Post-Release Program Fact Sheet

• El Refugio Ministry is a hospitality house in Lumpkin, GA. We have been serving people detained at Stewart Detention Center and their families since 2010.

• Stewart is one of the largest Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention facilities in the US, housing around 2,000 immigrants. Its rural location means people are often isolated from their friends, family and legal representation. People detained at Stewart include those with homes and families in the Southeast and asylum seekers transferred from the border.

• Recent efforts to increase legal access at Stewart mean more people are being released on bond and parole. The detention center offers those released a ride to the closest bus station in Columbus, GA -- about one hour away. However, some people may not be ready to immediately travel.

• In response, El Refugio has set up the post-release program: we provide a place to stay, food, help with travel arrangements and transport to Columbus. This gives people time to relax and prepare for what can be very long journeys to join family members or friends across the United States.

• We are recruiting volunteers to serve at our house during the week. Volunteers assist with running the house, orientation of new guests, preparing guests for travel, and most importantly welcoming and supporting guests. They may also have the chance to visit people at Stewart and participate in immigration court watch. We also need morning volunteers to serve breakfast and provide transport to Columbus, and volunteers to help at the airport in Atlanta.

• All volunteers must be at least 18 years old, and must pass a background check. Foreign language skills and a driver's license are not required, but are definitely useful.

• To learn more about El Refugio, check out these links:
  Website: https://www.elrefugiostewart.org/

To apply, please visit our Google Form. Thank you for your interest!