

The logo for Bridges Faith Initiative features the text "Bridges Faith Initiative" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The text is centered and overlaid on a graphic consisting of four overlapping, curved shapes that resemble stylized bridges or sails. The shapes are colored in a gradient from red to yellow, with the red shapes on the outer edges and the yellow shapes in the center.

# Bridges Faith Initiative

September 2022 Newsletter

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Dear <NAME>,

We are in the Jewish season of High Holy Days, which is a time for reflection, a recognition of gratitude for life as well as its fragility. For all our advocates and supporters who celebrate, may it be a meaningful time. And may we all remember the preciousness and tenderness of life as we continue to advocate for some of the most vulnerable in this country and around the world.

Since April, Governors from Texas and Arizona have bussed over 11,000 immigrants from the Border to DC, NYC, and Chicago. As playing with lives has become a game to some politicians, Governor De Santis then upped the media ante by coercing and flying mainly Venezuelan asylum seekers to Martha's Vineyard three weeks ago. This is a cruel and shameful political stunt. People seeking asylum are individuals, children, and families fleeing danger and persecution and need to be welcomed with dignity. To be treated as political pawns is demeaning and unacceptable.

Bridges Faith Initiative has been working on this issue at two levels. One with local partners to support receiving and caring for people being coerced to move and two, with national partners to condemn this stunt and to call on elected officials to put policies in place that recognize the inherent worth of all people. We are calling on the federal government to support the community-led organizations that are serving immigrants as well as [state governments to open up their humanitarian doors](#) to immigrants.

True leaders offer solutions, not fear and cruelty. However, last September, around 15,000 Haitian asylum seekers arrived in Del Rio, Texas and these asylum seekers faced abuse at the



hands of CBP. As of this September, there has still been no accountability for those harmed. Bridges Faith Initiative joined with partners to demand accountability for this horrific demonstration of immigration militarization. You can learn more about the specific experiences faced by Black Haitian Asylum Seekers through reading the [Amnesty International Report](#).

We at Bridges Faith Initiative have said time and time again that Title 42 is racist and deadly. In a new [report released by the Child Thrive Action Network](#), we now know that CBP has expelled more than 30,806 children aged three and under. Title 42 also contributes to separation families and thus we remain committed to seeing this policy end once and for all.

## What We Are Working On:

- We are working to ensure that all people seeking safety will not be a pawn in the political games of some governors. The coerced plane rides of immigrants today echo the coerced bus rides called the “reverse freedom rides” of the 1960’s where Black Americans were promised jobs in Massachusetts but in actuality nothing was prepared for their arrival in the North. We are asking our federally elected representatives to call out this xenophobic behavior and provide resources for the receiving communities. Please join us by [writing an email to your State Representatives](#).
- We have joined with the [Shut Down Folkston Campaign](#) in Folkston, Georgia to work towards ending detention at one of the soon-to-be largest ICE detentions in the United States.

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With your financial support we can ensure that a progressive faith voice is heard in Congress!

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