



Community Asylum Seekers Project (CASP)

June 2019, rev. 1

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 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
- 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: three families from Honduras (in Brattleboro, Marlboro, and Westminster)
one family from Cuba (in Brattleboro)
one family from Mexico (in Rockingham)

CASP continues to

- find host homes 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 independence

CASP benefits from

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

Our future plans:

- Continue to solidify our fiscal situation; we estimate needing \$10,000 per guest family per year
- 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 caspv.org and facebook.com/CASPV