



FAITHACTION INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

TURNING STRANGERS INTO NEIGHBORS!

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FaithAction 2017 Impact Report

FaithAction finished one of its most challenging, yet impactful years to date. While we are in the midst of one of the most difficult times around immigration in our nation’s history, FaithAction staff, board, volunteers, and donors have stepped up in remarkable ways to serve, educate, love, and protect our newest neighbors. Our work is only possible with your tremendous kindness and support. ***Thank you friends for loving your neighbors as yourselves – it is certainly needed and appreciated now more than ever.***

Services

The majority of our immigrant clients face significant barriers, including: learning a new language and social service system, living near or below the poverty line with no access to government benefits, discrimination and devastating immigration policies. FaithAction’s services provide hope, dignity, and shelter from the storm in life-changing, even life-saving ways for over 1,500 of our newest immigrant neighbors from over 40 different countries. We keep hundreds of families healthy and safe through our direct help with food, housing, healthcare, and emergency financial assistance, while accompanying and advocating alongside hundreds more affected by family violence, and devastating detention and deportation policies.

We received an overall satisfaction rating of 4.8 out of 5 (5 = excellent) in our client evaluations, and clients shared:

Client Feedback

95% of FA clients found services very helpful and useful



95% of FA ID card holders said they feel safer and more part of the community

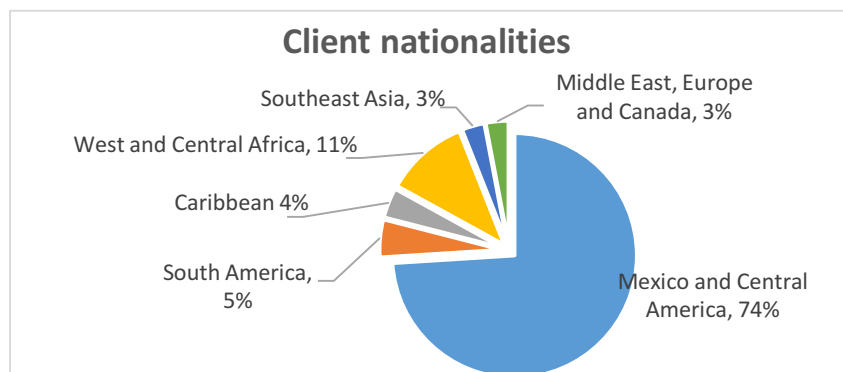


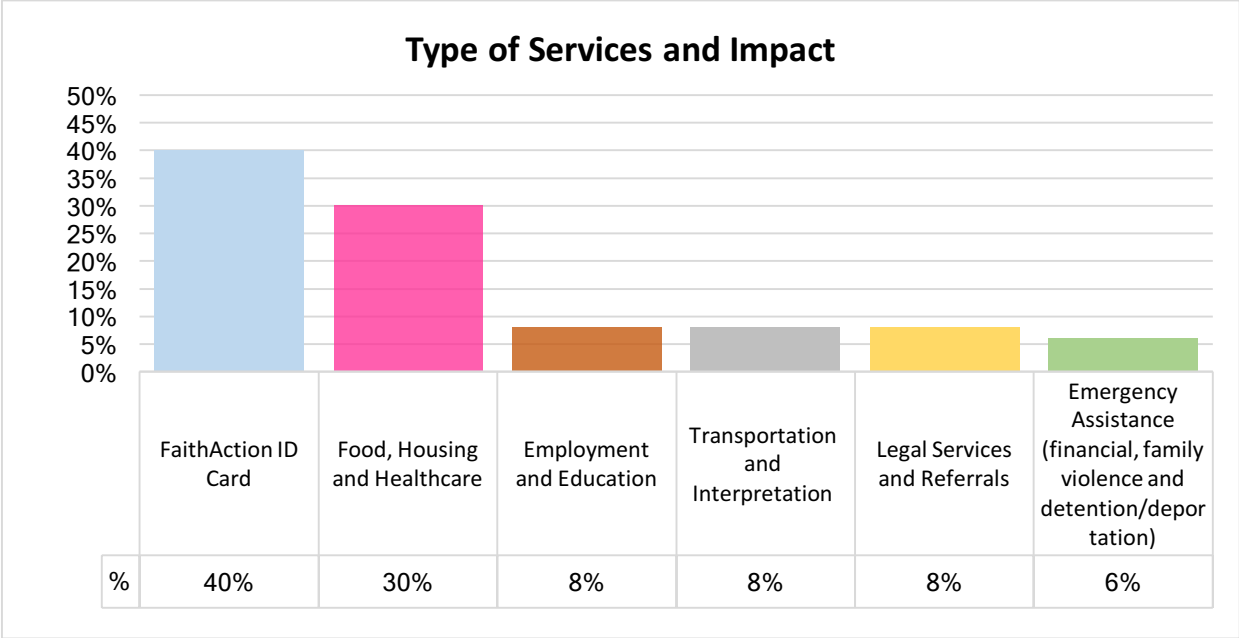
92% of clients now have a clear pathway forward and want to give back to the community



I cannot even begin to express how loving, caring, understanding, compassionate and welcoming your staff really is. I feel so lucky and thankful to be surrounded by people like you guys and I hope that one day God will bless me so that I too can return the same favor.

This help is like a blessing for my family. It is hard living in a car, especially with my young daughter, and I am glad I do not have to do it anymore. I will work hard for my family, and feel much better now that my children will have a safe place to live. Thank you so much.





FaithAction ID Program

We provided an additional 1,200 FaithAction ID cards to immigrants and citizens from 65 nations and over 125 cities. FaithAction ID’s provide dignity and crucial access, while building trust with law enforcement, health centers, schools, businesses, and cultural arts organizations throughout North Carolina. Over 95% of those surveyed found the ID cards to be very useful, and helped them feel safer, and more a part of the community. Card holders shared:

I am much more willing to contact the police.

I feel like more people are concerned about my health than my status.

I feel much more included in my community - thank God for my FaithAction ID.

We additionally provided training for community leaders in Houston, Texas, the most diverse city in the United States to replicate the FaithAction ID program, and expanded the ID network to Cincinnati, Ohio and the small town of Aiken, South Carolina. We continue to receive interest in the program from over a dozen cities across the nation, including: Charlottesville, Virginia, Ames, Iowa, Boulder, Colorado, El Paso Texas, and Gainesville, Florida – putting Greensboro on the map as a leader in finding local solutions to immigrant integration and police/immigrant community relations.


Trainings and Stranger to Neighbor events


While FaithAction is perhaps best known for its services, we also provided nearly 75 trainings and presentations across North Carolina. Over 2,000 immigrant and faith leaders, health and social service workers, law enforcement, city department employees, school teachers and students received crucial education on immigration and diversity, and training on how to build greater understanding, trust, and cooperation with our newest neighbors.

A small sample of groups we trained locally and nationally include: Bank of America, Temple Emanuel of Greensboro, Hyde County Domestic Violence Hotline, Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Rockingham County Partnership for Children, and students from Appalachian State, UNCG, Guilford College, and many more.

We received an overall satisfaction rating of 4.7 out of 5 (5 = excellent) in our training evaluations, and trainees shared:

Trainee Feedback

95% of FA trainees gave an excellent value rating of our Immigration 101 training


95% of FA trainees gave an excellent value rating of our How to Build Understanding, Trust, and Cooperation training



Faith Action's "Serving Latinos and Immigrants" training was a powerful catalyst for change in our community. Not only did the training provided important resources and ideas for engaging the Latino community, but it brought together agencies and individuals that share a common interest of providing social services to the underserved. There has been a buzz of networking and collaboration in our county since hearing what Rev. Fraccaro and other community members had to share about their experiences working with immigrants. I highly recommend this training to domestic violence agencies, non-profits, public health


programs, law enforcement, and any community looking to inform themselves on the challenges Latinos/Immigrants face and receive actionable advice on how to respond with compassion.

The Stranger to Neighbor Training we received was eye opening and a truly impactful event! The information was so insightful, and it helped me to view things from the stand point of a person or family who is risking everything to find a safe haven, to give their loved ones a chance at a life without terror or danger. We have received numerous requests to hold another Stranger to Neighbor training, and more and more people who have gotten involved now refer to new immigrants and refugees as neighbors.

We also held 4 Stranger to Neighbor dialogues, including our Annual Downtown Unity Walk and Multicultural Thanksgiving events. Nearly 750 diverse community members participated in these wonderful events that strengthen relationships across lines of culture, faith, and nationality.

S2N Participant Feedback

90% of participants said they feel more connected to my newest neighbors


92% of participants said they feel more motivated to stand up to stereotypes and advocate alongside my newest neighbors
4.7/5 (92%)


FaithAction Advocacy and New Initiatives

We experienced a significant increase in the detention and deportation of our clients and friends, as well as the end of DACA and TPS programs over the last year. Many of our clients continue to experience tremendous fear and anxiety. In response, we hosted two new “Serving, Loving, and Protecting Our Neighbors” presentations, with nearly 250 people in attendance on effective ways people can put their faith into action in solidarity with their neighbors in need of support during this uncertain and difficult time.

\$10,000 Legal Fund established for detained clients and friends



Over \$15,000 in Emergency Funds (rent and bill assistance) for our newest neighbors in need

This momentum led to the creation a “Friends of Triad Detainees” advocacy group, which coordinates quarterly visits to our clients and friends in detention in Southern Georgia to break up their isolation, as well as the establishment of a new \$10,000 emergency legal consultation fund. We have also experienced a significant increase in emergency financial assistance requests from immigrant and refugee families directly affected by recent policy changes. In response, we’ve worked with an incredibly kind group of FaithAction volunteers and congregations to provide over \$15,000 in emergency funds for rent and bills to keep immigrant and refugee families from becoming homeless.

Friends of Triad Detainees group plans quarterly trips to visit our detained clients and friends at the Stewart Detention Center (GA)



FaithAction featured in national press, including: NBC News, The Washington Monthly, and YES Magazine.

We also held and participated in several press conferences in reaction to the Executive Orders on Immigration, the end of the TPS and DACA programs, and the concerning conditions of the Stewart Detention Center. Our service and advocacy work was covered by numerous local and national press outlets.

Financial growth

Finally, our annual budget goal for 2017 was \$267,000. We far exceeded expectations and brought in \$350,000, largely driven by kind and generous donations from people like you. This increase set the foundation for us to create the legal fund for our detained clients, as well the creation of a new Director of Outreach and Development position, a first for FaithAction, to ensure our work remains strong and sustainable well into the future. We hope to support a new Director of Education and Advocacy position into the future to strengthen our proactive education with the immigrant community, and to provide crucial state and national advocacy to address the root causes of immigrant injustice as we fight for fair and humane immigration reform!

