



## WAYS TO HELP

### **Apartments and Houses**

Looking for apartments (in-law/basement, etc.) or houses available for new Mainer families. Housing is urgently needed for families with young children. Rent resources and support through the Church community is included! Please reach out to Rev. Allison Smith at [allisoncsmith@gmail.com](mailto:allisoncsmith@gmail.com). Thank you!

### **Legislation**

Advocating with our legislators and testifying on bills regarding housing is a valuable contribution to addressing the needs of New Mainers. On Friday, May 12th at 9:00 AM, the bill [LD 1721](#), An Act to Create Transitional Housing Communities for Homeless Populations in the State, is scheduled for a public hearing before the legislature's Housing Committee. Among other things, the bill creates a fund to help catalyze the creation of transitional housing communities throughout the state. Transitional housing is permanent housing that is used temporarily by people, usually for up to 24 months at a time. It is a missing link in our system, and asylum seekers are prime candidates for transitional housing. Without it, we've had to rely heavily on our hotels. Please consider emailing legislators or testifying on May 12<sup>th</sup> and encouraging others to do the same! <https://www.mainelegislature.org/testimony/>

### **CCCUCC Legal Fund**

The legal process Asylum Seekers must go through is comprised of many steps that can be confusing for one who is an English speaker, let alone one who does not have English as their native language. Every step along the way includes paperwork that must be filled out perfectly, processes that must be followed, interviews and appointments where preparation is essential as missteps can lead to denial of asylum. Asylum seekers who have experienced immigration lawyers to guide them through the process are 60-70% for more likely to gain asylum. Legal representation is vital for new families in our community to gain work permits, etc. <https://givebutter.com/cumberlandcongregational> Click Donate, Select Fund, Welcoming Neighbors Legal Fund

### **Welcoming Neighbors Team of CCCUCC**

Community members are welcome to attend monthly zoom meetings. There are many ways to plug in and help. Contact Nicki Piaget for more info at [npiaget68@gmail.com](mailto:npiaget68@gmail.com)

### **Meals**

Please join us at the Root Cellar as we help pack meals for those who are unhoused and living in motels. Six days a week, culturally appropriate meals are prepared by African chefs and then 220 individual meals are packaged by volunteers. For more info, contact the church office at [office@cumberlanducc.org](mailto:office@cumberlanducc.org)

### **Emergency Shelter**

Please see the MIRC handout for ways to help at the Expo and Salvation Army shelters. This fall we will be continuing our work to provide shelter for families with State Street Church (SSC) in Portland and other churches as there has been such desperate need. Please contact [office@cumberlanducc.org](mailto:office@cumberlanducc.org) for more info and details.

**Congregational Church in Cumberland, UCC**

**282 Main Street, Cumberland, ME**

FB @cumberlanducc [www.cumberlanducc.org](http://www.cumberlanducc.org)

