

DECLARATION OF TERESA CAVENDISH

I, Teresa Cavendish, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, declare as follows:

1. I am Director of Operations at Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona. I oversee operations for Casa Alitas in Tucson, Arizona. Casa Alitas is a program that serves migrant families and adults who are released from Customs and Border Protection (“CBP”) custody so that they can seek immigration relief in the United States. I make this declaration based on my personal experience at Casa Alitas working with noncitizen children and families subject to the Title 42 Process since the process came into effect in March 2020.
2. This declaration describes the efforts of Casa Alitas and other shelter providers along the Arizona-Mexico border to develop infrastructure for processing migrants safely after they come to the United States. Our organization and our partners have invested significant time and resources in building systems designed to receive migrants, test them for COVID-19 and quarantine them when necessary, and help them move on to their next destination. In my opinion, if these programs received more grant funding and resources, they could be scaled up to receive even more migrants than they already do.
3. I have been with Casa Alitas for 7 years, since I helped establish the program. In addition, I have held different roles in the nonprofit and social services sector, including Director of Operations for Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona (CCS); Casa Alitas is a program of CCS. I have been with CCS for 35 years. At Casa Alitas, I supervise 13 staff and coordinate over 100 volunteers.
4. Casa Alitas receives migrants directly from immigration custody. They often come directly from Customs and Border Protection (“CBP”) after being swiftly processed near the border immediately after the migrants’ entry. Others come from the custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”), after being held in immigration detention for days or weeks. We have longstanding relationships with both CBP and ICE, who know that we are available as a resource for migrants leaving immigration custody. The migrants we serve are a mix of families with young children and single adults.
5. Casa Alitas runs a variety of different programs for migrants who have recently come to the United States. We run a hospitality center in Tucson, which serves as an initial reception point for migrants who have just been released from detention. Volunteers at the hospitality center greet the migrants and help them contact family members or friends in the United States. If the migrant is able to join their family members immediately, our volunteers help them arrange travel via bus or plane, and provide them basic services (e.g. food, clothing, hygiene items) before they travel. Such migrants typically spend only 24 hours or so at our reception centers.

6. Those migrants who cannot travel right away typically spend one to three days in one of our shelters, which are similarly run by volunteers and Catholic Community Services staff members. There, the migrants receive food, shelter, and social services assistance until they can depart for their ultimate destination.
7. The numbers of migrants we receive varies greatly from day to day. These numbers depend on seasonal migration patterns, as well as the availability of other shelter space for migrants being released from DHS custody. On a typical day during June, July, and August of this year, Casa Alitas has received from 30 to 200 individuals per day.
8. Casa Alitas, and other shelter providers operating along the Arizona-Mexico border, have spent the last year or more developing infrastructure and systems to maximize the health and safety of migrants and our staff members/volunteers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to both private funding and partnerships with public health agencies, Casa Alitas tests every migrant we receive at our reception centers from DHS for COVID-19. We use a rapid test, which typically returns a result in a few minutes. If the migrant tests negative and is able to leave our reception center immediately to travel to relatives or friends, we then make travel arrangements to get him or her to their next destination.
9. If the migrant tests positive, we sent them to quarantine. We have bed space at a local hotel where the migrant can quarantine for 10 days, consistent with CDC guidelines. These hotel beds can currently house approximately 24 migrants/families in quarantine. We are currently working on obtaining additional quarantine space up to 114 rooms. Some migrants can travel quickly from our reception centers or shelters to family or friends in the Tucson area, and those migrants typically choose to quarantine with those local family or friends rather than quarantining in our hotel spaces.
10. While the migrant is in quarantine in one of our hotel beds, and toward the end of the 10-day period, we conduct a second test. If the test comes back negative, we then help arrange travel so that the migrant can go to their next destination.
11. In conjunction with public health agencies, we also offer Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson single-shot vaccines to all migrants at our reception centers and shelters. For migrants receiving Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, we provide second dose information available in their destination regions.
12. Since early summer 2021, the number of families we receive from CBP or ICE has reduced substantially. My understanding is that DHS has entered into a multi-million dollar contract with a national agency known as Endeavors. Endeavors operates a network of contracted hotels along the U.S.-Mexico border that serves as both shelter

and quarantine space for migrants. Endeavors operates extensively in Arizona, and since that contract began, DHS has largely referred migrant families to Endeavors, rather than our reception centers and shelters. My understanding is that Endeavors has substantial capacity to house families in the Arizona area.

13. In my opinion, the federal government has not exhausted the capacity of local nonprofits to receive additional migrants in Arizona. As described above, Casa Alitas and other shelter providers along the Arizona-Mexico border have developed a range of systems to ensure that migrants can be processed both safely and efficiently as they move on to their next destination in the United States. These programs could also be scaled up to receive even more grants if the federal government were to devote additional resources to nonprofits like ours.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States and Arizona that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on: August 9, 2021, in Tucson, Arizona, United States.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Teresa Cavendish", written over a horizontal line.

Teresa Cavendish