

**We are back** with Issue #2 of the Only+Together Newsletter, a reliable source for local immigration news to help us better serve and advocate for refugees and immigrants in our community. This is your newsletter.

**Share it** with your contacts. Send news and information to OnlyTogetherMail@gmail.com.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Join TIRRC today, February 26 for Their Communities Care Day from 11am-1pm and 4pm-7pm

Stop by during lunch or after your work day. TIRRC is located at 3310 Ezell Road, Nashville. There will be volunteer opportunities, snacks, updates about their work and how to help. Drop in for 30 minutes or all day, they hope you can join them. And, you can get a yard sign by donating \$10 at the event or online at <a href="Immigrants Belong YardSign-TIRRC">Immigrants Belong YardSign-TIRRC</a> - Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition.

Join NICE for a Special Dinner to Raise Emergency Rental Assistance Funds for Refugees

On **Thursday, February 27th at 6:00pm**, Nashville's Jewish community will be hosting a special dinner event to raise critical funds for refugee families affected by the ongoing freeze of funding that was promised to them when they were invited into the United States. 100% of the funds raised at the dinner will be donated to rent support for families in need. The event will feature Afghan food cooked by local chefs,

live music, and guest speakers.

Please contact <u>michal@jewishnashville.org</u> with any questions regarding this event.

Date & Time: February 27th at 6:00pm

Location: The Temple

5015 Harding Pike, Nashville, TN 37205

#### Informed and prepared: immigration session

Join Tennessee Justice for Our Neighbors for a conversation about how the immigration enforcement system works, how recent changes may affect you and your family, and what you can do to be prepared. A TNJFON attorney will be present to answer general\* questions during the event.

\*The purpose of this presentation is to provide general information and it is not a substitute for legal advice. TNJFON will not provide legal advice on individual cases during this session.

We will share the location with registrants prior to the presentation.

Register Here

#### SAVE THE DATE

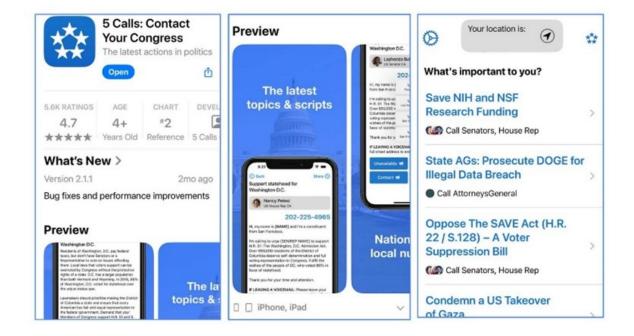
The OnlyTogether Conference 2025 will be held on Thursday, September 25 at the Woodmont Hills Church.

This year we've broadened our offerings to include a mental health track and employment and career planning, resume writing and meetings with successful immigrant business owners. Exhibits are a crowd favorite so the afternoon will be reserved for exhibitors and attendees to meet, share and support each other.

#### POLITICAL ADVOCACY

#### **Use the 5 Calls App to Contact Your Congress Persons**

Let our politicians know we are watching everything they do. If we do not agree, we let them know. There is a *free* app for this! *5 Calls* is available for iPhone and Android. It allows you to select your location, the issue you want to address and who to call. It provides elected officials' phone numbers and optional scripts you can use or modify for your own message. It is an open-source development made and offered by a group of volunteers wanting to make advocacy accessible. If you want to know more, after downloading the app, click the gear in the upper left corner and choose "About" then select "Who Made 5 Calls."



#### **Advocate for Unaccompanied Children**

Women of Welcome, Christian-based community dedicated to immigrants and refugees encourage us to USE OUR VOICE. Their website informs us that the current Administration's support for legal services for unaccompanied children ended nationwide on February 18, 2025 (for review and reconsideration). The services had been handling more than 26,000 child cases. All children should be protected from the vulnerabilities of trafficking and exploitation.

Click on this link <u>Latest Advocacy Needs - Women of Welcome</u> for issues severely impacted refugees and immigrants by recent actions.

### TIRRC talks Political Engagement and Safety

Pratik Dash, the political director at TIRRC, Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition spoke to the Williamson County League of Women Voters recently. Pratik discussed TIRRC's mission, the importance of voter turnout, and the organization's efforts to increase voter engagement among immigrant communities. Pratik discussed the importance of knowing one's rights, particularly in relation to ICE visits. He emphasized that immigration is a civil matter, not a criminal offense, and that individuals should not open their doors to ICE without proper identification and a signed judicial warrant.

#### **SAVE THIS NUMBER**

TIRRC resource line number **615-414-1030** for urgent immigrant assistance.

# Share your news and events!

Email OnlyTogetherMail@gmail.com.

Forward this email to others who share your heart for people of all nations who live

among us. Let's stay connected. Only together can we make a difference.

Leslie West, MSW Only+Together Planning Committee Immigrant Advocate and Volunteer Brentwood UMC Refugee and Migrant Committee





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Woodmont Hills Church | 3710 Franklin Road | Nashville, TN 37204 US

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