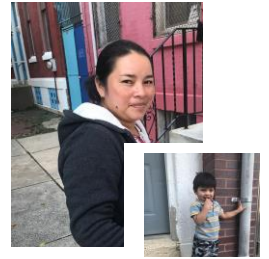


**UPDATE FROM THE NEW SANCTUARY MOVEMENT COMMITTEE OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PARISH
December 2021**

Our *new* email: NSM@St-Vincent-Church.org

Christmas must be an emotional time for recently arrived immigrants. They left their homeland in search of a better life, but they also left behind everything that was meaningful—the celebrations at Christmas and so much more. They are brave people, yes. But they are also just people, human beings with all our foibles and fantasies. It doesn't always turn out the way they want it to.

Take Nelvin Hernandez. He was finally tried and eligible for release except that he committed the crime of returning to his family in the U. S. after being deported. He is still being held at the Curran-Fromhold Detention Center until he gets an immigration lawyer. Blanca Pacheco of the New Sanctuary Movement made contact with an organization of pro-bono immigration lawyers to represent him. Marguerite at NSM worked with Nelvin's wife, Reina, to apply for aid. Pray for him, but also for Reina and the two children, They received considerable aid from our parish **Refugee Fund** over the last two and a half years. **A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED.**

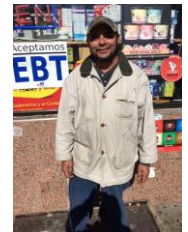


Reina and 3-year-old Selvin



Good news about Solanni Guzman. She graduated with honors from Esperanza College. What now? She wants to study English next year and then go on for a degree in social work. Her family situation still remains difficult and unsettled. Her daughter Albelis has had to have a series of operations on her legs in order to straighten her spine. Solanni herself has battled to earn a steady income at a restaurant where she was hired to be in charge of procurement. Unfortunately, the restaurant has not been open full time. She is still behind in her mortgage payments despite receiving financial help from St. Vincent and other sources.

Agustin Aguilar is finally able to work and have a life. He was homeless on the streets for a year or more. Now he is working at a Vietnamese restaurant in Glen Mills, PA. The restaurant has managed to stay open most of the time. Augustin works to send money to his adoptive aunt and his brothers and sisters in Honduras. He is happy when he can work to do that. The restaurant is called "Koy". It's not that far from Philly, 27 miles away in Delaware County. Recently he got new teeth through *Fight* of Philadelphia (Fight.org), a great organization in defense of the poor.



This is to introduce you to Maria Magdalena Vasquez. She is 44 years old, from Honduras, here with a couple of her older children. Her son, Ovidio, 16, was required to attend school and his dutiful mother took him to get his vaccinations at a local clinic. She was surprised when later she received a bill for \$1500 from them. The NSM alerted us and we helped work out the situation for her with the clinic. They said it was a mistake and that she would not be charged. She's a worker! That's why she came to the U. S. She has to ride two hours both ways in public transportation to do so. She needed a coat for the cold so one was bought for her one. I remember her 24-year-old daughter, Ereyda, a while back asking for help so she could get a license to drive as she also got a job a ways off. It was a shock to her when she was told she was not eligible for a license. On December 15, NSM people returned from Harrisburg where they did more lobbying for passage of a driver's license bill for undocumented immigrants. Your support is needed to make this happen as it has in other States.

Jacobo Sandoval is living in Kensington and doing well. The neighborhood where he now lives is not terrible but still unsafe. He just started a 20-hour a week job which will help him pay \$450 for the room he rents monthly. He has received his residency and now is on his way to New York to pick up a new Guatemalan passport as it had been stolen several years ago. The Salvation Army has been helping him in various ways. They urged him to get a primary-care doctor, which he did at Esperanza at Allegheny Ave and Kensington Ave. They also helped him get the job. He turns 72 December 25th.



Jacobo on his 70th Birthday