

ICE OUT OF NORCOR



We have never seen **David** so low in spirit. He reports that he enjoys his kitchen job and being able to watch the extra television. He says he likes his classes. He especially likes the parenting classes. But as we talked more, he admitted that he is really pretty depressed about his family situation. He has lived in the US since he was a little boy. And the uncertainty of when he will be released or deported is depressing. On the outside, he was an auto mechanic. He's really bright, clearly a hard worker and has ambitions and dreams. He misses his five-year-old and his whole family. He reports being too depressed by NORCOR to even talk to them on the phone.

David does not expect to be released. He expects to be deported back to Mexico. He will join the military if he gets deported because he doesn't want to live in the town where he has family. The drug cartels run the town, and his uncle was killed by the cartels. The family has tried to bring the case to the police but the police are corrupt down there.

In spite of all this, David tries to keep his mind on his purpose at NORCOR which he says is to become a better person and to help others. "We are all in this together," David says. "We have to stay strong."

David's story is one in a series of stories from immigrants who have been detained at NORCOR, a four-county public jail in The Dalles, OR. NORCOR has a contract to rent out beds to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) - in violation of Oregon's 30-year-old sanctuary law. The stories in this series have been written by either clergy or attorneys - the only people who are currently allowed to visit immigrants detained at NORCOR. Names and minor details have been changed to protect individuals' privacy.