeland Security News Page: This page contains the latest news updates from the Department of Homeland Security, including fact sheets.

**INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE of MN: <https://iimn.org>**

Representative - Michelle Eberhard – Director of Refugee Services

The International Institute of Minnesota empowers New Americans as they begin new lives and achieve their full potential. Our comprehensive services are centered around four core program areas: refugee services, immigration services, education, and workforce development. From creating a safe environment for refugees and offering low-cost citizenship filing assistance, to free English and career advancement trainings and employment counseling, the Institute has been a pillar of support for New Americans for over 105 years.

**Ways to get involved:**

Visit our volunteer page to review current opportunities and apply: <https://iimn.org/volunteer/>

Consider a donation to support our critical work in our communities: <https://iimn.org/donations/>

For more information, including speaking/presentation requests, please reach out at: [info@iimn.org](mailto:info@iimn.org)

Thank you for helping us continue to make Minnesota welcoming!

**OFFICE of U.S. SENATOR AMY KLOBUCHAR**

The office is collecting paperwork from MN constituents who are concerned about being detained by ICE, regardless of immigration status. There are 2 forms to fill out and have on file (cannot be filed after someone is detained) that grant permission to act on your behalf and grant ICE permission to share information regarding a detainee. With this information, we may be able to obtain a detainee's charges and location. For more information, contact Eva Garcia, Casework Assistant: 612-727-5220 or [eva\\_garcia@klobuchar.senate.gov](mailto:eva_garcia@klobuchar.senate.gov)

## **KNOW YOUR RIGHTS / CONOZCA TUS DERECHOS**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jNBBJs0ZLs0> – ICE en espacios públicos (ESPAÑOL)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FrK8aaGxRJE> – if ICE comes to public spaces (Eng)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ExgUmgEYf8> – si ICE venga tu puerta (ESPAÑOL)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pW4uixi4b\\_E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pW4uixi4b_E) – if ICE comes to your door (Eng)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tmgHjwZyX5A> – si estés arrestado por ICE (ESPAÑOL)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xOOjvP36ubo> - if arrested by ICE (Eng)

## **RAICES SAGRADAS COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

Representative - Maria Cervantes, Executive Director

Our mission is to accompany people who have experienced unimaginable pain and trauma as they move toward healing. Therapy outcomes include better family life, improved workplace performance, and community engagement. Healing of trauma leads to a better life for all of us.

Join us now and help to make healing possible. Increase access to mental health services today, as we work together to change the world one story at a time.

<https://www.raicesagradas.org/take-action>

## **STATE of MN, MN DEPT of HUMAN RESOURCES - <https://mn.gov/dhs>**

Representative - Maria Hernandez, Refugee & Immigration call center/Community Outreach and Engagement Coordinator

[maria.d.hernandez@state.mn.us](mailto:maria.d.hernandez@state.mn.us)

O: 651-431-6190

## **ST MARYS CLINICS**

Representative - Kirk Postotnik ,Coordinator of Intake, Scheduling and Interpreting

St. Mary's Clinics, in the tradition of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, is a healing ministry of Christ providing necessary and accessible health services to the medically uninsured and underserved (mostly Spanish-speaking patients). Kirk has been worked with the clinics since 2017. As a bilingual and bicultural in Spanish coordinator, Kirk engages daily with patients to understand and access health services to address their needs.

<https://www.stmaryshealthclinics.org>

**Donations at:** <https://www.stmaryshealthclinics.org/donate>

## **UST LAW SCHOOL CLINIC**

Representative – Virgil Wiebe

Our legal clinics offer St. Thomas law students exposure to client advocacy and litigation in a supervised setting while providing much-needed legal services to low-income or non-profit clients. The clinics provide legal services to immigrants, the elderly, homeless adults and youth, victims of social injustice, and persons with chemical dependency.

<https://www.stthomas.edu/interprofessional-center/legal-clinics/>

## **VLN (Volunteer Lawyer Network) COMMUNITY CLINICS**

<https://www.vlnmn.org/help/clinics>

Courthouse clinics - English

Community Clinics - In-person services provided in English and Spanish. Interpretation is available at clinics. Community clinics are closed in inclement weather, holiday weeks and January.

*Servicios en inglés y español. Hay interpretación disponible. Las clínicas comunitarias están cerradas por mal tiempo, las semanas de días festivos y por el mes de enero.*

**Additional resources and information:** <https://archspm.org/inmigracion/>

### **Book Recommendations from event attendee:**

*Dear America: Notes of an Undocumented Citizen*, by Jose Antonio Vargas

*Crossing the Line: Finding America in the Borderlands*, by Sarah Towle

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Compiled by Anne (Anita) Attea, Event Coordinator

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Anne is available to facilitate conversation with individuals or parish teams.