



## CASP: The Community Asylum Seekers Project

April 2019

**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 volunteers for many different roles.

### CASP continues to

- find host homes for those seeking asylum
- expand the host home pool from the current four to a maximum of 12
- support these asylum seekers with basic needs as they resettle in our community
- help them proceed through the asylum process to achieve eventual independence.

### Asylum seekers

- differ from refugees (who are invited and resettled by the US State Department)
- come from many different countries; so far, CASP has mainly received people from Latin America
- typically are fleeing extremely violent and oppressive situations
- arrive in the U.S. and *then* ask our government for asylum from persecution in their homeland
- are mostly held in immigration detention for some time
- must pass a “credible fear interview” to determine whether they have a reasonable claim to asylum.

### What then?

- If their claim is recognized as reasonable, 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.
- Six months after filing their asylum claims, asylum seekers are eligible to apply for work permits.
- At their final hearing, they are either granted asylum or deported.

**Our current guests:** One couple from Honduras, in Brattleboro  
Two brothers from Cuba, in Brattleboro  
A mother and daughter from Honduras, in Westminster  
A mother and two children from Mexico, in Rockingham

### Our plans for 2019:

One goal is to achieve fiscal stability; we estimate we need \$10,000 per guest family per year.

We aim to increase our number of host homes, along with the associated volunteer support – transportation, interpreting, employment, social support, and so on.

We hope to add four sets of guests (individuals or families) this year.

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