

# Delaney Hall Detention Center

## Support visitors of detainees

There are about 1000 immigrants detained by ICE at Delaney Hall, which is run by the for-profit GEO group with a \$1 billion contract for 15- year period. Many of the detainees are the bread winners for their families – who now have lost their income. Visitors of the detainees come on allotted times depending on which of the eight units the detainees are held.

A group of volunteers under the leadership of Pax Christi's Kathy O'Leary support visitors of immigrants detained at Delaney Hall (Newark) four days a week. Visitors waiting or coming out of the hall are offered water, coffee, food, clothing, shoes, diapers, gift cards, grocery bags, toys for children, emotional support, and links to resources.



Shoes, shirts and pants of all sizes are available for visitors to meet the very strict dressing codes inside Delaney Hall. Many would not be admitted without this aid.

Anyone can come and join the supporters and experience the support, you get a better sense of how you may help. Visiting hours: 451 Doremus Ave, Newark, NJ

- Saturday and Sunday from 7 am to 7 pm
  - Tuesday and Thursday from 5 pm to 10 pm.
- (Parking lot to the right of the hall)

Here are some ways that you can help-

- **Collecting or raising money for grocery store gift cards-** Most of the 1000 people inside Delaney Hall were a primary or secondary breadwinner for their household when they were picked up. Many of those households include infants and young children. We do our best to supplement the cost of groceries for the families on the outside. We collect gift cards from **Shoprite, Stop & Shop and Walmart** and distribute them to the families we meet on visiting days. We also share a link to a [gift card fund](#).

- **Distributing pantry bags-** in addition to the gift cards we distribute pantry bags. We can easily give away 75 bags on a weekend visiting day if we receive the bags by 10 am. Here is the [list of suggested items](#). We also work with an [organization that collects funds](#) in order to supply us with pantry bags.
- **Direct support for the families-** Legal and rent assistance are two big concerns for families with a loved one in detention. Many families [set up GoFundme accounts](#). Donating to and helping promote these accounts to find more donors is an important activity.
- **Visitation support-** Not everyone in Delaney Hall has a local family that is able to visit. We can connect volunteers with training so that they can go into the facility to visit with people inside.
- **Collecting diapers and sanitary napkins-** Diapers are particularly expensive for families with young children (diapers sizes 5,6 and 7 are most in need) as are sanitary supplies for the moms. Please only donate sanitary napkins.
- **Religious supplies-** People inside detention often rely on their faith to help them get through the difficulty of being locked up and away from their families. Prayer provides many of them with comfort. Religious articles, prayer cards, books and scriptures are always in demand. We work through the chaplain on site to get these items inside and distributed to those who want them.
- **Donating small children's toys.** Stuffed animals are particularly popular but so are toy cars, rubber ducks, bubbles, coloring books and action figures. Please do not bring children's books unless they are in Spanish.
- **Donating 1st class postage stamps** We have received many beautiful handmade cards. Some were made by school children and intended for people in ICE detention. The only way we can deliver these is through the mail.

If you belong to an organization that can organize a drive for any of these needs, **please reach out and coordinate with Kathy O'Leary** (973-610-1684). We will want to make sure that we can receive your donation and direct it efficiently to the people in need who come to visit at Delaney Hall or to those whose loved ones have already been transferred or deported.

For updates about Delaney Hall volunteer needs, please sign up for this [Google Group](#).

You can find news, info and updates on the Eyes on ICE Coalition at Delaney Hall on the [Pax Christi NJ Instagram](#) page.

Gooitzen van der Wal

Member Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville. [Gooitzen.vanderwal@gmail.com](mailto:Gooitzen.vanderwal@gmail.com)

Member of Social Witness and Restorative Justice Team of Coastlands Presbytery

[Swrj-team@gmail.com](mailto:Swrj-team@gmail.com)