



2315 Placer Street, Redding, California 96001 • A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization • (530) 241-5802

SEACM's mission is to welcome refugees and immigrants of all nationalities and assist them in becoming healthy, productive members of our community.

[Cancellation of Fund Raiser](#)

SEACM Celebration Dinner Tues., October 20, 2020

Due to the restrictions currently in place because of state and local Covid-19 guidelines, SEACM must cancel plans for its Celebration Dinner fund raiser that was scheduled for Tuesday, October 20th at the McConnell Foundation/Lema Ranch gathering hall. Hopefully, we will be able to reschedule the fund raiser for next Fall 2021.

Plans are in the works to develop a SEACM Facebook page donation site. Look for more information on that in an upcoming newsletter. In the meantime, we gladly accept donations for SEACM via mail. North State Giving Tuesday is set for December 1, 2020, and will be our one and only fund raiser this year.

Despite COVID-19, SEACM's work continues and Director Alice keeps busy helping people either by phone, online or in person (with distancing). Please see more information in her article on the status of USCIS.

From the Desk of Director Alice...

"Hard to Believe"

US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) adjusted its fees on October 2, 2020. They proposed the changes last fall and received 43,000 responses during the comment period. Now they have announced the "Final Rule" which we are assured is "fair." To wit, most fees increased at this level affect our clients greatly. The N-400 Application for Naturalization is going up 83%; from \$725 with the biometrics fee to \$1140. But, the I-90 form to "Renew Your Green Card" is going down 10% from \$540 to \$481. The DACA "Kids" now have to renew their work permit yearly but still pay the \$495 price. Until this new fee schedule, the card was good for two years. That is a 100% increase in price and a lot more paper work. I listened to two webinars this past month on all the changes and all I learned is that you had better "look it up" because there is no logical rhyme or reason to the "fairness." These price hikes are an added burden to our immigrant community!

This past month had many special successes. A young, very shy woman passed her citizenship test as well as a Syrian refugee couple, two women from Mexico and a Hispanic elderly couple from Burney. We assisted clients from Switzerland, United Kingdom, Canada, Philippines, Thailand, Laos, Peru, Niger, China and India. You never really know when the phone rings or check the SEACM email where in the world you will go. ♦ ♦ ♦

**(See editor's note on back page)*

Save the Date! Online Fund Raiser! North State Giving Tuesday Tuesday, December 1, 2020

<https://www.northstategives.org/seacm>

Many supporters of SEACM have donated in the past to this once a year, online fund raiser for local non profits sponsored by the *Community Foundation of the North State*. This year of COVID-19 has severely impacted fund raising efforts of non profits. We sincerely ask for your financial support this year by generously giving to SEACM on North State Giving Tuesday, December 1st. This is our one and only fund raiser this year! Thank you all for your prayers and support!

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Your Giving Makes a Difference

Many, many thanks for your continued support. Immigrants and refugees need our prayers and support, now more than ever.

Your giving helps support areas such as the Director's position, citizenship resource materials, ongoing education and training, and administrative costs.

You may mail your donation today to: SEACM, 2315 Placer Street, Redding, CA 96001. Your gifts are a blessing to us and to the people we serve. God bless you.



*Note from the editor regarding the latest USCIS fee adjustments

Shortly after Director Alice wrote her article "Hard to Believe," a group lawsuit by immigrant advocates was filed against the drastic hikes on fees paid by immigrants to apply for asylum, work permits and U.S. citizenship. Currently, there is a hold on the fee hikes as the federal court has issued an injunction. It's unknown how long it will be in effect.

(This is worth repeating from last newsletter...)



Dear Friends of SEACM,

During this time of social distancing and racial tension, SEACM continues to stand with those who are disenfranchised and those who are suffering. Over the years SEACM has resettled and supported hundreds of individuals and families who have come to America to begin a new life, with hearts filled with hope. SEACM has stood with these families to offer encouragement as they try to understand the complicated immigration system and to work their way toward citizenship. We are committed to serving all people in our community and we celebrate diversity. Following the example of Jesus in Matthew 25, we are called to feed the hungry, reach out to those in prison, and welcome the stranger. We follow the words of Micah: "And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Please continue to join us in this journey.



In God's Love,
The SEACM Board

Suggested Virtual Book Series of insightful interviews with authors and experts in the immigration landscape today – by Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services (LIRS):

www.lirs.org -under Resources/Virtual Book Series/On Demand

Immigration and Refugee Relief and Charity Websites:

Episcopal Migration Ministries www.episcopalmigrationministries.org

Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services (LIRS) www.lirs.org

United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) www.umc.org

Catholic Charities (CCUSA) www.catholiccharitiesusa.org