



Kino Border Initiative
Iniciativa Kino para la Frontera

August 2018

Dear Friend of the KBI:

I have served in the Kino Border Initiative for over nine years. During that time, I have spoken with migrants who have suffered profound abuses that violate and denigrate their God-given human dignity.

Yet, starting in early May, ***I saw something on a scale which I had never seen before.***

Many women and children, some men, mostly from Guatemala, with a small number from El Salvador, Honduras and Southern Mexico, began arriving at the Nogales Port of Entry, a number who came to seek asylum in the U.S. They were fleeing horrific violence and instability in their countries of origin and arrived with deep hope of finding support and safety. In the past, U.S. Customs would receive them quickly and would consider their request. This time, however, U.S. Customs was processing them much more slowly, so much so that the number of migrants in the port of entry rose to close to 100 persons. The Mexican authorities hinted that they might deport them to their home countries, which could put lives in danger.

In response, and with the support of donors like you, our staff has opened a larger, temporary shelter and is working with other shelters in the area and the Mexican authorities to house and transport migrants between the shelters and the ports of entry. We also manage a list so that migrants know when it is their turn to go to the port of entry and wait for U.S. Customs to receive them. Our staff works valiantly to serve and protect these vulnerable men, women and children, and continue to fulfill our mission to be a humanizing presence on the U.S.-Mexico border.

With your generous support, we will continue to serve our migrant sisters and brothers here in Ambos Nogales while we raise awareness about the challenging reality of migration and work to make immigration policy more just and humane.

At a Mass celebrating the fifth anniversary of his trip to Lampedusa, Pope Francis said this, *"Before the challenges of contemporary movements of migration, the only reasonable response is one of solidarity and mercy."* Thank you for helping to make the Kino Border Initiative an instrument "of solidarity and mercy."

With great gratitude,

Rev. Sean Carroll, S.J.
Executive Director