



VISIT THE C.A.M.E. MIGRANT CENTER CENTRO DE ATENCIONAL MIGRANTE "EXODUS"

COST: NO COST

DONATION SUGGESTION: SNACKS AND SOFT DRINKS FOR THE RESIDENTS

Between 500,000 and 1,000,000 people cross the border illegally every year. The journey is brutal and life-threatening. Hundreds die annually in the inhospitable desert. Most of these are slow, agonizing deaths of thirst and heat exhaustion. Over 2,000 people have died in this manner in the last decade.



Most would be crossers traveling from southern Mexico and even as far away as Central and South America. Statistically, for every 1 who makes it, 2 do not. Many are abused and robbed by their "Polleros" or "Coyotes" (criminals they pay to lead them into the U.S.). Others are blocked at the border and tumble back into Agua Prieta. And a large number of these would be crossers in the area are apprehended by the U.S. border patrol and repatriated to Agua Prieta. The majority of these would be crossers are left far from home, penniless, demoralized and often injured or ill.

For this reason the C.A.M.E. Migrant Center was established in 2007. This is a short-stay center where migrants receive a meal and a place to rest. They are provided information on where they can receive medical assistance. The shelter is a free, safe place where people can spend the night, connect with their families, wait for additional funds to return home and receive basic humanitarian care.

Here our Exchange Program volunteers work in the kitchen, clean the dormitory and grounds, serve meals and most importantly interact with the migrants. This is a powerful service experience that leaves the volunteers with a much better understanding of the danger, challenges and desperation that drive people to cross the border in search of a better life.

A typical visit lasts around 1½ hours and the volunteers are free to share and ask questions. In addition, the groups are encouraged to bring snacks and soft drinks for the migrants.

The center does not receive government aid but operates on donations from organizations such as Rancho Feliz, churches and other relief groups in the area.

THIS IS AN EYE OPENER!