

Busy Months Around Here

Indiana AID has been hard at work since our last newsletter. Both the needs and our efforts have significantly increased and we are doing all we can to try to keep up the pace.

- **Clay County** jail sees huge turnover of detainees as they process recently detained individuals before the majority are then transported to other facilities. In the last 6 months, over 4,200 individuals have come through Clay. We visit twice a month in person and are a significant source of support via virtual visits, messaging, books, and commissary.
- **Miami Correctional** began holding detainees in October 2025 and has steadily increased the number of individuals held, recently reaching and exceeding 800 detainees. We visit twice a month in person and support a large percentage of individuals with commissary and “pen pal” messaging
- Our **transportation program** has significantly expanded as we assist people to get home – individuals released from facilities in Indiana or released in other states and need help crossing Indiana as a part of their journey. In just the last 3 weeks, we’ve helped 13 people on their way home. It is humbling and honoring to play a role in reunifying families who were torn apart and have endured lengthy separations.

These supports and the myriad of other ways our volunteers show up for our detained partners and their families (completing bond applications, connecting local families to mutual aid networks and resources, tracking the movement of detainees across Indiana facilities, advocating for detainees’ care and lifting their concerns to ICE and facility staff, and so much more) can only be done because of the incredible hearts of our volunteers and the generosity of those who support our work.

The financial component of Indiana AID’s work has significantly increased. Over the last three months, we have averaged close to **\$15,000** paid each month in support of our detained partners. In August alone, we’re already over **\$17,000**. These are your donations that are used to put commissary in a person’s account so they don’t go hungry or to fund their communication account so they can talk with loved ones. This is mileage reimbursement for the 200 miles driven to get someone home to their loved ones. This is books for individuals who have been detained for months on end in a county jail where they never get to go outside and it’s their only way to pass the time. It’s video visits and written messages of support and care.

We are immensely grateful to each person who financially supports our group; there is no way to do this work without you. We see the need only continuing to expand as Miami pushes toward 1,000 detainees, Clay continues to process so many, and as other facilities grow their numbers. Please consider donating to this important and sadly expanding work.



Liberty at a Distance



One of our incredibly talented partners in detention, S*, shared a piece of art with us that he recently completed. He shared that the top half of the image represents the beauty and peace of his long sought-after freedom from detention. The bottom half represents where he finds himself - stuck, mired in this detention system, with hazards and barriers in his way, yearning for the freedom that feels just out of reach. He has been in this current detention facility for six months, waiting for his immigration case to move forward. He holds on to hope as he awaits his next steps.

A Life-Changing Error

“My name is Hussam. I am 31 years old. I came to the US 17 years ago. My father is Palestinian and my mother is Syrian. I am considered stateless due to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and because Syria won't accept me as my father isn't Syrian.

“I came here legally on an F1 student visa. My family paid for my education and in 2019 I graduated with a mechanical engineering degree. I have been working for a company in Illinois since 2023. At the start of the new administration, I wanted to immigrate to Canada since Trump was deporting immigrants. However, I was prevented because the FBI incorrectly had me listed as having a criminal conviction. I contested this and received a letter from the FBI saying they would expunge my record and remove this false conviction.

I have been waiting and working through the process to get a green card for 15 years and in mid-July I went in for my interview. I was detained at the interview location by three ICE agents because of this prior false conviction.

“My immigration court date is coming up. I have letters of recommendation from my job. I have the letter from the FBI. If they deny me bond, I will sign a self-deportation order. I can't continue to stay in the jail and fight to stay. The conditions are bad. We are doing good for this country. We pay taxes. I have never done anything wrong. I am losing my life. If they want to deport me - I don't even have a country to go to. I am stateless. I don't know what the future holds.”

Seen and Known

“Hello, I was recently released from Clay County Jail on bond and I just wanted to say thank you. When I heard that I was going to get bonded out, I started thinking of how can I get a ride back to Chicago. Another detainee told me about you guys so we contacted you. Luckily a family member was able to help me out, but if they didn't I know you would.

“I saw your email telling me you are going to give me a ride so I decided to to send a mail back saying thank you.

“Those were some of the hardest days me and many other immigrants experienced and still are experiencing, and to know that there's someone out there willing to help you out that much gives us hope and makes us feel like the humans that we are and not some invasive animals who deserve the worst. Once again, thank you for everything you are doing, you are very appreciated and loved.”



How Quickly a Path Can Change

In his home country, Isaac* worked as a police sergeant and a member of the president's secret service. He traveled with the president and was regularly seen with him. Isaac traveled to the United States on a tourist visa in October of 2024. While here, the opposition party overthrew the government of his country and they began hunting those who had served the president. Knowing that he would not be safe if he returned to his country, Isaac filed for adjustment of his status. In the interim, he had married a US Marine. All his filings were approved. He received a Social Security number, driver's license and work authorization. He applied to work in a criminal justice role in the state where he lived.

Isaac was befriended by a woman whom he believes was set up by countrymen who had recognized him from photographs with the overthrown president. Three days before his green card interview, the woman accused Isaac of a serious crime. He was held in the county jail for 9 months while she tried to gather evidence. When the evidence did not materialize, the judge released Isaac on \$1 bond. However, at his release, ICE was notified and they immediately detained him. He has remained in detention, missing his green card interview and halting his steps toward becoming a resident. He still waits to hear next steps in his immigration case.

*Name changed

A Message of Gratitude

Hello Indiana AID,

I am S*, an evangelist and inmate in Clay County Jail. I have been under the ministration of Indiana AID since the very week I am came here until now and may I say that you are doing an excellent job. Thank you very much. You make the yoke lighter and the burden bearable to many of us here. I have been receiving from you gifts on my tablet at least twice a month, enabling me to communicate with the outside world. I received books that I longed for and have read them and grew spiritually in my walk and ministry to God and people. I received virtual visitations that are more than therapy to me especially. Once a week and twice a month, we receive your physical visitation bringing us hope and love, letting us know that we have not been abandoned. Like we say in Togo (West Africa), One tongue cannot count the population of a nation; the same way, I alone cannot tell all the benefits of your organization (Indiana AID) to mankind. The right perspective to really appreciate and evaluate the impact of the love you pour out to us is the Heavenly perspective and your reward can from Heaven only come.

The Peace and the Love of God rest and abide with each member of Indiana AID, from now on. May God enlarge the mission field of Indiana AID and may He give you supply and resources for the next level ahead.

Blessings.

Your brother in Christ & the Prisoner of Jesus Christ,
Rev S*



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Email: contact@indianaAID.org

Phone: (voicemail only): 317-721-4044

Volunteer with Us

Currently our greatest needs are for:

1

Spanish-speaking
virtual visitation
partners

2

Virtual visitation
partners in other
languages

3

Transportation
volunteers

4

Financial support
& fundraising
experience

5

Social media
support and
data input



Donate

IndianaAID.org/donate

Indiana AID is a volunteer group funded 100% on donations. Please consider a tax-deductible donation via the QR code or link above.

Shalom Mennonite Church is our fiscal sponsor - none of the money donated to the Indiana AID fund goes to the church's budget.

^ BANK NAME _____ DATE _____

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