

**April 2022 Report on Newly Arrived Immigrants**

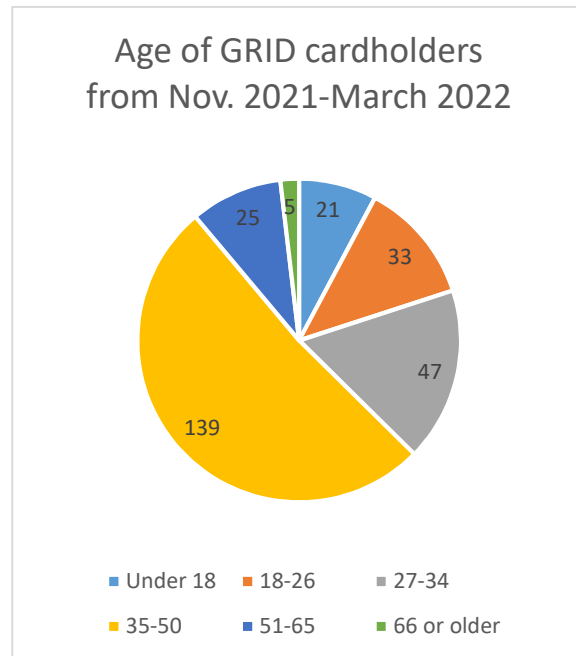
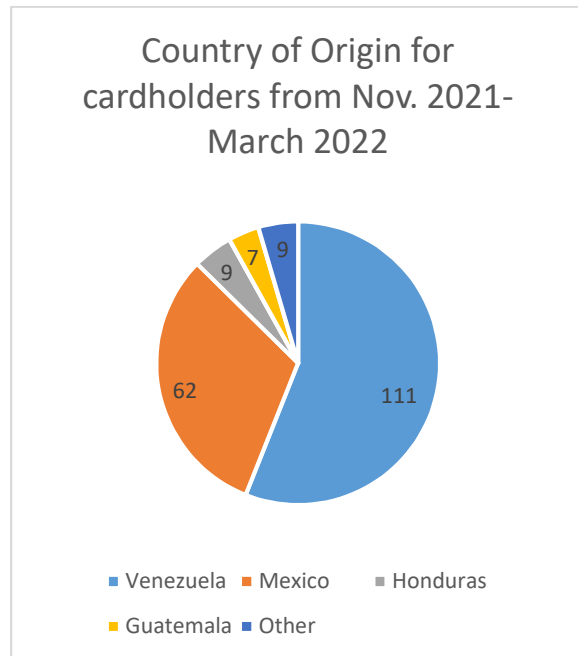
**Summary**

In the past 6 months, Center for Healing & Hope has noticed an increase in the number of newly arrived immigrants as they come to receive GRID cards, medical care, and to meet with our Natural Helpers. Natural Helpers is a program we started in October 2021 where we trained volunteers who are immigrants themselves to meet with immigrant community members to connect them to resources in the community. These volunteers have reported that most of the people they meet with are recent asylum seekers from Venezuela. In addition to Venezuela, we have also seen recent asylum seekers from Honduras, Guatemala, Cuba, and Mexico. These recently arrived immigrants come with very few resources and are in need of identification, food, clothes, housing, and medical care to name just a few of the needs.

**Goshen Resident Identification Card program**

We began to notice an increase in the number of Venezuelans coming for GRID cards beginning last year, but we did not keep track of country of origin until November 2021.

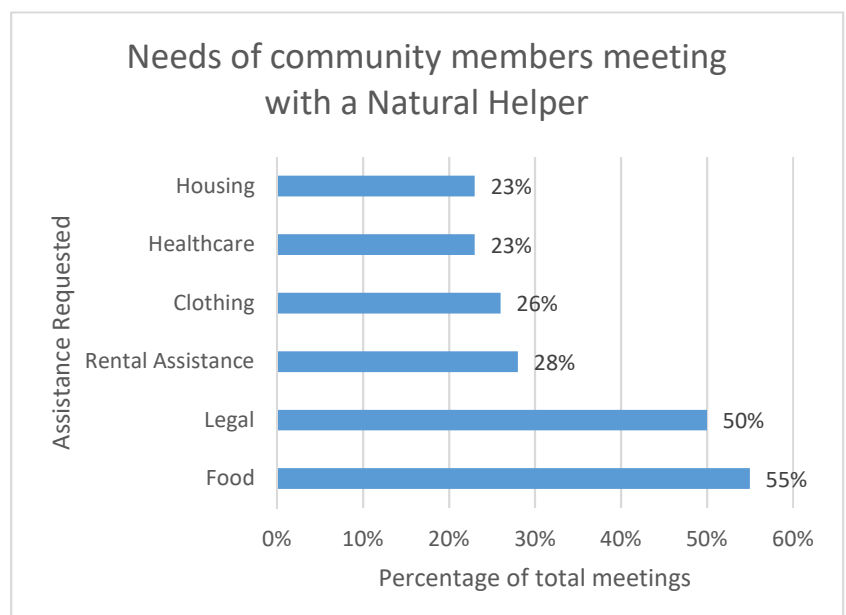
- In the past 6 months, we have issued 247 cards, only 23 have been renewals
- The large majority of new cards issued are to people from Venezuela.
- The majority of people arriving are in the age range of 35-50 years old.



**Natural Helpers program**

Since beginning Natural Helpers in October 2021, our nine volunteers have had **96 meetings** with immigrant community members. When the Natural Helpers meet with immigrant community members, they listen closely to the needs then make referrals to services CHH offers, as well as other resources in the community.

- 53 of the 96 meetings were with Venezuelans.
- Over half of the people requested help with finding food resources.
- Half of the people requested help finding legal resources.
- 87% of people report living in the city of Goshen – 59% come from the zip code 46526 and 28% come from 46528. The rest reported coming from the city of Elkhart.
- 80% of the people the Natural Helpers are seeing have been in the United States for 1 year or less. Beginning in January 2022, the Natural Helpers began asking how long the person has been in the United States. Out of the 31 respondents, 4 reported they had been in the US less than a month, 17 reported being here 1-6 months, 4 reported being here 6-12 months, 6 reported being here 4 or more years.



So many of the people that come to meet with a Natural Helper share that they left good paying jobs and a comfortable life to escape political violence. Many of the Venezuelans report that they were lawyers, doctors, social workers, business owners, or working in other white-collar jobs. They did not want to leave the country, but felt like it was their only choice. They come with very little money or English language skills, and have to find work in factories or restaurants. Many report living with family or friends, but would like to find their own place to live.

### Conclusions

Center for Healing & Hope strives to be a resource to new immigrants as make their home in Goshen. We have already served many new immigrants, but believe there are many more newly arrived in the community who have not come to receive the services we offer. We plan to continue to reach newly arrived immigrants so that they know of the resources in the community. We also will continue to meet as many needs as we can, but know that collaboration is needed, especially for food, legal assistance, rental assistance, and housing. We plan to improve our data collection so that we continue to assess the needs and adjust services.