

## INTERFAITH FAMILY SUPPORT PILOT PROGRAM

### You're Invited to Support an Immigrant Family

Dear friends,

January 30, 2026

In these difficult days, immigrant families in our community experience a range of crises. Breadwinners and caregivers who provide financial stability, child-care, and the daily fabric of family life are being taken into custody. Both those taken and those left behind face hardship, confusion, and fear.

We invite you, whether as a congregation or an organization, to consider supporting such a family and loved ones who may be detained. Support in this sense means entering into an actively caring relationship that can make all the difference.

Needs are broad: writing notes, providing phone cards, helping to fill commissary accounts in detention; visiting, driving, helping with the cost of school supplies, sports and music programs, housing, rent and utilities, child-care, and more.

We do not expect every support group to do everything. Each support group provides only what they are able and willing to offer. Ulster Immigrant Defense Network (UIDN) will provide backup support.

To ensure that this relationship is respectful and mutually caring, we ask that you form a core team of 3 to 5 people from your congregation and designate a leader. We will provide your congregation with training. We will also connect your team to a volunteer UIDN social worker who will accompany you and the traumatized family throughout the journey. Interpreters will be made available so that trust and genuine understanding can grow.

The support will be short term but can last until families have been able to make the necessary adjustments and decisions about their future. For some, this may mean reuniting through self-deportation. For others, it may mean seeking to reconstitute a viable life here in Ulster County. Whatever path emerges, your care offers hope, stability, and dignity in the most trying of circumstances.

We ask you to open your hearts and prayerfully consider whether your group might respond to this invitation. The bonds created in such relationships will not only sustain families in crisis but also strengthen the fabric of our shared humanity.

If you would like to have a one on one conversation about your possibly embracing this gesture of love where only love can make a difference, please respond to this request via email:

[elinemartinez@gmail.com](mailto:elinemartinez@gmail.com) and [revlizodc@gmail.com](mailto:revlizodc@gmail.com)

Eline Martinez and Liz Estes will be in touch with you.

With gratitude and hope,

Eline and Liz on behalf of the Ulster Immigrant Defense Network and the Kingston Interfaith Council