



ONLY + TOGETHER NASHVILLE

July 28, 2025 Issue #5

Welcome to the Only+Together Nashville Newsletter

A reliable source for local immigration news to help us better serve and minister to immigrants in our community. We will include new legislation and presidential actions, alerts, resources, how-to help and events. No opinions. No politics. This is your newsletter.

Email your news and information to OnlyTogetherMail@gmail.com.

Only together can we stand up for justice and the dignity and welfare of all people.

See You at Only+Together 2025...Love Our Neighbors

The *Only+Together Annual Conference* is just 10 weeks away! Thursday, Sept. 25 from 12 – 8 pm at Woodmont Hills Church. We've changed it up this year. As always, the conference offers information and resources for professionals and volunteers who serve refugees and immigrants. In addition to this, we added segments for refugees and immigrants. Get plugged in. Be informed. Register!

Here's what you can look forward to:

- Learn from TIRRC and JFON about protecting and seeking justice for immigrants
- Hear stories from former refugees and the paths they took to arrive in the USA
- Learn about the different types of immigrants.
- Learn about immigrants' mental health issues and barriers to and sources of care
- Learn about opportunities for job training and career development
- Connect with public and community service agencies serving immigrants and other populations
- Identify job opportunities and find help for career growth; meet immigrant-owned business owners
- Break bread together catered by Becky Daniel (same as last year)

Invite your colleagues, friends and family.

Resource and Entrepreneur Fair At Only+Together

The Only+Together Conference 2025 features entrepreneurship and career development opportunities. From 12 – 4pm sessions include starting and growing a business, job skills training, interviewing skills, current issues faced by our immigrant and refugee community and more. The evening fair from 5-8pm will celebrate the diverse and vibrant businesses that make our city thrive. Please help us spread the word to local businesses and want-to-be businesses. Businesses can host a booth at the fair, connect with conference attendees and promote their business with samples, coupons, etc.

REGISTER



To download this year's flyer with the QR code for registration, please click the button below.

Download the Flyer

Self-Deportation...The Pressure is ON

Here's the scoop on self-deportation directly from the Dept of Homeland Security and CBP site [CBP Home | Homeland Security](#).

"DHS is using the CBP Home Mobile App to incentivize the voluntary self-departure of aliens illegally in the United States." *Once on the CBP homepage, there is an option that states,*

The below categories qualify for incentives:

- Non-criminal illegal aliens in the United States who had an encounter with CBP either at a port of entry or between ports of entry.
- Categorical parolees whose legal presence in the United States has expired or will soon expire.
- Aliens whose Temporary Protected Status is terminated.

Once non-criminal illegal aliens submit their intent to depart through the CBP Home Mobile App and pass vetting, they will be temporarily deprioritized by ICE for detention or enforcement action before their scheduled departure." Illegal aliens who register for voluntary self-departure through the CBP Home Mobile App will receive cost-free travel, a \$1,000 exit bonus, and forgiveness of any failure to depart fines. You will have civil fines for failure to depart after a final order of removal or a voluntary departure order in the U.S. forgiven. You will not have to pay these fines. Illegal aliens requesting assistance will have a timely departure arranged for them.

The CBP Home Mobile App allows illegal aliens to plan their return, including having an opportunity to depart in a timely manner – allowing illegal aliens to wrap up work, school, and personal matters and organize their return in an orderly and lawful way.

The CBP Home program lets eligible aliens return home as regular travelers—without arrest, detention, or restraints. It's a safe, orderly alternative that provides assistance and flexibility, not fear."

What can we do? Reading the news and talking about injustice is depressing. Action defuses anger and frustration, lowers blood pressure, reduces loneliness! Yes, there is plenty to do, so just do it!

- Donate to food pantries
- Speak to power, join in on social action events
- Support local nonprofits, churches and other community voices for justice
- Teach ESL, tutor
- Give to JFON [TNJFON](#) and TIRRC [TIRRC - Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition](#). Their work is so important for justice and legal aid.
- Attend the OnlyTogether 2025 Conference on Sept 25th
- Get more information about ways to volunteer and give in our community from the google doc compiled by the Woodmont Hills Church. Click the button below to view this great resource.

Visit the Resource Guide

Turn Off Your Screens and Help Local Nonprofits

Below are two organizations that have won my heart. Looking for a place for your heartfelt giving?

Legacy Mission Village [Refugee | Legacy Mission Village | United States](#)

Founded by refugees for refugees, Legacy's mission is to provide hope and healing to refugees in the Middle Tennessee area by empowering refugees with education and skills to achieve stability and thereby facilitating successful integration into American society. Students and families are the heart of Legacy Mission Village. They demonstrate resilience, courage, and determination.

Help build new futures by tutoring, and homework assistance, kindergarten readiness, teaching adult basic education and English classes and help with college preparedness/application assistance.

The BRANCH of Nashville [The Branch of Nashville | Community Support & Empowerment](#)

We strive to build a community where everyone can thrive by nourishing, educating, and equipping our neighbors. We are dedicated to listening well to our neighbors' needs and walking with them on their journey to holistic well-being.

Join the volunteer team at The Branch helping with their food pantry, English classes, and comprehensive care services. Or donate to help them on their mission. Located in the heart of Antioch, the Branch serves all God's people when they are in need with compassion and grace.

FROM THE EDITOR:

Life is NOT okay for many immigrants. I hope this month's newsletter will give you some information you can use and pass along. Let's face it. People whose country of origin is not the USA but have lived, worked and raised families here safely, without fear for decades because our economy has needed them. But here we are....**Living in Fear in the USA**

- o PBS reported on July 3 that the first group of immigrants has arrived at a new detention center deep in the Florida Everglades dubbed "Alligator Alcatraz."
- o The TN Highway Patrol serving as an arm of ICE to give legitimacy to unwarranted traffic stops and

subsequent detainments.

- o Parents detained with no notice, leaving dependent children to whomever will take them in or with Child Protective Services.
- o Detainment without a hearing to determine immigrant status or proof of criminal record.
- o Deportment and detention to countries far from the immigrant's native country.
- o Fear of leaving home, going to work, to school or shopping. Shades drawn. Is this living in the USA?

Be Safe. Stay Healthy. Give Generously. Love Always.

Leslie West

Share your news and events!

Email OnlyTogetherMail@gmail.com.

Forward this email to others who share your heart for people of all nations who live among us. Let's stay connected. Only together can we make a difference.

Leslie West, MSW

Only+Together Planning Committee

Immigrant Advocate and Volunteer

Brentwood UMC Refugee and Migrant Committee

**EMPOWER
REFUGEES**



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