

St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church Annual Ministry Report



LAS FAMILIAS
SOLIDARITY

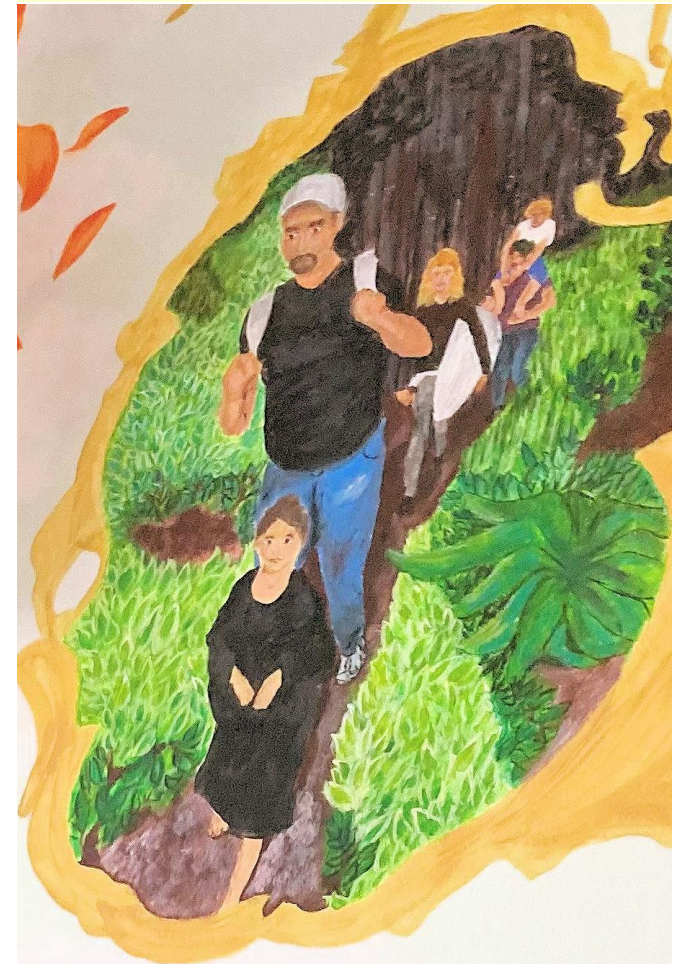
SMAA Ministry Leaders
Liz and Mike Hanna

January 26, 2025

Welcome the stranger: Matthew 25:31-46

- Las Familias Solidarity (LFS) serves Annunciation House and other shelters in El Paso, Texas. We also supplied the Albuquerque Asylum Seekers Welcome teams near our airport.
- We have cultivated strong, personal relationships and communication with the frontline staff and volunteers at Annunciation House and other shelters. We meet with the various shelter staffs each month to support them, pray with them, and find out what is really happening at the El Paso/Juarez border.

Shelter mural depicting crossing the Darien Gap



In-gathering at Casa del Refugiados (CdR, now closed) when the number of crossings per day was the highest



LFS Partners and Team

- Our donor partners are:
 - 1st Congregational UCC
 - Congregation B'nai Israel
 - Church of the Holy Cross
 - Sandoval County Indivisible
 - Loretto Community
- The team consists of 28 volunteers

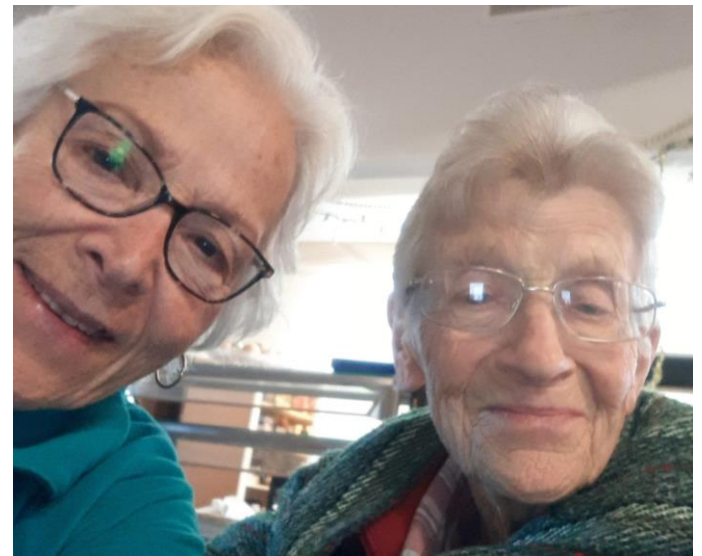
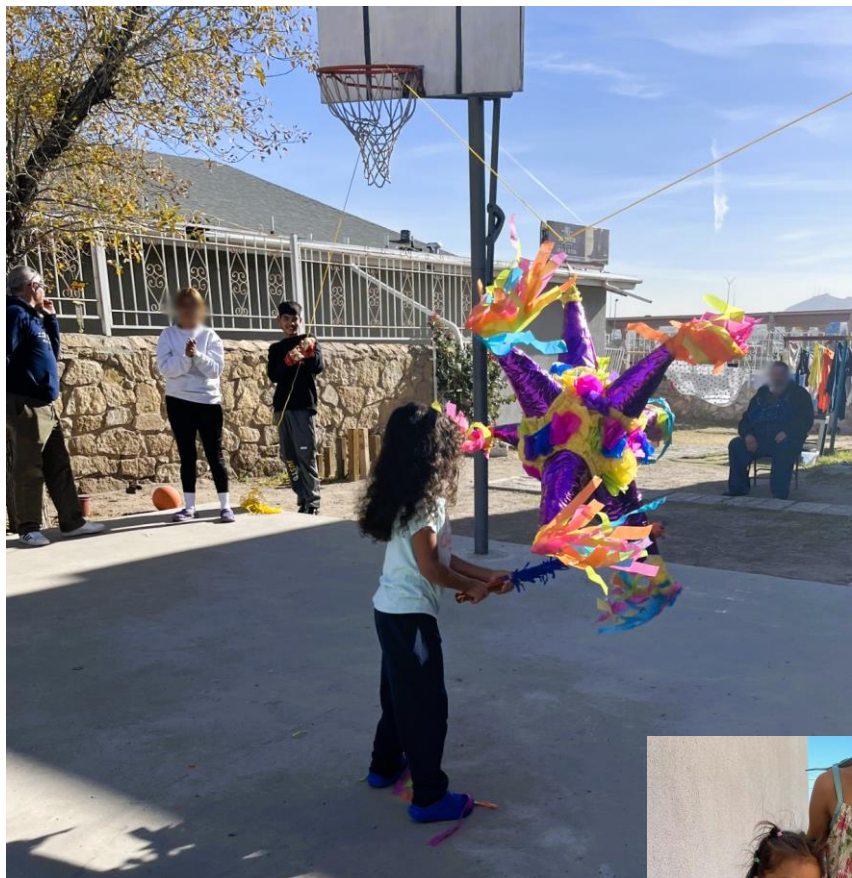
The “welcome” at the border



The welcome at the shelters



01/21/2025



01/21/2025

Celebrating with immigrants as they prepare to travel to their sponsors



01/21/2025

A quick picture with shelter staff after praying for them and their immigrant guests – then, back on the road to Albuquerque



Artists share their journey and faith via the chapel walls and hallways of the shelter







A life changing experience

- The immigrants are the heroes
 - *“To us, you are the heroes. We are inspired by your great courage and the dangerous journey that you took for the sake of your children. We represent 200+ caring people and groups in Albuquerque and throughout the United States who welcome you and want you to be safe and successful in our country.”*
- The story in the mainstream media is a false narrative. You’ll learn things like:
 - Immigrants commit crimes vs. Sacred Heart shelter housed 200 immigrants per night for almost two years with no illegal activity of any sort
- There’s always room on our monthly journey to El Paso
 - Be inspired by selfless volunteers
 - Your heart will be moved by the reality young immigrant families face at our border

You'll make new friends instantly



LFS Communication to Partners

- The LFS Team thanks the staff and parishioners at SMAA for the generous support of this ministry!
- Monthly, post-trip newsletter
 - About 200 subscribe
 - Contact Liz (liz_hanna@hotmail.com) to subscribe
 - Highlights the heartbreaking struggles of immigrants at the El Paso/Juarez border
 - Provides the latest developments of US immigration policies, and enforcement by Customs and Border Protection
 - Builds awareness through advocacy information and “action” opportunities to reform US Immigration Law and policies
- Regular articles in the SMAA eNoticias
- Donor notes of appreciation

Newsletter example

- “It’s a manufactured political crisis,” says Michael, a shelter manager. Prior to becoming a shelter manager, Michael had a 30-year career as a Customs and Border Protection officer, much of it in Washington D.C. “In 1986, when I was walking the border, we had 5,000 officers, with no technology, and 2 million immigrants crossing our southern border.” None of us had ever heard of a border crisis then. “Now, there are 20,000 CBP officers, with cameras, drones and heat sensing detection, and 2.4 million immigrant crossings in 2023. We don’t need more border protection.”
- The dedicated volunteers that staff the El Paso shelters see exactly what needs to be fixed in the US Immigration system. Yet politicians are not listening to them. The CBP-1 app is required for any immigrant to enter the US “legally” at a designated location. A smart phone, high speed internet, fluency in only English, Spanish, or Creole, and months of patience are required. If an immigrant is somehow able to pass this difficult criterion, the average wait time, spent in Juarez, a hotbed for rape, robbery, kidnapping and murder, is 3 months. “We need more money and personnel dedicated to immigrant services, not protection,” Michael emphasized.

LFS Volunteers

- Leadership Team
 - Liz coordinates with the shelters and obtains their list of needs – we rigorously enforce the list because the shelters have no extra storage space for unlisted items
 - Coordinate the activities below
 - Coordinate with Cheri (Business Administrator)
- Shoppers
 - Buyer's meeting to coordinate purchases
 - Might receive last minute requests
- Organizers
 - Remove all tags and packaging (imagine de-tagging 300 shirts, many hands make light work)
 - Items are sorted by size, bagged, and bags are labeled so the shelter volunteers can quickly put our deliveries away
- Packers
 - SUVs are loaded on the Tuesday afternoon prior to the trip
- Drivers and co-pilots – 1st Wednesday of the month
 - Typically, 3 or 4 SUVs will drive to El Paso in a caravan
 - 1 passenger per vehicle (every other cubic inch is filled with donations) – join us!

Donations help us buy in bulk and obtain best prices tax free

- 100% of all donations go directly to the shelters
- 2024 donations: \$58,000; 2023 donations \$61,000
 - 200 donors
- Donate and obtain a tax deduction statement; we shop
 - Online at <https://www.stmichaelsabq.org/give>
 - Hit the yellow donate button in the lower left corner. On the donations page, change "Use this donation for" to Las Familias Solidarity
 - Send a check
 - Make check payable to St. Michael and All Angels. In the memo line, put "Las Familias Solidarity." Mail to St. Michael and All Angels, 601 Montañño Road NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107 or you can still send checks to Liz Hanna, 2 San Juan Trail, Corrales, NM 87048 and Liz will coordinate with the office
- Shop and deliver/send
 - Church office (address above) or put in the bin in the Narthex
 - Sunday morning, Monday-Thursday 9 AM to 3 PM
 - Sharon Palma, 2 Isleta Trail, Corrales, NM 87048. If you drop off, please text Sharon at 505-249-5046

Sharon's garage is the warehouse where everything is organized before loading the vehicles



Could you fit this in your RAV4? If yes, come help us load vehicles!



01/21/2025

Travel days

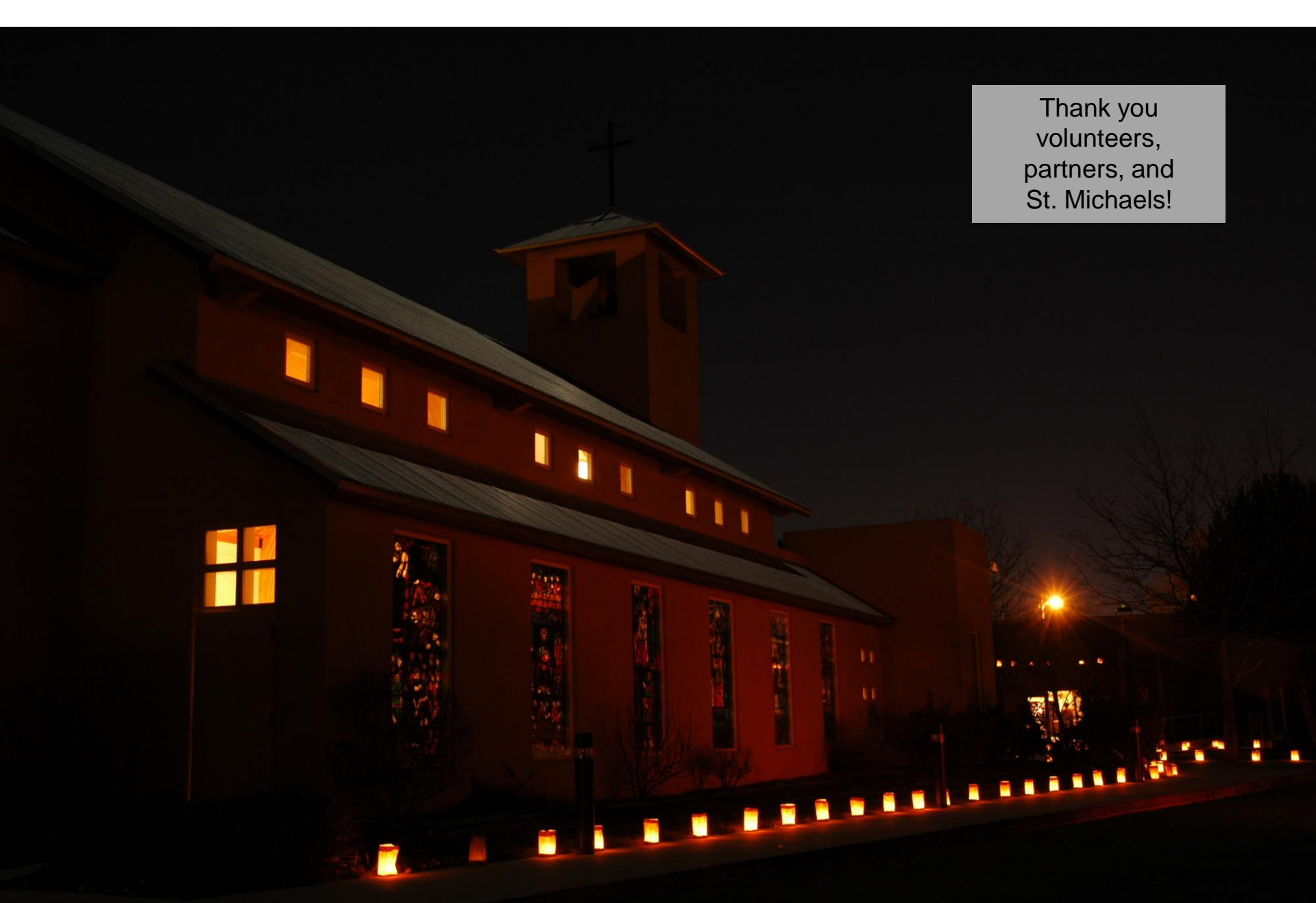
- Liz and Michiel prepare a detailed itinerary with addresses and contact information for the shelters and travel team, maps, etc.
 - Breakfast burritos to go!
 - Travel stops at Lemitar and Doña Ana traveling down
 - Travel stop at Truth or Consequences returning home
- Rendezvous @ 0600 at American Home Furniture
 - Prayers for the immigrants, shelter volunteers, and safe travels
- Visit shelters
 - Unload supplies
 - Meet with shelter leaders and immigrants
 - Hear immigrant stories and enjoy lunch
- Travel team debrief at lunch or the return travel stop
 - Capture observations and key learnings for the next newsletter
- The day is more inspiring than it is long
 - Back home or in your favorite restaurant by 1900

When Costco is clearing out new jackets for \$7, they end up in the Hanna's SUV



Good Stewards

- We rely completely on donations, no parish operating funds
 - Las Familias Solidarity dedicated account financials are included in the Treasurer's report
- LFS buyers do tax exempt shopping and find discounts
 - Many purchases made in bulk from business discount sites
 - 30% senior discount on Tuesdays at Saver's
- Our volunteers donate all copying, mailing, repackaging, and driving expenses
- The El Paso shelters provide wish lists we adhere to; other items are donated to Francis Catholic Worker House or Goodwill



Thank you
volunteers,
partners, and
St. Michaels!

Opportunities and Contact

- We appreciate your continued support and always welcome new volunteers
- Contact Liz (liz_hanna@hotmail.com) or call at 262-424-3382 with questions