



## Community Asylum Seekers Project (CASP)

February 2021

**Mission: To provide basic needs and a supportive community for people seeking asylum in the U.S.**

### CASP

- is registered in Vermont as a nonprofit corporation since 2016
- has 501(c)(3) status with the IRS; accepts tax-deductible donations
- relies on an extensive and growing network of volunteers for many different roles

### Asylum seekers

- differ from refugees (who are invited and resettled by the U.S. State Department)
- come from many different countries; so far, CASP has received people mainly (though not exclusively) from Latin America
- are typically fleeing extremely violent and oppressive situations
- arrive in the U.S. and *then* ask our government for asylum from persecution in their homeland
- tend to be held in immigration detention for some time
- must pass a “credible fear interview” (CFI) to determine if they have a “reasonable” claim to asylum

### What then?

- If the asylum seeker passes their CFI, they might be released to supportive relatives or friends (or an organization such as CASP).
- If released, they will be scheduled for asylum hearings before an immigration court.
- The hearings process usually takes a few years.
- Some time after filing their asylum claims, asylum seekers are eligible to apply for work permits. This waiting period is currently the subject of a struggle, as the Trump Administration more than doubled the time required to wait, and that change has not yet been successfully revoked.
- At their final hearing, they are either granted asylum or deported.

**Our current guests:** two families from Honduras

one family from Cuba  
one family from Mexico  
one family from Ghana

### CASP continues to

- find host homes or other housing options for those seeking asylum
- support these asylum seekers with basic needs as they resettle in our community
- help them proceed through the asylum process to achieve eventual autonomy

### CASP benefits from

- host teams that support each asylum seeker and provide a personal and responsive community
- financial and other kinds of support from hundreds of volunteers and donors across the country
- institutional structures that help to integrate asylum seekers into our community – schools, medical and dental care, language training, job search assistance, and mental healthcare
- legal and other administrative assistance, generally provided on a pro bono basis

### Our future plans:

- Continue to solidify our fiscal situation; we estimate needing an average of \$15,000/family per year
- Continue to network with and provide support to groups in other locations doing similar work
- Increase our number of host homes, along with the associated volunteer support
- With financial and volunteer support, continue to invite and support asylum seekers

See more about CASP and our guests at [caspt.org](http://caspt.org) and [facebook.com/CASPVT](https://facebook.com/CASPVT)