Post-Release Internship

Title: Post-Release Internship
Work Schedule: 30 hours per week or 20 hours per week (Morning shift or evening shift options)
Location: Lumpkin, Georgia
Application deadline: March 15, 2020

Introduction
El Refugio is offering a unique opportunity to serve people who are released from Stewart Detention Center. With 10 years of experience serving those affected by the US immigration policies, El Refugio has been a constant presence in Lumpkin. We provide free lodging and meals for families who visit their loved ones at Stewart, visit individuals who don't have families and friends in the Southeast to visit them, send books, and connect people with resources. The unnecessary detention of individuals is cruel and inhumane, and we are helping to work toward liberation. With our Post-Release Program, El Refugio will help to reunite immigrant families while being present for them as they journey back to their families, their homes, and their communities in the United States. It is our privilege to be there for them during this transition from detention to freedom.

Internship Summary
El Refugio’s intern, under the supervision of our Post-Release Coordinator, will be responsible for assisting individuals released from Stewart Detention Center in Lumpkin, Georgia, as they make the transition from detention to joining their families or sponsors. Among other responsibilities, the intern will provide support as they make travel arrangements, facilitate communication with loved ones and support organizations, provide transportation if needed, offer short-term accommodations (1-2 nights), and distribute clothing and toiletries.

We seek a volunteer with a passion to serve immigrant families in crisis.

Essential Duties & Responsibilities:
- Guest orientation: conduct intakes, help guests call loved ones to buy travel tickets, help guests choose new clothes, show guests to rooms
- Guest travel: monitor phones for travel confirmations, pack travel bags, assist with preparing guests for travel
- Guest needs: assist guests as needed
- Admin tasks: scan paperwork, help coordinate volunteers
A ministry of hospitality and visitation serving immigrants detained at Stewart Detention Center, their families, and friends.

- House running tasks: serve meals, cleaning/laundry, sort donations
- “Off shift” (optional): observe immigration court at Stewart, visit people detained at Stewart

**Qualifications:**
- Social-justice minded and interested in immigration issues
- Strong interpersonal skills and ability to work well with people, especially immigrants and asylum-seekers, and family members who may be in crisis
- Ability to maintain personal and professional boundaries
- Excellent computer and Internet research skills
- Proficient in Spanish and/or other languages strongly preferred
- Flexible with a “can-do” attitude. Our work can be unpredictable
- Knowledgeable of and sensitive to cultural differences
- A welcoming presence with a trauma-informed approach.
- Willing to stay overnight at our hospitality house in Lumpkin, GA
- Aged at least 18 years old and able to pass a background check

**Special requirements**
The Post-Release Intern is required to work and live in Lumpkin on weekdays (Monday - Friday) but if an applicant has a primary residence in the surrounding area they could sleep at home on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. On weekends, the house operates as a hospitality house for families and friends visiting loved ones at Stewart r and is staffed by volunteer house coordinators through Sunday afternoon.

**We are recruiting for the following intern positions:**
30 hours per week or 20 hours per week (Morning shift or evening shift options)
Dates: Flexible (minimum of 4 weeks)

**Compensation:** $10.00 per hour - Non-Exempt
El Refugio is an equal opportunity employer. We welcome applications from qualified candidates of all backgrounds. Candidates who have been directly affected by immigration detention or the mass incarceration system are encouraged to apply. The selected applicant’s employment will be contingent on the results of a background check.

**Other benefits:**
- Room and board (Our house was recently refurbished and is very comfortable. Interns share a bedroom and bathroom with other interns, staff, and volunteers.)
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- A caring and safe work environment, with supervision from our post-release coordinator and emphasis on self-care and work-life balance
- References and letters of recommendation upon completion of the internship

To apply, please visit our Google Form, and we will be in touch. Thank you for your interest!

Mission and Core Activities of El Refugio Ministry
We are a ministry of hospitality and visitation serving immigrants detained at Stewart Detention Center and their loved ones.

Hospitality
Our hospitality house, two miles from Stewart Detention Center, offers welcome, support, love, and respect to families and friends of those in detention. We provide lodging, meals, affirmation, and companionship to all of our guests. We assist with clothing and travel expenses when possible. Our home is a refuge of hospitality for those suffering from the intentionally inhospitable system of immigration detention.

Visitation
We visit immigrants and asylum-seekers who have no one else to visit them. Our visitation and letter-writing programs are rooted in the ethic of presence. Working against the radically dehumanizing system of immigration detention, we believe our most powerful role is simply to be present to the people we visit in detention – to recognize their full humanity, to see them face-to-face, to hear them, and to build relationships with them. Through our sustained presence, we also aim to hold CoreCivic and ICE accountable for their treatment of detained immigrants.

Education and Witness for Advocacy
Each year, we host hundreds of visitors from faith communities, schools, and civic groups. After offering an orientation on the U.S. immigration and detention systems, we accompany our visitors to Stewart Detention Center to meet with individuals who are detained. Following the visits, we debrief about their experience visiting detained immigrants, as well as the realities of detention, and our civic responsibilities in light of what we have learned. We also offer presentations and dialogue to educate the public about immigration detention. Our work bears witness to the historic crisis of immigration detention and encourages visitors to advocate for more just immigration policies.
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/](https://www.elrefugiostewart.org/)
  
  

To apply, please visit our [Google Form](https://www.google.com/forms). Thank you for your interest!