

*“...I thought of the Statue of Liberty and wished she could take us in.”*

— An asylum seeking mother

*“They said no? Did you show them the scars of the machete?”*

— One imprisoned asylum seeker to another



*photo: Evie Lovett*

*“These people have abandoned their homes, friends, communities, everything they held close. They arrive at our borders with nothing, hoping and praying for safety.”*

— A CASP volunteer

*“I didn’t realize how isolated our lives were until we had the asylum family living with us. Now my heart is brimming full, and a little bit raw.”*

— A Vermont supporter who, with her partner, opened up their family home



*“Now I’ve been in four kinds of water —a river, a lake, the ocean, and a pool!”*

— An asylum seeking child, age 8

*“I’m in the fifth grade and I know a lot of English”*

— An asylum seeking child, age 11

# Community Asylum Seekers Project



*“They said we could leave prison if only we had a place to go, but we had no one...”*

## WHO THEY ARE

Asylum seekers, like refugees, are forced to leave their homeland to escape anarchy, persecution or death threats. Unlike refugees, asylum seekers are not given government aid, cannot work, and must prove their asylum claims in court.

So many are in prison today, adults and children, their only crime the act of fleeing for their lives, having no sponsor to support them.

Due to current government practices, many asylum seekers are deported without hearings, and—if they are lucky enough to avoid immediate deportation—those without sponsors are often separated, men from women, parents from children, imprisoned and made to endure a years-long, backlogged court process before asylum is granted, or denied.



**Community Asylum Seekers  
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*We welcome you to join  
us in this important work.*

## WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO

The Community Asylum Seekers Project is a non-profit corporation formed by a small band of Vermonters with the mission of providing a safe haven in their local community for some of these brave individuals, supporting them until they can live independently.

Released from the trauma of incarceration, these adults and children are welcomed into a home and community, sheltered by volunteer hosts, until the courts decide whether they can stay. They are able to live, heal and grow in safety. To them, the gift of winter boots, of regular hot meals prepared with a family, of a medical visit or an English class, provides a bridge back into the circle of trust in the human family.

