

# Mission Opportunity

for Secular Franciscans to assist Project Oak Tree

**National Councilor Donna Hollis, OFS and local fraternities in the area work directly with refugees in Las Cruces through Project Oak Tree.**



Secular Franciscan Order - USA



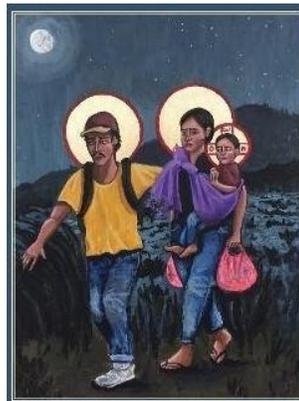
Roman Catholic  
Diocese of Las Cruces

**This is a “MISSION” opportunity for Secular Franciscans and others to come and help.  
Groups of 1-25 are welcome.  
VOLUNTEERS and donations are needed.**

## Project Oak Tree

The Diocese of Las Cruces provides basic Christian hospitality to refugees as they are released from *Customs and Border Protection* and *Immigration and Customs Enforcement* into Southern New Mexico.

Read more about the project here:  
<https://rcdlc.org/oaktree>.



## Our Weekly Ministry

Families arrive once a week on Tuesday mornings. We feed them, give them shelter and safety and clothing that has been donated. The families remain with us for a few days until we can arrange transportation to their Sponsors.

*“Our focus is to show God’s love and acceptance.”*

## Volunteer Information

### How can volunteers help?

There is a lot involved during their stay in which volunteers can help. You do not have to speak fluent Spanish to show hospitality. We do need Spanish speakers who can help with calling the Sponsor families and getting them tickets to their destination.

### If you are interested in coming to help:

Contact Donna Hollis (see below). A tour of the different facilities can be arranged. Also, a motel is rented on the weekends to receive a greater amount of people and we can always use extra volunteers. Local volunteers from the different hospitality sites help with this project.

## Donation Information

### Monetary Donations can be sent to:

**Holy Cross Retreat Center  
600 Holy Cross Rd.  
Mesilla Park, NM 88047**

Tel. (575) 524-3688.

Include ‘Refugee Donation’ in check memo.

### Constant items are needed:

Personal travel size hygiene supplies are welcomed. Also needed: lip balm, hairbrushes, hair ties, small and medium belts, shoelaces, new underwear and socks for children and adults (Sm./Med.) Some of these items are taken away from them at the holding cell in El Paso.

**Please contact: Donna Hollis, OFS 575-649-8265 [donnadancerfeet@aol.com](mailto:donnadancerfeet@aol.com)**

“The presence of Migrants and Refugees and of vulnerable people in general is an invitation to recover some of those essential dimensions of our Christian existence and our humanity that risk being overlooked in a prosperous society.”  
(quote from Pope Francis message for the 2019 Word Day of Migrants/Refugees)