

## **Standing with immigrants and their families as they fight for justice. Now is the time. Will you join us?**

Arrests of immigrants with no criminal record more than doubled in 2017 compared to the previous year. Caught in ICE's grip this year were parents of U.S. citizen kids, grandparents, janitors, nurses, farmworkers, and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients, the very people Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan told that if they were worried about "some deportation force coming, knocking on your door this year, don't worry about that." So much for going after the "bad hombres"!

But we can make a difference. Community support can effect whether or not a person is deported.

That's why the Immigration & Refugee Outreach Team at The Unitarian Church in Westport is organizing an Immigration Community Support Team training on Sunday, January 7 from 1:00-5:00 (refreshments provided) at the Meeting House. The location is 10 Lyons Plains Road, Westport. The training is open to all members of the community.

The time commitment is up to you. You do what you can, when you can. That's why having a pool of people trained makes this work.

We'll be setting up teams of 3-6 people working with lawyers and immigrants fighting deportation. The task needs for each situation are unique and the team model makes it all possible. None of us is endlessly available. But the team as a whole is wonderfully functional.

Tasks could include doing background research that can be used by the lawyer, getting a therapist referral for an adult or child, connecting the family with needed social or medical services, accompanying an immigrant to ICE or ankle bracelet check-ins, mounting a public campaign when appropriate, employing social media, contacting supportive government officials, obtaining court documents, translation, etc.

The team model also brings to bear a wide range of talents, skills, and connections for the benefit of the family. When a task cannot be addressed directly by one of the team members, the team reaches out to a broader network of people in the area. Teams are being developed in the Danbury area, Westport, and Stamford.

For more information and to register for the training contact David Vita at: 203.227.7205 x14 or [david@uuwestport.org](mailto:david@uuwestport.org)