

# **Sanctuary Support**

## **Level 2 Congregation or Community**

### **What is it?**

Faith communities and other organizations who are unable to provide physical Sanctuary in their place of worship, can commit to supporting Level 1 Sanctuary Congregations, by providing sustainable resources and taking on certain roles in the Sanctuary Support Structure.

### **Presence:**

It is best practice for a US citizen to be present in the Level 1 Sanctuary Congregations at all times, including overnight, when a person or a family is in Sanctuary. This person is there to respond if ICE comes or there is another emergency. Members of a sanctuary support congregation or community can volunteer for this duty

### **Food:**

A congregation or community can bring prepared food OR food to be cooked. *It is important that those in Sanctuary retain some normalcy as a family- enabling them to cook for themselves can help with this.* The congregation or community can bring food that those in Sanctuary can prepare, if facilities allow on site preparation.

### **Media:**

A team can work on getting publicity for the Sanctuary Congregation and person or family in Sanctuary.

### **Advocacy:**

Members of a sanctuary support congregation or community can help to pressure ICE to reconsider the case or to act mercifully toward the person or family in Sanctuary. They can be advocates for those in Sanctuary.

### **Language:**

The congregation or community can find someone who speaks the same language as those in Sanctuary and that person can volunteer their services to the Level 1 Sanctuary Congregation.

### **Childcare:**

Members of the congregation or community can help entertain children or provide the family with rides to school if there are children of school age in the family in Sanctuary.

### **Relationship:**

Since those in Sanctuary cannot leave their place of Sanctuary, a supporting congregation or community can create a team that will plan fun things for the family to do such as game or movie night. They can simply hang out with the family. Being in Sanctuary is hard physically, mentally and emotionally.

### **General Support:**

Providing Sanctuary is a demanding and potentially stressful action for a congregation to take. Supporting communities can commit to providing financial, spiritual and emotional support to the Sanctuary Congregation.