

## WHAT OUR VISITORS SAY ABOUT THE PROGRAM

"It is such a simple thing to do. Go talk to someone for thirty minutes. That this small thing can make such a difference to someone is really humbling. It brings humanity back to the forefront where it belongs. We forget that in our busy, busy lives sometimes." *Ellen D., Visitor*

"One of the most fulfilling volunteer experiences I have been a part of. I realize that I cannot solve all the problems of the immigration system but for 30 minutes I can listen and remind someone that they are not alone. To be honest, I don't see this so much as a political cause but a humanitarian cause that I cannot ignore any longer." *Karen N., Visitor*

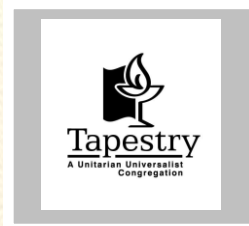
"A kind of scary experience at first, stepping into another world so very different than my own and then through my ongoing visits with our OC detainees I am once again reminded that we are all so much more alike than we are different. It's been a good reminder for me that carries over outside of my visitations and into my daily life." *Bev H., Visitor and Social Action Chair, Tapestry Unitarian Universalist Congregation*

### About Our Sponsoring Organizations

Like most Unitarian Universalist congregations, Tapestry is a spiritually diverse community. Our members identify themselves as Jewish, humanist, Taoist, Christian, pagan, atheist, monotheist, and "none of the above." In general, though, we believe that there is no single religious truth and that life is a spiritual journey best experienced with others.

Tapestry is a liberal religious congregation that welcomes and affirms a diversity of religious belief, sexual orientation, gender, ethnicity, culture and physical ability among our members and visitors.

Friends of O.C. Detainees is a member of Community Initiatives for Visiting Immigrants in Confinement (CIVIC) [www.endisolation.org](http://www.endisolation.org). They provide advice and support to our visitors.



Imagine a Religion...

*...where all are welcome and everybody matters!*

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## FRIENDS OF ORANGE COUNTY DETAINEES



**Vision:** By our actions, we seek to honor equity and justice in human relations, and respect the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part, by a strong, vibrant visitation program of undocumented detainees placed in detention centers of Orange County.

**Mission:** to offer regular visits to any undocumented detainee who indicates a need. Although we are not in a position to offer legal, medical or social services, we offer listening ears and compassionate hearts in an act of friendship to end isolation and affirm each person's human dignity and worth.

*Real generosity toward the future lies in giving liberally to the present.*  
Albert Camus

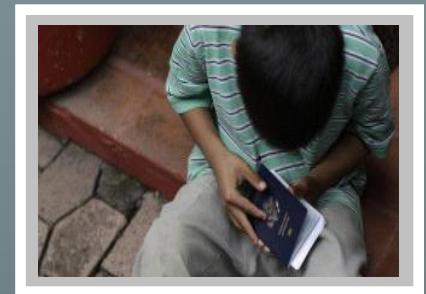
**Why:** Over 32,000 men, women, and children remain isolated today in a network of over 250 U.S. immigration detention facilities. As they are not in criminal custody, these men and women will not be afforded a free phone call or a court-appointed attorney. Instead, they will languish for weeks, months, and sometimes years in county jails and private prisons far away from family, friends and a community of support

In the 2013 Fiscal Year, nearly \$2 billion of your federal tax dollars will go toward maintaining and expanding this industry of confining immigrants for profit by local governments or private corporations. In other words, the government will spend \$5.4 million per day to detain victims of human trafficking, asylum seekers, and other immigrants.



**Where:** A growing number of caring people from Orange County are currently visiting detainees at James A. Musick, a minimum security prison in Irvine, and at the Santa Ana Jail. Soon we will visit at Theo Lacy in Orange. Our visitation program is approved by Immigration, Customs and Enforcement (ICE).

Detainees request visitors using a signup sheet posted in their dorms. The names of detainees are distributed to visitors, primarily according to language spoken. Spanish visitors are in great demand, but detainees often speak enough English to enjoy the visit of an English-speaking visitor also.



**What:** The program is simple. Volunteers visit detainees to provide companionship and to minimize isolation.

**Who:** To be a visitor, a person must . . .

- Be committed and consistent in his/her visits, at least once per month,
- Have a government- issued picture ID.

Visitors are expected to . . .

- BE THERE, if you say you are going to be there.
- Be a good listener who is sensitive to detainee's needs.
- Just visit, which is enough. You don't have to promise anything more.
- Report each visit and any issues or concerns to the Program Coordinator.

*We are the ones we've been waiting for.*

Audre Lorde

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- Theo Lacy is one of the 10 worst prisons in the U.S., according to Detention Watch Network
- Being in violation of immigration laws is not a crime. It is a civil violation for which immigrants go through a process to see whether they have a right to stay in the United States.

*Generosity of spirit creates a life worth living.*

Arthur Dobrin