

# Safety NetWorks

## Red de Apoyo y Protección

April 2026

Safety NetWorks (SN) is a project initiated by Assembly to respond to the actions of our government that left many of our Latino neighbors living in fear after the 2016 presidential election. We solicit volunteers through an online sign up, and match them with a variety of immigrant needs. Each type of assistance is a “Network” with a coordinator that receives details about specific needs from referral partners and links them with volunteers who can help. The idea is to create “safety nets” for immigrants in our community.

In recent years we have invited other non-Latino, vulnerable immigrant groups to receive help. We have evolved to include a variety of referral partners who identify and vet immigrants in need. In 2026, our most active partners are NIJC, Child and Parent Services (CAPS), the Center for Healing and Hope, parent liaisons from the elementary schools, and Maple City Health Care Center. Volunteers come from a variety of congregations and other segments of the community.

Since the 2024 election, the needs of immigrants have risen. In response, and with new energy in the community, we are expanding to address more of the needs immigrants are facing.

<b>Network</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Transportation</b>	Assists immigrants with transportation to legal proceedings and other local needs. The coordinator vets volunteers, provides guidelines and offers resources the volunteer may need while interacting with an immigrant.
<b>Food</b>	Provides prepared meals or groceries for immigrants with short-term (< 1 month) food needs.
<b>English Instruction</b>	Volunteer-led classes and conversation opportunities to improve English competency.
<b>Other Needs</b>	Assists with needs that don’t fit into the above categories, such as going to the BMV, preparing a tax return, finding a dentist or taking someone to The Window.
<b>Financial Resources</b>	Solicits tax-deductible contributions and dispenses financial resources according to defined policies and procedures.

This expansion has come about as a result of other grass roots initiatives and energy within our community:

**Short Term Partnering with Immigrant Neighbors (STPIN)** – initiative started by Anne Meyer Byler and an advisory group after the last election when SN was not able to take on an expansion of its efforts. This project has connected volunteers with many types of immigrant needs. We are folding it into the Safety Networks framework to streamline the coordination of volunteers and resources.

**Latino Leaders** – this ad hoc group of leaders has been meeting regularly since February 2025 to provide support and solidarity as they interact with the local Latino community and listen for the needs being experienced. They have hosted a variety of gatherings with community groups, and instigated the collaboration and consolidation of the STPIN and SN initiatives.

**Latino Social Workers** – a collection of local Latino social workers have been on the front lines of the crisis in their daily jobs at schools and local nonprofits. They bring energy, expertise, and new ideas for how to effectively assist immigrants with the challenges they face.

We invite you to join us in this ministry:

**To volunteer**, please visit our online sign-up: <https://bit.ly/sn-vol-form>

**Tax-deductible donations** can be made online at [Online Giving - Assembly Mennonite Church](#) or by check to Assembly Mennonite Church with “Safety Networks” on the memo line.

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