

GC IN SOLIDARITY WITH ASYLUM SEEKERS

REPORT [DRAFT]

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Last Reviewed on: March 30, 2024

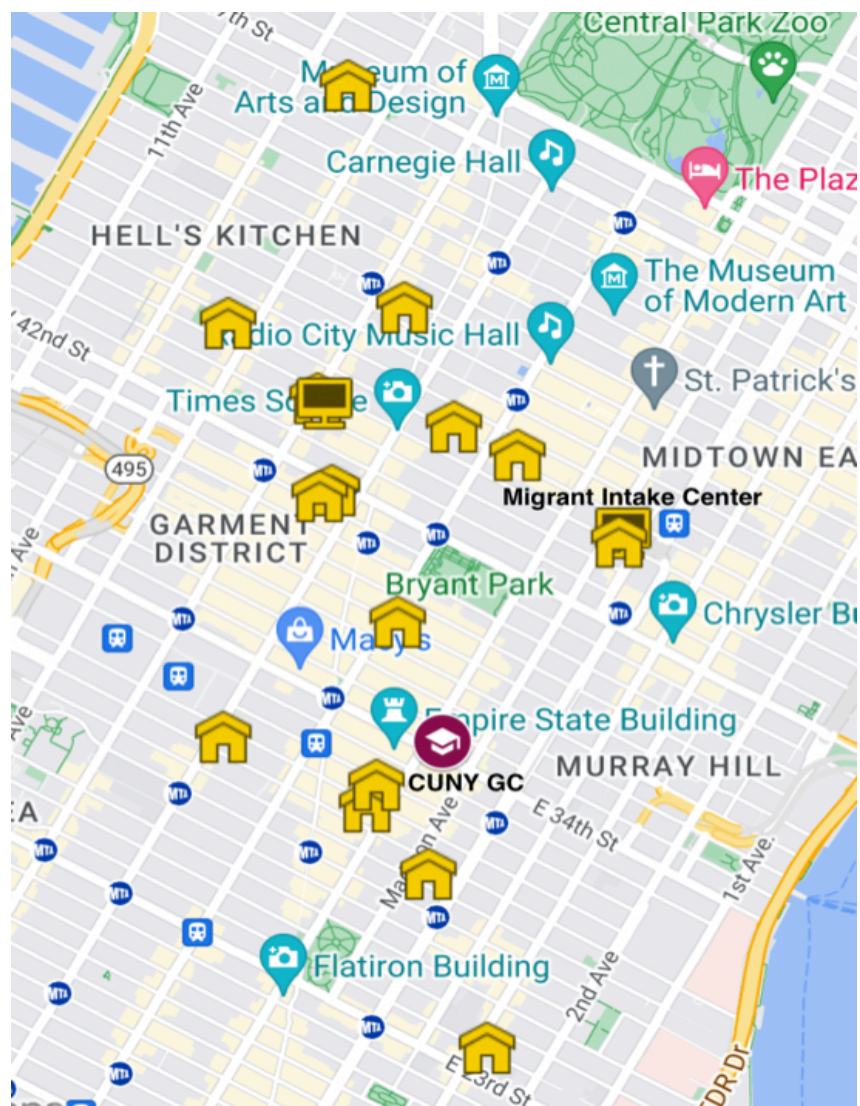


Figure 1. Family shelters and single individuals' respite centers in midtown and near the CUNY Graduate Center.

Overview

It's more than just giving away coats and boots

From the Spring of 2022, New York City has received close to 170,000 asylum seekers. Around 65,000 migrants are still living in a variety of shelters across New York City, including makeshift shelters called “respite centers,” for single individuals, managed by the NYC Office for Emergency Management (NYCOEM or NYCEM). Families are housed at emergency hotel shelters, managed by the Department of Homeless Services (DHS), at Humanitarian Emergency Referral and Response Centers (HERCCs) managed by New York City Health & Hospitals Corporation (HHC). Other sites also include shelters managed by the department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) and the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD).

As an activist and volunteer at a local [Bushwick community garden](#) I started organizing with/for migrant solidarity in June 2023, working with men from [the Stockton respite center](#) that opened across the street from the garden. At the start of the Fall semester, as a PhD student at the CUNY Graduate Center I decided to focus my organizing efforts around midtown Manhattan area due to the multiple migrant family shelters in that area. **In midtown** (Times Sq., Herald Square, Garment District, Koreatown, etc.) **near the Graduate Center there are at least 13 family shelters and 2 men’s respite centers.**

On early September 2023 (see Appendix ii for donations drive flyer), we started a [fall/winter clothes and coat drive](#) at the Graduate Center to help cover some of these immediate needs for migrant families nearby. On November 3 we hosted a [distro event](#), also at the university, to distribute the first bulk of donations from the drive and to this day we have continued distributing donations among families that stop by the [DGSC Dominican Studies Group](#) and the [Student Parents Organization](#) offices during the weekdays. Not only midtown families attended the big distro event, that day we also received families who stay at shelters in the Bronx, Gowanus, and other midtown shelters that we were not aware of. **Over 100 people/about 25 families came to the November distribution event** (see Appendix iii for photos of event).

After continuous weekly (and sometimes daily) distribution of donations out of the DSG office, and by connecting directly with families and listening to the issues they were facing, **I soon realized that beyond donations, people still needed help with the services that the for-profit private companies that manage the shelters had been tasked to do and paid millions of dollars for** (See **Table 2** below). Asylum seekers who visit us for clothes, also have requested help with finding the locations and what steps to follow to apply for their IDNYC and for their asylum and TPS. Others have requested help with finding schools and childcare centers to enroll their kids. Some even have asked for help in making marriage licenses and wedding appointments online with the Office of the City Clerk. All of these a social worker or case manager could This clearly shows **that migrant shelters lack appropriate case management** and the work of mutual aid groups and individuals is/has been crucial in helping our new neighbors to navigate institutions and their bureaucracy and advance their asylum cases.

The donations drive was set to end in December 2023. However, asylum seeking families are still crossing the border, they are still being sent to sanctuary cities like New York, and the GC community's solidarity has continued to manifest through ongoing donations, therefore the free store distro for families is still ongoing. **Why a donation drive to distribute at the CUNY Graduate Center?** Upon arriving at the border and turning themselves in to CBP, migrants belongings are taken and thrown away, people can only keep what they are wearing. Most of the times we've helped recently arrived families, especially those arriving directly from the border states, they are wearing the only clothes and worn out or torn shoes they own. As the winter approached, at the end of 2023, people continued arriving wearing clothes not appropriate for the cold weather. **The migrant shelters set up by the city do not have a system to collect and distribute donations;** in fact, more often than not shelter staff and security resent mutual aid work and try to disrupt distributions nearby the shelters. Mutual aid groups and neighboring communities have taken it upon themselves to collect donations and organize distro events.

This report summarizes information on migrant family shelters population that has come to the Graduate Center for donations, the services we have been able to offer them as well as donations sourced and distributed among these families, from the beginning of September 2023 to the end of January 2024.

Author's Positionality: I came to radical activism and direct action tactics as an anarchist through my involvement in several groups and collectives in over 15 years between New York City and Santo Domingo. This background is relevant, not only because it helps explain the politics that impulse my involvement in the broader mutual aid colectiva mobilizing to work with migrants, but also because these very anarchist politics and theory provides me with the lens to develop a critical analysis of the authoritative structures (federal, state, municipal) and to develop a counter praxis to that of these institutions.

METHODOLOGY

This report's quantitative and qualitative data came together from handwritten notes that documented on the number of family members, their genders, items needed and the other information we describe of each family that visits the Graduate Center to collect donations from the drive, as well as sign-in sheets for the families that attended the big distro event on [November 3rd](#). The information was documented in order to more effectively 1- Note specific needs, 2- to request and organize donations for families and 3- to verify we had the items requested handy, since we have a small space to operate. The intention of the donations distro was never to produce a report per se, however, after many months of work, in looking at loose data that reflects all of the information here presented, we decided to systematically write the information situated in its geographic and sociopolitical context.

Contextual information is based on on-the-ground observations and interactions. This is information that emerged during conversations and participation in events with the families. Institutional data is drawn from other city agencies' reports and newspaper articles, which are linked throughout the text. After some weeks of working together, it became clear that these families needed more than just attire and even more than just having access to resources in their languages. By documenting the country of origin and languages spoken by these families, we could help connect them with cultural organizations for specific services. This in turn yielded the kind of information and services families had been denied or had difficulty accessing through the various organizations that are supposed to offer services as well as through their shelters' case management system.

Definitions

HERRC: Humanitarian Emergency Response and Relief Centers (HERRCs) are a type of shelter managed by the Office of Emergency Management or Emergency Operations (NYCEM or OEM) entity led by commissioner Zach Ischol.

DHS managed shelter: The Department of Homeless Services (DHS) has also been contracted to manage migrant shelters. Though conditions are not the best in these settings either, migrants staying at DHS managed shelters are protected under the [*right to shelter act*](#), as opposed to HERRCs and H & H C managed shelters and respites.

Respite Center: A category of migrant shelter run by private contractors through NYC Office of Emergency Management (NYC OEM) initially established as temporary (15 days) housing for single migrant men. In the first respites their stay extended for months, delaying any process in their asylum applications given that these sites, 1- do not offer case management and that 2- due to their ‘temporary’ status migrants are not allowed to use their addresses as residency or mailing addresses, making it difficult for them to apply for ID, asylum and any other process that requires a mailing residential address.

Intake Center: The first stop for buses that arrive in NYC from border states, where migrant individuals and families are processed and assigned a shelter or respite center. From 2022-2023 the intake center was located at Port Authority Bus Terminal. From 2023, Roosevelt Hotel, a migrant family shelter near Grand Central station, was designated as the intake center and it still is today.

Re-ticketing Center: A category of migrant processing center that opened in October 2023 at the former St. Brigid Academy’s building in the East Village. The building functioned as a respite center for a few months through the summer, until it was closed due to building violations that rendered it inhabitable. Single individuals then passed from being sent to Roosevelt intake for shelter reassignment, to St. Brigid to be offered tickets out of town and the country.

Distro: Distribution. An event or space where goods are distributed free of charge.

Demographics

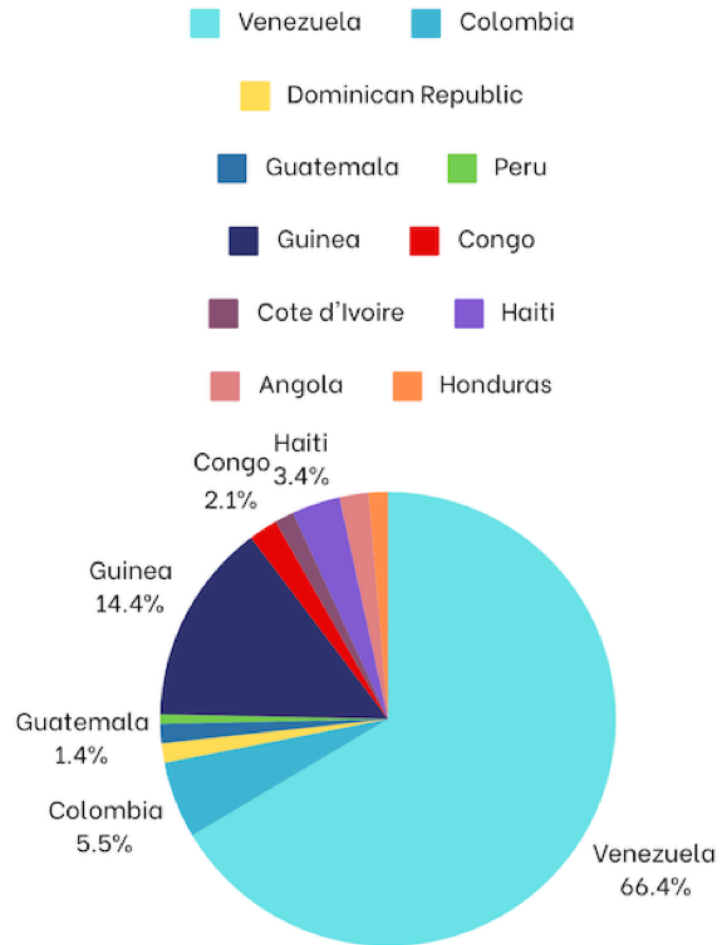


Figure 2. Percentage of the nationalities of families that have visited the Grad Center. Prepared by author.

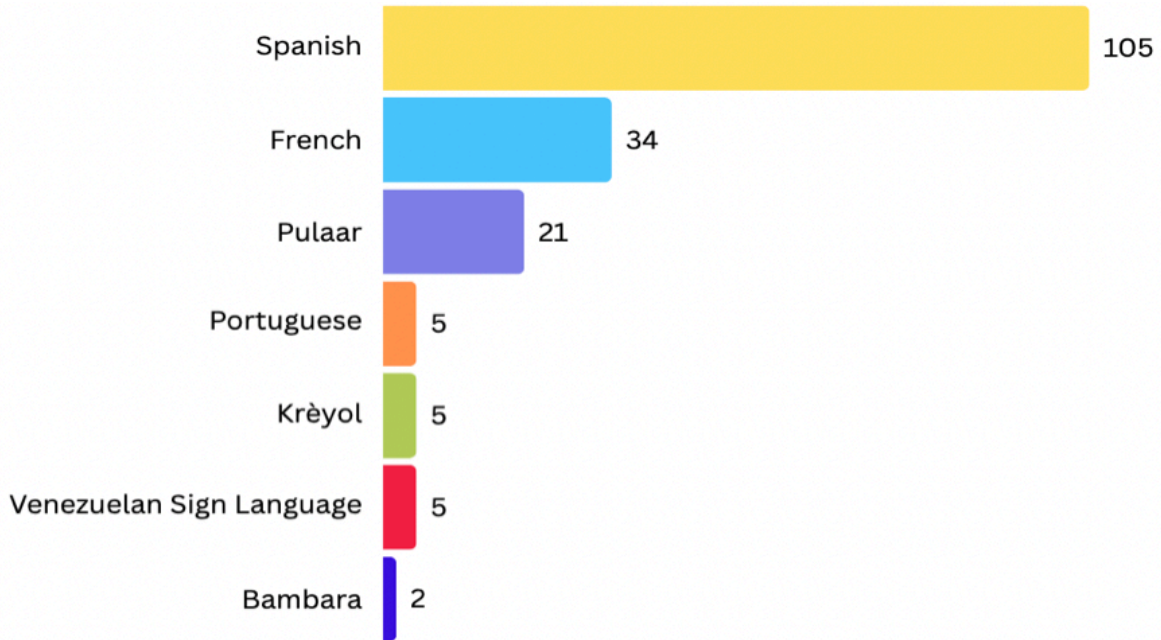


Figure 3. Languages spoken by the number of speakers (of those that were documented). Prepared by author.

Spanish (Venezuela, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Peru, Honduras, Guatemala, Haiti, Côte d’Ivoire)

Venezuelan Sign Language (VSL) (Venezuela)

French (Guinea, Angola, Côte d’Ivoire)

Pulaar (Guinea)

Portuguese (Angola, Haiti via Brasil)

Krèyol (Haiti)

Bambara (Côte d’Ivoire)

The data in this report correspond to the period of September, 2023 to January 30, 2024. Close to **278 individuals from 86 families** came to the Dominican Studies Group’s Office at the CUNY Graduate Center to collect donations and request information during that four month period. The families that have visited our donation site at the GC are of **Central- and South American, Caribbean, and Western- and Southern African origin**. Families have various compositions: single parents (either single mothers or fathers), nuclear families (of 3, 4,

5 and 6 members), multigenerational households with grandparents, aunts, uncles within the family unit, among other non-traditional family arrangements.

Other relevant information of families we have served that has not been quantified:

Number of school-aged children (ages 3 - 18 years old);

Number of infants and toddlers (0 - 3 years old);

Families embarked in their journey while pregnant and with babies and toddlers in tow;

Teenage mothers;

Asylum seekers from the LBGTQ community;

Families with members with disabilities;

Length of travel time between country of origin and the US (for some the trip has been direct, taking weeks or months. For others it has taken months to years as they lived in other countries for a while before embarking on their journey to the USA).

Mutual Aid at the Grad Center

As lead of the DGSC Dominican Studies and the Student Parent Organization, having access to office spaces and community spaces in the GC building contributed to my decision to start the donations drive and to host the November 2023 event for families. **The Dominican Studies Group's office became an ad hoc free store*** where we sorted and organized donations and have been receiving families who come to “shop” for free. As an immigrant myself with multilingual skills and preparation in translation and interpretation studies, it only seemed natural to take action from my standpoint (both in terms of location--midtown, university/GC and in terms of personal values, politics and academic preparation). Creating a free store constitutes **direct action**** taken towards tackling the issue and expanding the collective mutual aid efforts that had been and has been operating across NYC.

Donations received and distributed at the Grad Center

| Clothes | Items | Essentials |
|---|---|--|
| <p>Clothes, new underwear for all ages and genders</p> <p>Winter clothes, coats, jackets, rain coats</p> <p>Socks, scarves, gloves, winter hats/beanies/baseball caps</p> <p>Shoes, boots, sneakers</p> | <p>Multilingual books, school and office supplies, arts and crafts material</p> <p>Toys and stuffed animals</p> <p>Umbrellas, rain ponchos, bags, school backpacks, luggage, hair accessories, hair dryers, sun glasses, belts, purses, wallets, phone chargers</p> | <p>Over the counter medication</p> <p>Toiletries, hygiene products, condoms, sanitary pads and tampons</p> <p>Baby diapers, breast pumps, bottles, and other maternity and infant items</p> <p>Strollers, car seats, bassinets</p> <p>Ready to eat and shelf-stable food</p> |

Table 1. Clothing and other assorted items collected throughout months of winter clothes drive, that we distribute during the Sept - Jan period. By author.

In general, mutual aid groups have covered everything from case management, ESL lessons, facilitating shower access, have set up recurring warm food and clothes distributions, and other services to migrants since the first waves started arriving in August 2022 to New York City.

Services provided

| Direct Services | Referrals to |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| License and wedding application help | Asylum and TPS application IDNYC application |
| Documents printing | Other free food, clothes and distro events |
| Translation / Interpretation | School and preschool childcare centers Free adult literacy and ESL lessons Free OSHA classes Free legal clinics and events |

Table 2. Shows other support we were able to give families during donations open hours at the Graduate Center. By author.

Collaborations

We have received ongoing support and guidance from [Africa is Everywhere](#) in various capacities from organizing, to political analysis and focus of our actions, to facilitating communication with African service organizations and helping with numerous logistic and organizational questions on carrying out donations collections and distributions, as well as serving as a conduit to direct African migrants to culturally relevant resources and services.

Since the beginning of the donations drive project we have received support from the [Doctoral and Graduate Students Council](#) (DGSC) co-chairs, who have facilitated spaces to collect and store donations and in the dissemination of information on the drive. Likewise, we have received unconditional support from various members of the Graduate Center community; friends and classmates have mobilized to collect donations and help transport incoming and

outgoing donations we have redistributed to other sites. For the November 3 distro event with families we have received a monetary donation from The People's Pantry of the [CUNY Reclaim the Commons Campaign](#) to buy sanitary pads and Halloween goodie bags, snacks and drinks for the children. For that event we also counted on the collaboration of groups from the larger NYC mutual aid collective that has been doing work on the ground helping our new neighbors from day one. The [South Bronx Mutual Aid](#) brought clothes, shoes, toys, books and household items. [La Morada Mutual Aid Kitchen](#) provided warm meals for the event with financial support by [NYU's Abolition Lab](#) class. We offered hundreds of multilingual books generously provided by the [Brooklyn Book Bodega](#) and by [Recirculation](#).

On January 2024, we teamed up with [Bushwick Ayuda Mutua](#), [Mil Mundos en Común](#) and the [Undocumented Women's Fund](#) for an [accompaniment project](#) to support single parents and pregnant mothers, with information and resources, and accompaniment during their process of shelter transfer due to the 60 and 30 days eviction notices. The accompaniment project started on January 9th, the day the first families were evicted from their shelters and forced to undertake a process of painstaking shelter reapplication. The effects and implications of these 60 and 30 days shelter limits are [currently being investigated](#) by New York City Comptroller Brad Lander. **In this context, mutual aid is the voluntary exchange of resources and services.** Instead of looking to corporations or the state, we can look to one another for what we need. This practice has existed for thousands of years in many societies. **Capitalism creates a false sense of scarcity** by placing monetary value on everything from the environment to human life that only builds wealth for those who hoard those resources. Mutual aid praxis focuses on building *community* wealth, and not only in terms of material gain. A mutual aid approach places value on a large spectrum of relationships, not just on monetary or material goods, it fosters cooperation instead of creating competition. The politics and praxis of mutual aid, as conceptualized by [Russian anarchist Piotr Kropotkin](#), is how we get ahead in the face of social/economic challenges and adversity.

These services and goods that we have contributed migrant families to access at the GC have all been funded by donations and sustained by volunteer labor. We gladly take care of each other and mobilize when/where needed; however, it is worth noting, that these services provided to migrants by cash strapped grassroots organizations, are minimal or totally absent at the shelters where for-profit companies are awarded no-bid contracts of [millions of dollars](#) to

provide them. We have stepped up to help those who the city government and big NGOs have neglected.

How come these companies that are contracted to provide case management, food, security, and other services, don't have any oversight on how much money they are allocated and how they perform their services?

***A free store is a space where all goods / services are free with no strings attached.** Setting up a free store is an example of **gift economy, a practice that critiques and defies neoliberal notions of scarcity.** Free stores are **proactive, positive, and participatory.** The ideas behind a free store are both **environmental** and **anarchist.** A free store is environmental because it responds to the rampant waste created by our consumer culture by promoting the concept of re-using. A free store is anarchist because it demonstrates community building, anti-capitalism, and **mutual aid.**

**** “Direct action gets the goods”** says a well-known anarchist aphorism. Direct action is taking the matters into your own hands, they tend to be actions that challenge established and powerful authorities and institutions. **A free store is a form of constructive direct action** that allows people to exchange goods and services outside of a money-based system.

Main Issues

This section highlights key issues that have emerged due to city-imposed measures to deter migrants from arriving or staying in NYC

Language Access and Language (In)justice

An ongoing issue affecting migrants' access to information, resources and to advancing their asylum applications and paperwork in general is the deficient language services due to the limited access to properly translated materials and to interpreters, which constitutes a grave language justice issue. Anecdotally, West- North- and Southern African migrants who speak Pulaar, Wolof, Bambara, and other indigenous African languages have had more difficulty accessing information in their languages even in French and Arabic at institutions, events (such as resource fairs) and at their shelters.

The **subpar language translation and interpretation services offered at the shelters** (see Appendix III) and the lack of oversight to the private contractors that run these sites, represent **violations of NY City Council Local Law 30 of 2017** ([see chapter 11 on Language Access](#)). Local law 30 is a law that aims "to amend the New York city charter and the administrative code of the city of New York" to improve access to city services to those who aren't fluent in English. Local Law 30, "requires that covered city agencies appoint a language access coordinator, develop language access implementation plans, provide telephonic interpretation in at least 100 languages, translate their most commonly distributed documents into the 10 designated citywide languages, and post signage about the availability of free interpretation services, among other requirements." ([Language and Disability Access, MOIA](#))

In many cases, mutual aid organizers have relied on sourcing community interpreters and translators to communicate with asylum seekers. Those of use with less fluency in languages that have become a lingua franca (French, Spanish, Portuguese) **have relied on translation engines, such as Google Translate. Cross-linguistic communication through WhatsApp has also been crucial, particularly its audio function (speech to text and speech to audio), which allows for people with various literacy levels to communicate.** Google Translate's audio input has also served as medium for cross-linguistic communication between speakers of mutually unintelligible languages who have varied reading and writing skills.

60 days and 30 days notices

60 days notices started to be given to single adults staying at respites from July 2023. This meant leaving their shelter or respite center and reapplying to housing at the intake center. After the highly publicized images of men sleeping outside of Roosevelt Hotel for days, waiting for their turn to reapply for shelter, during the brutal August 2023 heatwave, the City moved the single individuals' and men's intake center to St. Brigid's Academy.

Families staying at HERRCs started receiving the 60 days notices in late October 2023, with move out dates starting in late December. Due to the high media coverage of the push back from advocates, families' move out dates were pushed to the second week of January. On January 9 the first families started leaving their shelter for the Roosevelt intake center for relocation. Families relocated to HERRC sites have reported receiving a new 60 days notice letter immediately upon arriving at the new shelter. Some families at DHS run shelters have reported not receiving the notice. DHS shelters, as mentioned above abide by the right to shelter act. Families have also received 30 days (in reality 28 days) notices. In most instances, families have been relocated to shelters in different boroughs and long commutes away from their children's schools. Due to receiving short stays of 28 days, despite the distance and time, some families decide to commute from their new far away locations to their current schools (e.g. from Jamaica, Queens to Washington Heights, from Sunset Park to the Bronx).

As the City's Comptroller stated at a recent City Council oversight hearing before the committees of immigration and education, the administration's 30/60 days ruling, "[violates the court affirmed rights of families but endangers the physical and mental wellbeing of children](#)." Due to these concerning issues the Comptroller's office [launched an investigation](#) in January 2023, on the 30 and 60 days eviction notices and their economic and (in)human implications.

Education Interrupted

Despite assertions by the Mayor's office and other City government representatives that keeping children in their schools is a top priority, the 60 and 30 days eviction notices given to asylum seeking families prove otherwise. Multiple families have reported being relocated to different boroughs from which the commute to their children's school is two hours. Others report bringing documents from their children's school, to the intake center during relocation day, with the hopes to find placement close to the schools, but are given no guarantee that it will happen.

The process at the Roosevelt intake center can take hours and even days, in which case the family sleeps in cots or in temporary rooms at the center. **Families need to bring their children to the relocation appointment even if it falls on a school day, interrupting their school day.** Even if children were brought to school, if the parents are still being processed at the intake they cannot leave the intake center to pick up their children from school. **This unnecessary and cumbersome process of family relocation, as a method of deterrence, by interrupting the children's schooling and exacerbating their already precarious stability, is in direct violation of the [McKinney-Vento Act of 1987](#).** Under this federal law "homeless children and youth' refers to minors who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence." Thus, homeless students have "[t]he right to choose between the local school close to where they are currently living and their school of origin, which is the school they attended before losing their housing or the school where they were last enrolled."

Moving families around who were already trying to get on their feet by enrolling their children in school, while parents attend important legal appointments to apply for identification, asylum, and work permits and who are receiving important correspondence in their current shelters related to these processes, **is a cruel [deterrence tactic](#) by the Adams administration to keep migrants from coming and to make those who are here leave.**

Case Management and Services

On different instances and both in person and through personal communication, families from different sites have denounced different issues related to social workers refusing to do their jobs. **Social workers and case managers need to receive cultural training and be sensitive to the migrant population's experience** as this is a very vulnerable population. Anecdotal evidence includes, shelter social workers Googling places for young migrants, wearing the only clothes they own, to go buy clothes. It was fall and she was wearing shorts and her torn shoes from having crossed the Darién jungle weeks before. The social worker sent her to Goodwill in Chelsea (over a 30-minute walk) only for the girl to find out the clothes weren't free. Another family from Row reported not receiving help nor information to enroll their daughter in school. Another family at a different shelter simply had a question on what hospital or clinic she could go for family planning and were refused help. Families have also reported social worker's refusal to provide information on school enrollment. Others have spoken of verbal mistreatment and discrimination by shelter employees due to their immigration status and the services that as asylum seekers they are being provided. These reflect cases of weaponized incompetence, covert microaggressions and direct xenophobic and racist verbal aggression directed at migrant families.

Despite the never ending bureaucratic processes these families need to undertake, basic services such as printing and items folders to keep important documents and office supplies are also not available at shelters.

Recommendations and next steps

- There is an **imperative need for trauma informed care, case management and education** especially geared towards the youngest family members. These families have been through unimaginable traumatic situations leaving their countries of origin, traversing countries by foot, crossing the Darién Gap with children in tow... to now face revictimization and criminalization by the different systems in place in NYC that are supposed to welcome and support asylum seekers.

· **Access to appropriate case management:** need for multilingual case managers or interpretation services to assist case managers should be provided. Professional case managers should follow up with families (and individuals) on their asylum / TPS and other paperwork and applications.

| Activity | Needs and Expectations | Level of Access |
|--------------------|---|---|
| Access to IDNYC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Struggle with residency with respite centers, language access at city official sites ● Africana and Masjid affiliate in the Bronx only offered residency | Imperative: IDNYC enables mobility around and outside the city |
| ESL | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Most city funded ESL programs do not have French, Arabic and African indigenous facilitators ● ESL should focus on orality to accommodate literacy range of new asylum seekers | Discretionary: Focus on hiring Arabic, French, Wolof and Pulaar interpreters from these communities to assist with communication needs between the city and migrant. orgs like Refugee Translation Project has capacity |
| Social Services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Access to healthcare, DHS youth shelters, FHEPS for housing, SNAP ● OSHA, workforce development training ● Maternal health and VAWA applications | High: lack of case management at respite centers, lack of non profit support for access correlates to inaccessible services and misinformation |
| Cultural Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● City practices and social norms in New York vary- education to counter xenophobia for all New Yorkers is imperative. | cultural and faith based institutions should be city fortified to meet this need |

Table 3. By Enobabor of *Africa is Everywhere* on her report on respite center migrants on that population's needs

· In general, **language services and access have been subpar or entirely absent.** In a recent meeting in January, the senior advisor of language access from the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA) admitted that services could improve. There, MOIA released an interest form for CBOs, NGOs, mutual aid groups, and other grassroots organizations and groups to indicate their capacity to provide language services (translation and interpretation). Frankly, this initiative is two years too late into this humanitarian crisis and decades late, for

a city like New York, where every municipal entity should already be better equipped with multilingual access. **The mobilization and recruitment of community translators and interpreters for paid positions is crucial.**

- **Cultural education that helps our new neighbors situate themselves in the space (New York City)** and learn how to navigate institutions, social and cultural norms, federal and municipal relevant legislation, the train system, know your rights information on how to deal in police interactions, particularly for the migrant community that is racialized and profiled.

Report Limitations

Data collection: The information of families coming for donations were collected over WhatsApp conversations, post-it notes and other handwritten notes. Some data was documented more systematically on excel sheets.

Reduced sample: The ~200 individuals make up the sample of around 120,000 - 130,000 total asylum seekers in NYC within the time frame covered by this report (Fall 2023)

Appendix

i - Mutual Aid collectives, links to donate:

1 GC Migrant Solidarity [Amazon list](#)

2 [Bushwick City Farms](#): Helps cover Stockton and other nearby respite centers' migrants

https://withfriends.co/bushwick_city_farms

Venmo and PayPal: @Bushwickcityfarm

3 [La Morada Mutual Aid Kitchen](#): Undocumented migrants' run restaurant in the Bronx. Feeds and clothes for hundreds of migrants/week for free.

Venmo @lamoradanyc

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/migrantsmutualaid>

4 [South Bronx Mutual Aid](https://opencollective.com/south-bronx-mutual-aid): Covers different shelters across the city with food and clothes distros

<https://opencollective.com/south-bronx-mutual-aid>

5 [NYC Migrant Solidarity](https://opencollective.com/nycms): collective of several mutual aid groups around NYC

<https://opencollective.com/nycms>

6 [Comunidad Primero](https://opencollective.com/comunidadprimero): does mutual aid for migrants and neighbors in the Bushwick, Brooklyn and Ridgewood, Queens area

<https://opencollective.com/comunidadprimero>

7 [Friend of a Friend NYC](#): feeds unhoused people and migrants in the LES

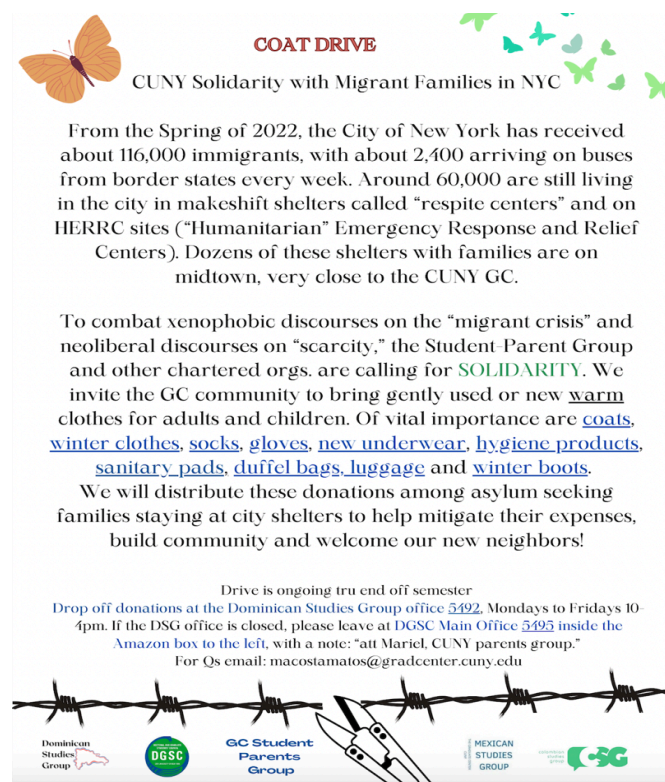
Venmo @foafnyc

8 [Washington Sq Park Mutual Aid](#): feeds unhoused people in the area

Cashapp: \$wspmutualaid2

Venmo: <https://account.venmo.com/u/wspmutualaid>

ii - September-December coat drive flyer



The flyer features a decorative header with a butterfly on the left and a trail of small butterflies on the right. The title 'COAT DRIVE' is centered in red. Below it, the text describes the migrant crisis in NYC and the need for donations. It lists various items to donate and provides contact information for the Dominican Studies Group. At the bottom, there is a barbed wire graphic and logos for the Dominican Studies Group, DGSC, GC Student Parents Group, and Mexican Studies Group.

COAT DRIVE
CUNY Solidarity with Migrant Families in NYC

From the Spring of 2022, the City of New York has received about 116,000 immigrants, with about 2,400 arriving on buses from border states every week. Around 60,000 are still living in the city in makeshift shelters called “respite centers” and on HERRC sites (“Humanitarian” Emergency Response and Relief Centers). Dozens of these shelters with families are on midtown, very close to the CUNY GC.

To combat xenophobic discourses on the “migrant crisis” and neoliberal discourses on “scarcity,” the Student-Parent Group and other chartered orgs. are calling for **SOLIDARITY**. We invite the GC community to bring gently used or new warm clothes for adults and children. Of vital importance are coats, winter clothes, socks, gloves, new underwear, hygiene products, sanitary pads, duffel bags, luggage and winter boots.

We will distribute these donations among asylum seeking families staying at city shelters to help mitigate their expenses, build community and welcome our new neighbors!

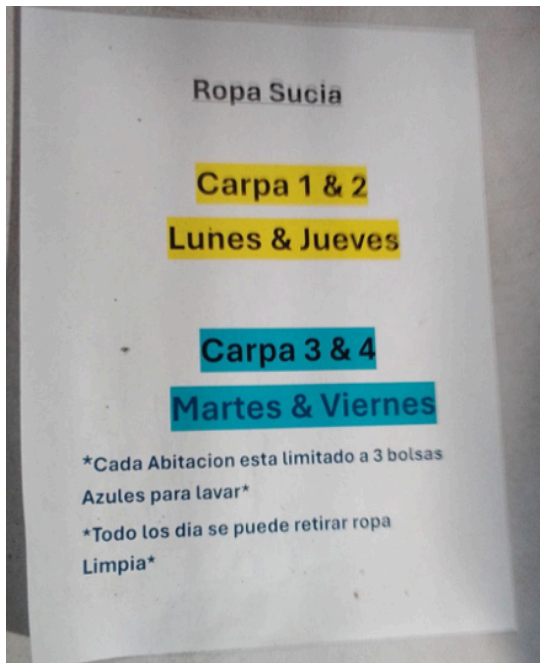
Drive is ongoing thru end of semester
Drop off donations at the Dominican Studies Group office 5492, Mondays to Fridays 10-4pm. If the DSG office is closed, please leave at DGSC Main Office 5493 inside the Amazon box to the left, with a note: “att Mariel, CUNY parents group.”
For Qs email: macostamatos@gradcenter.cuny.edu

Dominican Studies Group
DGSC
GC Student Parents Group
MEXICAN STUDIES GROUP

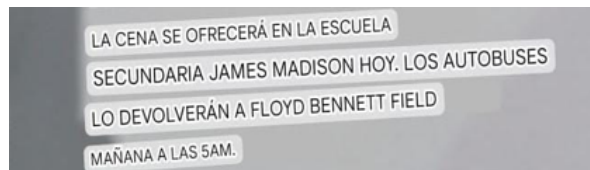
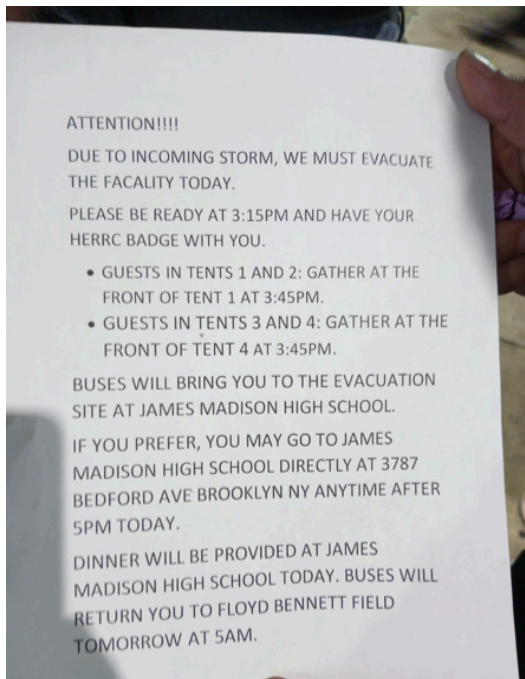
iii - November 3 distro event for families



iv – Sample of mistranslated flyers, translations with typos and English only notices at shelters



The flyer above indicates the days of the week the different tents' laundry will be done at Floyd Bennett Field



Migrants and volunteers use tools such as Google Translate and the Google Lens tool that reads and translates flyer texts as the fragment above.